



SPARKS

Park Electric Cooperative , Inc.
Volume 64 Issue 8—August 2016

PARK

With the extreme dry conditions, it's quite likely that by this time next month, Park Electric will have implemented *one shot* practices. OCR's (oil filled circuit reclosers) installed across the system are designed much the same as the breakers in your panel at home. If a fault occurs, they trip. Typically, there are set to withstand *three shots* or events before they trip and de-energize the circuit. As a consumer, you recognize these shots as blinks BEFORE the power goes out completely. When in the one shot position, the OCR will trip and de-energize the line at the first sign of trouble. For instance if a branch or tree falls through a line, the OCR will trip immediately and minimize the chance of an energized line hitting the ground and starting a fire. We do this for your safety, the safety of your neighbors and the preservation of very dry fields and forests. Be patient—think rain.



PARK ELECTRIC HEAT RATE PROGRAM

The Heat Rate Program is for qualifying electric space heating wired through a separate meter. Measured separately, all electricity used for space heating is billed at the lowest block rate of 5.4 cents per kilowatt-hour. Qualifying systems include hard wired electric baseboard, radiant panels, boilers and air/ground source heat pumps. Heat pumps either must be sized for the whole house or, if not, the backup heating system must be something other than electric.

The heat rate is only available for the primary living quarters of a residential class service. Only one residence/living quarters per service is eligible. Outbuildings, barns, sheds and guest houses do not qualify.

Beginning October 1, 2016 domestic water heaters will not be allowed on the electric heat rate.

The maximum load of the heating system on the heat meter cannot exceed 40 kW. **Starting in 2016 the heat rate will only be available during the heating season which begins in October and ends in April.** Regular residential rates shall apply during the summer months.

Please contact Park Electric if you are interested in the Heat Rate Program. Approval of the proposed system is necessary prior to installation. All wiring and materials are the member's responsibility. Park Electric will supply the actual heat meter. However the meter box must be purchased by the member. You may purchase the meter box through Park Electric or another supplier. All wiring must be completed by the homeowner or their electrician. An electrical permit from the state is required. After all wiring is complete call our office and schedule an appointment for Park Electric to install the meter.

Stop by the office to pick up a Heat Meter Request Form and/or Brochure or visit our web site at www.parkelectric.coop.

Visit www.parkelectric.coop:

- ◆ get the latest PEC news
- ◆ view and pay your bill
- ◆ download forms and applications
- ◆ read the Park Spark newsletter
- ◆ learn about energy programs



Outage Info: if you experience a power outage, please follow the steps below:

1. Check the breakers or fuses in the building where the electricity is out.
2. Check the breaker below your meter.
3. If the electricity is still out, call your neighbor to see if they have electricity.
4. Call Park Electric at (406) 222-7778 or (888) 298-0657 Monday–Friday 8:am to 5:pm. If the outage happens outside of office hours please call our dispatch center at (855) 999-9492.
5. Provide us with the name of the account holder, the location of the power outage and a phone number where we can reach you if we have further questions.
6. If the outage occurs during office hours, please check our Facebook page for updated information.

GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

by **Tim Stephens**

We have seen a steady increase in interest of member owned renewable generation systems that connect to our system. We refer to these systems as distributive generation or DG. The program we have for measuring and billing the flow of energy going to, or coming from, a DG system is called net-metering. The member that owns the generator is billed for the power Park Electric provides them and is given credit for the energy they send to our system. We track the difference for 12 months. Each month we bill our base rate and for the kilowatt-hours (kWh) we deliver in excess of what has been generated. At the end of the 12 month period we true up the difference. If the total kWh generated is more than the kWh we deliver, there is no reimbursement to the member for excess kWh produced.

Park Electric had been looking into the possibility of constructing and owning a small renewable energy project of our own. After considering existing wholesale power contracts and evaluating the cost of different types of projects we decided to move forward with the construction of a 4,560 watt (4.56 kW) system. Without any grants or rebates, our cost of the system was \$23,700. It was installed in front of our office and first energized on June 27. The purpose of this system is to provide our members with a working model of a DG system similar to what people are installing on our system now. It is designed to give real time production information, as well as historic production. Most people would like to know what kind of return they can expect on their investment; this should help them calculate that so they can make a sound decision based on real numbers. When considering a system, please keep in mind that the largest we allow for net-metering is 10,000 watts or 10 kW.

The chart to the left gives the projected production of the unit we installed on an annual basis. While the actual production could vary, this chart is based on the manufacturer's most accurate estimate of production. A couple of things to think about is the actual cost of power and the change in base rate for net-metered services. Frequently, manufacturers use a national average or a guess for the price of a kilowatt-hour. We are fortunate to have energy costs lower than most others in the country. Since 2012 our price per kilowatt-hour has been \$.086 for the first 1,500 used each month and \$.059 for everything over that. Our base rate has been \$23.00 for a 200 Amp residential service. If you decide to take advantage of our net-metering program, that base is increased by \$9.00 per month. Since we collect a large portion of our fixed costs in the first 1,500 kilowatt-hours sold each month, we need to increase the base rate to ensure we collect those fixed costs. If you have a service larger than 200 Amps, please contact the office to find out what your base rate would be.

If you have questions or would like more information on the solar array we installed, please feel free to come to the office or visit our



website at www.parkelectric.coop. We are looking forward to showing people the different parts of the system and what they do. If you are considering purchasing and installing a DG system please contact our office before you do so. We want to make sure you fully understand all the

requirements we have before you make the investment and interconnect to our system.

| | Projected Energy (kWh) Production | Annual Savings @ \$.086/kWh | Year to Date Savings @ \$.086/kWh |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Year 1 | 6,663 | \$573.02 | \$573.02 |
| Year 2 | 6,636 | \$570.70 | \$1,143.71 |
| Year 3 | 6,610 | \$568.46 | \$1,712.17 |
| Year 4 | 6,583 | \$566.14 | \$2,278.31 |
| Year 5 | 6,557 | \$563.90 | \$2,842.21 |
| Year 6 | 6,531 | \$561.67 | \$3,403.88 |
| Year 7 | 6,505 | \$559.43 | \$3,963.31 |
| Year 8 | 6,479 | \$557.19 | \$4,520.50 |
| Year 9 | 6,453 | \$554.96 | \$5,075.46 |
| Year 10 | 6,427 | \$552.72 | \$5,628.18 |
| Year 11 | 6,401 | \$550.49 | \$6,178.67 |
| Year 12 | 6,376 | \$548.34 | \$6,727.01 |
| Year 13 | 6,350 | \$546.10 | \$7,273.11 |
| Year 14 | 6,325 | \$543.95 | \$7,817.06 |
| Year 15 | 6,299 | \$541.71 | \$8,358.77 |
| Year 16 | 6,274 | \$539.56 | \$8,898.33 |
| Year 17 | 6,249 | \$537.41 | \$9,435.75 |
| Year 18 | 6,224 | \$535.26 | \$9,971.01 |
| Year 19 | 6,199 | \$533.11 | \$10,504.13 |
| Year 20 | 6,174 | \$530.96 | \$11,035.09 |
| Year 21 | 6,150 | \$528.90 | \$11,563.99 |
| Year 22 | 6,125 | \$526.75 | \$12,090.74 |
| Year 23 | 6,101 | \$524.69 | \$12,615.43 |
| Year 24 | 6,076 | \$522.54 | \$13,137.96 |
| Year 25 | 6,052 | \$520.47 | \$13,658.43 |
| Total: | 158,819 | \$13,658.43 | Savings will vary as rates change. |