



PO BOX 369, EKALAKA, MT 59324 • PH 406-775-8762 • WWW.SEECOOP.COM

Looking ahead to 2026

Rita Williams to retire, rates to rise starting Jan. 1

By TYE WILLIAMS | Manager

SOUTHEAST Electric Cooperative will be seeing a change of faces in the front office in 2026. After 20 years, Rita Williams will be retiring at the end of March. Over those years, she has focused on Southeast's finances, tracking work orders and materials. She will be greatly missed, but I am sure she will stay busy in retirement and enjoy time with her family.

We recently sent our members notification of the upcoming rate increases.



We continue to see increases in energy sales, but we are also faced with increased power costs of approximately 9 percent from our generation and transmission suppliers.

The biggest change to your rate is the implementation of a demand charge of \$0.50 per kilowatt (kW). The demand usage has been on your bills for the last couple of years, but there has been a \$0.00 charge.

I have received a few questions from members about the new demand charge and how demand (kW) is compared to energy (kWh). Demand, represented in kilowatts, is the total load you use for a specific interval of time. Or, in other words, this represents all of the electrical devices plugged in and running during this time. The greater the demand we serve, the larger the poles, wires and transformers we must install.

One way to help understand demand and energy is to compare them to vehi-

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RATE INCREASE JANUARY 1, 2026

RESIDENTIAL:

New Base charge: \$33.00 per month, plus
Energy charge: \$0.094 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) plus
New Demand charge: \$0.50 per kilowatt (kW)
New Heat rate: \$.067 per kilowatt-hour (kWh).

COMMERCIAL:

New Base charge: \$44.00 per month, plus
Energy charge: \$0.094 per kilowatt-hour (kWh), plus
New Demand Charge: \$0.75 per kilowatt (kW) up to 50 kilowatts.
\$20.00 per kilowatt (kW) above 50 kilowatts (kW)

Visit our website for all rate changes.

www.seecoop.com



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cles traveling on a road. Demand is similar to the number of vehicles traveling on the road over a 30-minute period. And then energy would be similar to the number of vehicles traveling on the road throughout the month. And just like major cities must spend more money on roads that can handle more cars, electric utilities must spend more on infrastructure to serve services that use more kW.

For those that do not work with demand and energy concepts on a regular basis, the concepts of demand and energy can be confusing and hard to grasp. I thoroughly enjoy discussing this concept and the other work the cooperative is doing, so if you have any questions, please call the office and ask for Tye. 



DON'T FORGET

SMARTHUB the on-line bill payment system is now available. It is convenient and easy!



Congrats! David Loudermilk obtains journeyman certificate

David Loudermilk came to Southeast Electric Cooperative (SECO) in April 2022.

David attended Northwest Lineman College in Meridian, Idaho, for 15 weeks, where he completed the power-line construction and maintenance program in 2022.

At SECO, David was then required to complete an online program through Northwest Lineman College and log more than 6,000 hours of on-the-job

training. David obtained his journeyman certificate in October 2025 from Operations Manager Jake Hammel. David has proven himself a hard and dedicated worker, and has developed good working knowledge of the power-line construction and maintenance industry.

We are pleased with David's accomplishments and look forward to his many years as a journeyman lineman for SECO. 

2026 SCHOLARSHIPS

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC ASPIRATIONS WITH OUR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. SOUTHEAST ELECTRIC IS HERE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH THE SUPPORT AND RESOURCES YOU NEED TO TURN THOSE DREAMS INTO REALITY.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY JANUARY 30, 2026

Information and Applications can be found at
<https://www.seecoop.com/scholarship>



Basin Electric Cooperative Scholarship

MECA Memorial Scholarship

Southeast Electric Essay Scholarship

Vernon Emery Memorial Lineman Scholarship