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- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Alakanuk | New Stuyahok |
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| Brevig Mission | Nulato |
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| Ekwok | Quinhagak |
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| Grayling | St. Michael |
| Holy Cross | Savoonga |
| Hooper Bay | Scammon Bay |
| Huslia | Selawik |
| Kaltag | Shageluk |
| Kasigluk | Shaktoolik |
| Kiana | Shishmaref |
| Kivalina | Shungnak |
| Kotlik | Stebbins |
| Koyuk | Teller |
| Lower Kalskag | Togiak |
| Marshall | Toksook Bay |
| Mekoryuk | Tununak |
| Minto | Upper Kalskag |
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Your AVEC Electric Bill: A Primer for Our New Ekwok Members

About a month ago, consumers in Ekwok got their first electric bill in months. For many, it was their first electric bill ever because Ekwok had a pre-pay PowerStat system for more than 20 years.

Of course, this means quite a number of consumers have questions about their bills. We hope this brief article will answer many of those questions.

The utility rates under the City of Ekwok were quite simple: \$0.70 per kilowatt-hour for residential consumers and \$0.75 per kWh for commercial consumers. Since most residential consumers had PowerStats, they never actually saw anything that told them what their rate was because they simply purchased a card for as many dollars as they wished, loaded up their meter and went on until they noticed they were running low and had to charge it up again. The cards residents purchased were programmed at the “net” electric rate after PCE: \$0.2086 for the first 500 kWh, \$0.70 thereafter.

AVEC’s Ekwok bills actually includes a \$5 consumer charge—which pays for the meter and basic customer service—and a two-part energy bill. The nonfuel rate is \$0.30 for the first 700 kWh and \$0.20 for anything over that. The fuel charge is the actual local cost of fuel, which is currently \$0.4333 per kWh.

Our PCE rate in Ekwok is \$0.5214, making the first 500 kWh \$2.119 each. The rate under the City of Ekwok was \$0.2086—one-third of a cent less.

A residential consumer using 500 kWh in a month is indeed paying \$6.65 a month more than they were in the past, but as we bring the system up to our AVEC standards, we are likely to see efficiency improvements that will lower the fuel charge and the total bill. Commercial consumers will see immediate savings in their monthly bills, because our rates are lower than under the city utility.

Consumers have asked us why they can’t continue to use their PowerStat prepay meters. The answer is the manufacturer of that system no longer exists and the system has not been supported since 1999. We do not have PowerStats in any of our communities, and our accounting and billing system does not have provision for them. Most consumers had credits on their PowerStats, which we have carried forward into our billing system and should have appeared on your first bill. Let us know if this did not happen so we can remedy the situation.

Meera Kohler

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