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Manager's Quote:

"The good thing about being imperfect is that it brings such great joy to other people."

January 2006

Transmission Tariff Update:

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, transmission costs will be borne by consumers starting in 2006. My information was mixed, at the time that I wrote the December newsletter. I had heard of cost increases anywhere from 77%-132% for transmission. I used a 77% increase as my reference number. Boy was I wrong!

Transmission costs are going up by a whopping **162%-189%** depending on the month. What used to be a flat monthly charge is now a daily charge at *only* 6.15¢ per day per breaker size. The numbers seem small, a few cents per day, but they add up very quickly. The increases in costs are listed on page 2 of this newsletter. And they are substantial.

All consumers in the province are being hit with these added transmission tariffs, because of Alberta Energy's decision to have all transmission costs borne by consumers. Part of these transmission tariffs were shared by generators in the past.

The logic behind this decision is to release generators from transmission charges in order to offer lower energy prices. Perhaps we will see lower energy prices as a result of this decision, but there is no indication yet that lower prices are on the horizon. Perhaps the EUB should look at grain prices.

Your Energy Update:

Now would be a very good time to evaluate all electrical consumption at your farm. Higher costs are coming in January 2006 and beyond.

1. Review the size of heaters on your farm. Stock tank heaters, cattle waterer heaters and block heaters are usually 1500 watts. That means they will consume 1.5 kilowatts per hour or 36 kilowatts per day. At current energy prices these appliances will cost over \$3/day to operate or about \$100/month, for each heater this size. This is in addition to all the other electrical needs on your farm for cooking, lighting, laundry, etc.
2. Consider the use of timers on block heaters for tractors and vehicles. 4-5 hours is usually sufficient time to warm engines for starting. Any reduction in the hours that block heaters are used will prolong the block heater's life and save money on energy.
3. Use the new energy saving fluorescent bulbs for home lighting. Their electrical usage is a fraction of what the old fashioned incandescent bulbs use.
4. Does your yard light have to stay on all night? Security does cost money. Perhaps motion sensor lights can accomplish the same thing. Many of these things individually don't amount to much, but the pennies do add up.