



Member Newsletter

September 2020

Sierra Electric Cooperative, Inc.

“Owned by Those We Serve”

General Manager

Denise Barrera

Address

610 Highway 195
P.O. Box 290
Elephant Butte, NM 87935

Telephone

575-744-5231

Outages

888-336-3380

Fax

575-744-5819

Email

sierra@secpower.com

Website

www.sierraelectric.org

Office Hours

8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees

President

John Bokich, District 2

Vice President

Thomas Stroup, District 2

Secretary

Tami Garrett, District 3

Treasurer

George Biel, District 3

Trustee

Dennis Franklin, District 1

Trustee

Judy Smith, District 1

Trustee

Darryl Sullivan, District 3

Vacant

District 2

The Board of Trustees meets the third Friday of the month at 8:30 a.m. in the Cooperative boardroom.

Important Notice: Billing and Due Dates Changes – Update

In the August 2020 Member Newsletter enclosed with your bill statement, we gave notice that Sierra Electric Cooperative, Inc.’s member bill statement and due dates are changing. We received some questions regarding the notice.

Why are we making the change? We are combining four of our billing cycles into one so that we bill and have the due date in the same month.

What do I have to do? Nothing, unless you are on auto pay – if you are unable to make two auto payments in October, you may contact us to cancel or suspend your auto pay to modify your payment.

Also, we were going to bill all cycles on October 1st, however due to a conflict with the payment due on October 5th from the September billing, we are moving the October billing date to October 6th, with payment due on October 26th and Bank Drafts on October 26th.

To help with the confusion, here is a list of upcoming payment due dates & auto pay dates (same as due date).

As always, our friendly office staff will be able to answer any of your concerns or work with you to get through the transition period.

It should be noted that although there are two payments due in October - there is only one billing per month, no additional system charges or energy charges are incurred.

Upcoming Payment & Auto Pay Due Dates

Cycle	1	2	3
October (September bill)	10/5/20	10/5/20	10/5/20
October (October bill)	10/26/20	10/26/20	10/26/20
November (November bill)	11/23/20	11/23/20	11/23/20
December (December bill)	12/21/20	12/21/20	12/21/20



Your Meter Doesn't Stop While You're Away!

While you are gone for a couple of days or weeks, your electric bill will surely go down, right?

A lot of people believe when they are away their electric consumption decreases significantly or even stops. In reality most electric appliances are still running unless you have taken measures to shut them off. Here are some questions that you need to ask yourself to see if your electric bill is really going to decrease.

Did you shut off your electric water heater? If not, the water heater will still run in order to maintain the temperature that you have the thermostat set at.

Were the refrigerator and freezers emptied and turned off? Otherwise the refrigerator and freezer will continue to run.

Did you shut off your air conditioners, computers, lights, TVs, fans and air filter systems. You may turn off the TV and power down your computer and DVD players, but all these appliances – and many others – continue to draw electricity, costing you energy dollars. Energy use is multiplied in any appliance that has a lit display clock, memory chip or remote control. These include TV's DVD and CD players, cable and satellite boxes, microwaves, water coolers, video game consoles, security alarms and much more. Some of these items seem small, but everything adds up.

According to the Department of Energy, 40 percent of all electricity used to power home appliances is consumed when the appliances are turned off. It's also estimated that these energy "vampires" use 5 percent of our total electricity and cost U. S. consumers more than \$3 billion annually, according to the Alliance to Save Energy.



HARVEST SAFETY TIP

Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.



Sierra Electric Contact Information

At Sierra Electric we appreciate when members keep us informed of needing to update mailing address, phone numbers, adding spouse to the membership, and account authorization.

If you need to request any of those following, there are various ways that this can be done.

You can contact via phone, mail, in-office visit, visiting our website sierraelectric.org and clicking Contact Us at the top of the page, SmartHub, or email which is sierra@secpower.com.

If you are needing to add spouse to membership, the Add Name to Membership form will need to be completed and returned to our office.

If you are needing to give someone account access, then Account Access Authorization will need to be completed and returned to our office.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

