

ROCK ENERGY NEWS

FOR ROCK ENERGY COOPERATIVE MEMBERS

www.rock.coop

May 2019

It Pays to be a Co-op Member

Capital Credits Distributed on Members' May Statements

Take a close look at your May Rock Energy Cooperative statement, and you'll notice one of the many benefits of your co-op membership.

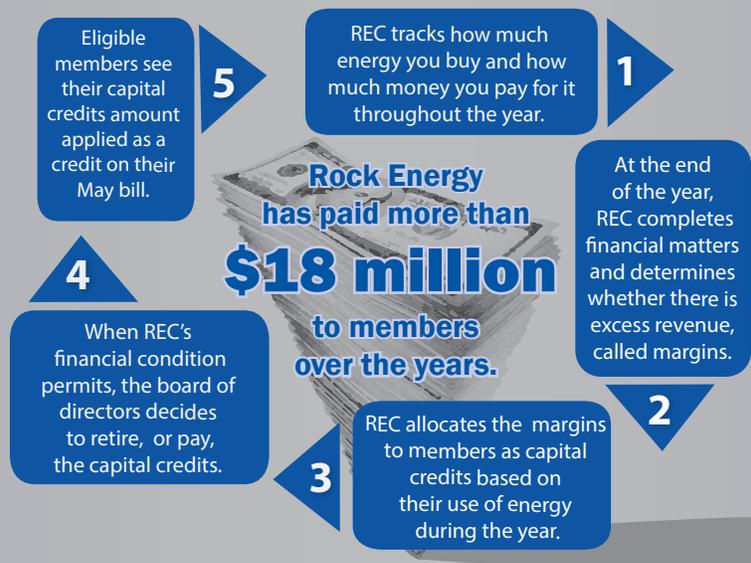
Unlike other utilities, your co-op exists to make sure your energy needs are always met, not to make a profit. As a member, you share in the profits in the form of capital credits.

The co-op works hard every day to keep your rates as low as possible. But it's sure nice to know that when there are profits, they go back to you. Capital credits are based on usage, so the more energy you purchase, the more capital credits are earned and eventually returned to you.

In 2019, Rock Energy is distributing about \$1 million in capital credits to current members on their May statements and about \$200,000 to past members. Since it was founded

How Do Capital Credits Work?

Because Rock Energy Cooperative operates at cost, any excess revenues, called margins, are returned to members in the form of capital credits.



To get a better understanding of capital credits and how they are distributed, visit www.rock.coop/capitalcredits.

83 years ago, more than \$18 million has been paid back to past and current members.

Your May statement shows your share of the co-op's 2018 earnings as well as your percentage credit for the current and past years' allocations.

The statement also shows your capital credits balance, which represents your equity in the co-op. That money is used to maintain and upgrade the system and repay associated indebtedness.

"Allocating and retiring margins to members helps distinguish energy cooperatives from investor-owned utilities," said

Shane Larson, chief executive officer for Rock Energy.

"We're proud to support our communities by putting money back into the local economy and into the pockets of those we serve."



Rock Energy Family Night at the Ballpark

6:30 p.m. Saturday, June 22

Beloit Snappers vs. Quad City River Bandits

- Special food prices!
- Player autographs!
- Spectacular fireworks!

Purchase vouchers in advance at Rock Energy offices for \$2 (a \$7.50 value). Good for any 2019 regular season home game.



Look for These Electrical Safety Hazards

Electricity plays many roles in our lives, from powering baby monitors, cell phones and lighting, to running HVAC systems and appliances.

No wonder we get so comfortable with its instant availability that when we flip a switch, we expect results.

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and here at Rock Energy Cooperative, we think it's a great time to check your home for potential safety hazards.

Remember, every electrical device has a purpose and a lifespan. While we can extend their operations with maintenance and care, none are designed to last forever.

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters

Outdoor outlets or those in potentially damp locations in a kitchen, bathroom, or laundry room often include GFCI features. They are designed to sense abnormal current flows, breaking the circuit to prevent potential electric shocks from devices plugged into the outlets.

The average GFCI outlet is designed to last about 10 years, but in areas prone to electrical storms or power surges, they can wear out in five years or less. Check them frequently by pressing the red test button. Contact a licensed electrician to replace any failing GFCI outlets.

Damaged Outlets

Unstable electrical outlets or wall



switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration can offer early warnings of potential shock or electrical fire hazards. Loose connections can allow electrical current arcing. If you see these warning signs, contact an electrician.

Surge Protectors

Power strips with surge protectors can help safeguard expensive equipment like televisions, home entertainment systems, and computer components from power spikes. Voltage spikes are measured in joules, and surge protectors are rated for the number of joules they can effectively absorb. That means if your surge protec-

tor is rated at 1,000 joules, it should be replaced when it hits that limit. When the limit is reached, protection stops, and you're left with a basic power strip.

Some surge protectors include indicator lights that flicker to warn you when they've stopped working as designed. If your electrical system takes a major hit, or if you don't remember when you bought your surge protector, replacement may be the best option.

Extension Cords

If you use extension cords regularly to connect devices and equipment, you may live in an underwired home. Remember, extension cords are designed for temporary, occasional, or periodic use.

If an extension cord gets noticeably warm when in use, it could be undersized. If it shows signs of frayed, cracked, or heat-damaged insulation, it should be replaced. If the grounding prong is missing, crimped, or loose, it will not provide the designed protection. And always make sure that extension cords used in outdoor locations are rated for exterior use.

Electricity is essential for modern living, and Rock Energy is committed to providing safe, reliable, and affordable power to our members. We hope you'll keep these safety tips in mind during Electrical Safety Month and throughout the year.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Make sure your refrigerator door seals are airtight for maximum energy efficiency. Test the seal by closing the door over a piece of paper (so that it's half in and half out). If you can easily pull the piece of paper out, your seal may need to be replaced or the latch may need to be adjusted.

Source: energy.gov



Have a Safe, Happy Memorial Day!

Rock Energy Cooperative offices will be closed on Monday, May 27, in observance of Memorial Day. We will reopen at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 28.



Members can make payments in the drop boxes at both offices throughout the holiday weekend.

Even though our offices are closed, stand-by crews are always available 24 hours a day. If you need to report a power outage, please call 866-752-4550.

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Know what's below.
Call before you dig.