

## DIRECTOR NOMINATION TIMELINE UPDATE

Big Country Electric Cooperative recently updated its bylaws related to the director nomination process (Article VI, Section 6.06). The updated bylaws are available on our website for members to review. The goal of this update is to streamline election planning and improve communication with members.

Under the updated timeline, nominations are received earlier in the year, allowing the Cooperative to confirm in advance whether a director election will be needed. This helps ensure ballots, meeting materials, and election details can be prepared accurately and communicated clearly before the annual meeting.

While the timing has been adjusted, the nomination and election process itself is the same, and member participation opportunities are unchanged.

01

MAY

The Board of Directors appoints a Committee of Nominations, made up of Cooperative members from each director district up for election.

02

MAY - JULY 1

The Committee prepares a list of director nominees. Members may also submit additional nominations by petition.

03

JULY 1

Deadline for all nominations to be received by the Cooperative. At this point, the Cooperative can confirm whether a director election will be held.

04

PRIOR TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

If an election is required, members receive notice of nominees and voting details in Texas Co-op Power at least 10 days before the meeting.

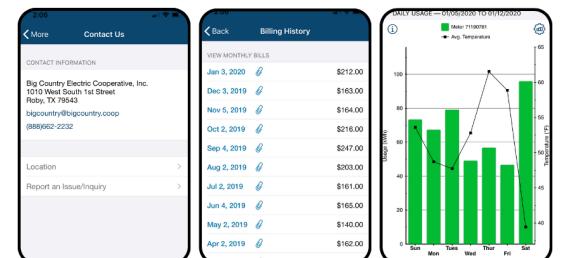
05

SEPTEMBER

Annual Meeting Open Houses and Director elections, when applicable, are held.

## ARE YOU UTILIZING SMARTHUB?

Register your electric account through SmartHub to check and track usage, report outages, pay your bill, update contact information, and so much more!



## OPERATION ROUND UP

Deadline: February 17, 2026 by 5:30 PM

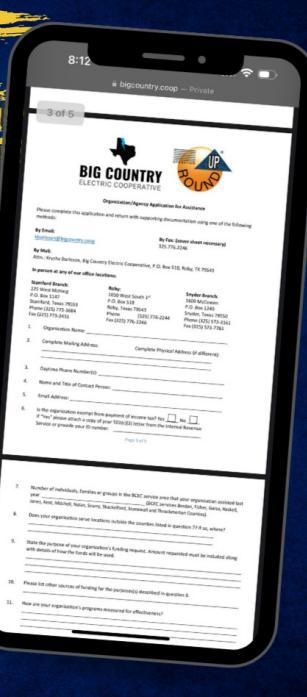
The Operation Round Up program is supported by BCEC members whose electric bills are "Rounded Up" to the nearest dollar. The "Rounded Up" amounts fund Operation Round Up for distribution to individuals and organizations with demonstrated financial need in the counties we serve.

**Every penny stays right here at home!**

Operation Round Up welcomes applications from: **Local organizations** that provide essential community services, including food banks, shelters, medical assistance, rescue organizations, educational projects, childcare programs, and more.

**Families and individuals** facing financial hardships due to life-altering circumstances.

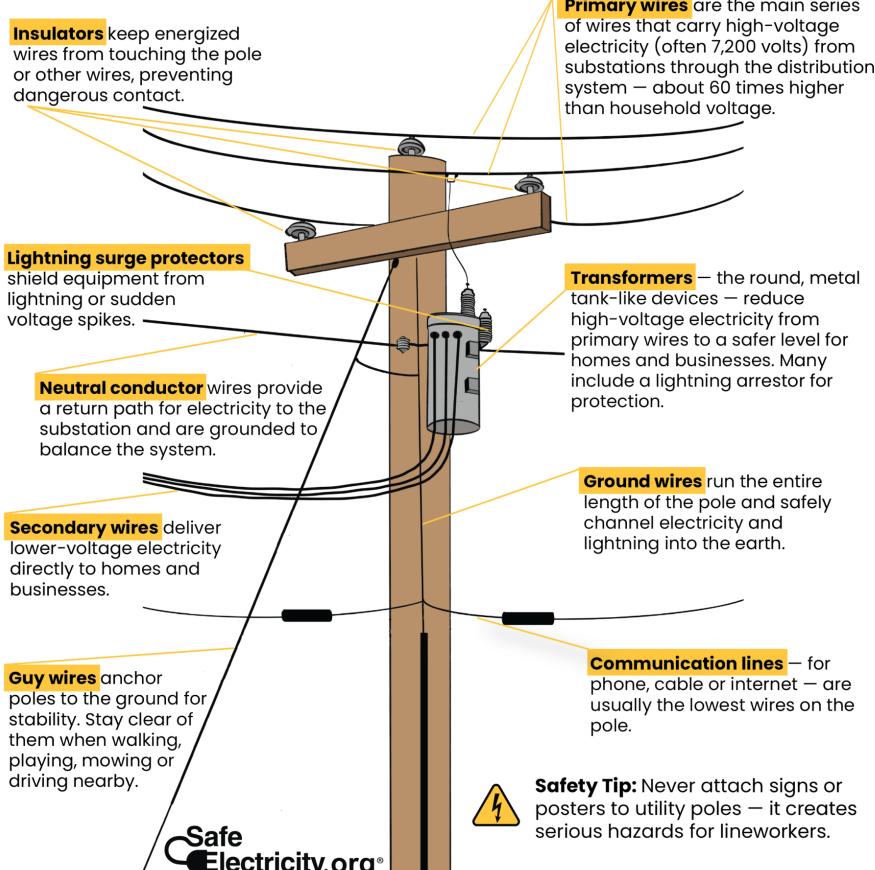
Visit [bigcountry.coop/Operation-Round-Up](http://bigcountry.coop/Operation-Round-Up) or contact Krysha Burleson at [kburleson@bigcountry.coop](mailto:kburleson@bigcountry.coop).



**BIG COUNTRY**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## The parts of a POWER POLE

Here are some common parts found on power poles. Equipment can vary depending on location and service needs.



Ever wonder what's on a power pole and how it delivers electricity to your home? Learning about each part can help you and your family stay informed – and safe.

# BIG COUNTRY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# Membergram

## ATTENTION: MOMS, DADS, & GRADS!

Scholarships are available through BCEC and our affiliates. Don't miss out on these opportunities!

### BCEC ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

Deadline: March 1  
Two \$4,000 scholarships for graduating seniors whose parents/guardians are BCEC members.

### GSEC DIRECTORS' MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Deadline: March 1  
Several \$2,000 scholarships for graduating seniors whose parents/guardians are BCEC members.

### TREWA SCHOLARSHIP

Deadline: March 15  
Twenty \$1,500 scholarships for TREWA members (\$10 annual fee) and their children.

For full details and applications, visit [bigcountry.coop/scholarships](http://bigcountry.coop/scholarships).

## Ongoing Pole Inspections Support Long-Term Reliability

Sundance Power Pole Inspections continues inspection work on lines served by the North Hamlin Substation and Longworth Feeder 2, with crews remaining active in the area as inspections progress.

Empact Engineering is supporting this work by staking and preparing engineering designs for any projects identified during inspections. Empact crews are working daily to help keep this process moving efficiently. In February, their work also expanded to areas served by the Sylvester Substation.

As this work continues, members may see contractors in the area with BCEC signage on their trucks or UTVs.

We appreciate our members' patience as these inspections and follow-up efforts move forward. Proactively inspecting poles and addressing potential issues early helps reduce the risk of outages, strengthens system reliability, and supports dependable electric service for our members over the long term.

[www.bigcountry.coop](http://www.bigcountry.coop)

February 2026

## OUR COMMITMENT TO SAFETY



We are proud to mark another year of safe operations, made possible by the continued dedication of our employees – reaching **eight consecutive years without a lost time incident**. This milestone reflects the consistent effort and shared responsibility it takes to maintain a strong safety culture year after year.

It also represents **986,318 total employee hours worked safely**, earned through everyday decisions that put safety first for our employees, their coworkers, and the communities we serve. From routine tasks to complex jobs in the field, safety remains part of every step of the work we do.

Safety remains our top priority at BCEC and is guided by our Safety Creed: *"No task is so important that it involves violating safety rules; BCEC places safety as our number one priority safeguarding our health, livelihood, reputation, and environment."*

Maintaining this standard requires consistency. Each month, the cooperative conducts safety meetings focused on essential topics such as pole-top and bucket rescue, hazard recognition, safety data sheet training, bloodborne pathogens, forklift certification, CPR, and first aid. These ongoing trainings help ensure employees remain prepared, informed, and confident in performing their work safely.

Another important part of our safety program is the Safety Analysis Team (SAT), a rotating group of employees from across all district offices who meet monthly to share feedback, identify concerns, and help improve safety practices, alongside Safety & Training Manager Robert Pippin and Safety & Compliance Specialist Cody McClinton.

We're grateful to our employees for their commitment to safety. Nearly one million hours worked without a lost time incident reflects a culture built on consistency, accountability, and care for one another – something our cooperative works toward every day.

8 YEARS  
NO LOST TIME

**BIG COUNTRY**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



## Committed to Community

For complete information about our Operation Round Up program or to opt out of participation, visit [bigcountry.coop/operation-round-up](http://bigcountry.coop/operation-round-up).

## Need Funding for a Local Project?

The Big Country Development Corporation (BCDC) helps support economic development and job creation within our service area. BCDC provides funding to qualifying projects that strengthen local economies, support community growth, and improve quality of life across the communities we serve.

BCDC funding comes from a portion of unclaimed capital credits, which Texas law allows electric cooperatives to use for community-benefit purposes, including local economic development. Because the amount of unclaimed funds can vary from year to year, available BCDC funding may be limited.

Applications are reviewed quarterly by the BCEC Board of Directors.

### What Types of Projects Are Supported?

BCDC funding supports projects that promote long-term, sustainable economic growth within the cooperative's service territory. Eligible projects may include:

- Workforce development and job creation initiatives
- Business attraction or retention efforts
- Community infrastructure or facility improvements
- Tourism and destination development projects
- Programs that encourage ongoing economic activity and community investment

Projects should demonstrate a clear benefit to the local community and align with BCDC's mission to strengthen the rural economy.

Organizations interested in applying for BCDC support can learn more and access the online application at [bigcountry.coop/bcdc](http://bigcountry.coop/bcdc).

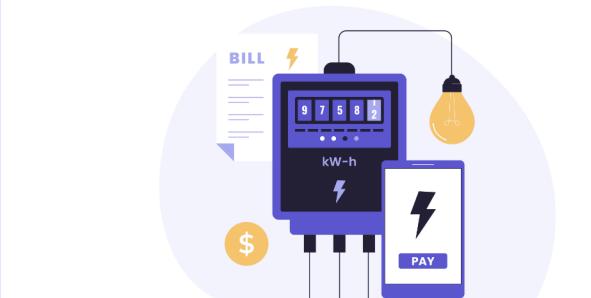
## PCA Update for February

The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) will continue in February but will decrease from 2¢ to 0.0075¢ per kWh.

The PCA reflects the actual cost of wholesale power from our generation and transmission provider, Golden Spread Electric Cooperative. Power costs can change due to weather, fuel prices, and market demand.

BCEC does not mark up these costs. Instead, the PCA helps return or collect the difference when actual power costs come in above or below budgeted forecasts. This process helps ensure members are billed as accurately as possible.

To help minimize large swings in member bills, we closely monitor historical power cost trends and compare them to forecasted budgets throughout the year. The February PCA is less than one cent per kWh and will have a minimal impact on most bills.



## Energy-Saving Tips for Winter

**Dress Warmly Indoors:** Layer-up with warm clothing and blankets instead of turning up the heat.

**Limit Use of Exhaust Fans:** Kitchen and bathroom exhaust fans pull warm air out of your home, so use them sparingly.

**Unplug Unused Electronics:** Prevent "phantom" energy waste by unplugging chargers, small appliances, and devices when not in use.

**Cook and Bake More:** Use energy-efficient methods like slow cookers or crock pots, or bake multiple dishes at once to make the most of your oven's heat. The residual warmth can help heat your home.

**Use Heavy Curtains:** Hang insulated curtains to block drafts and trap warmth inside.

**Limit Space Heater Use** – They use a lot of electricity! If needed, only use them in occupied rooms and turn them off when leaving.

**Manage Interior Doors Strategically:** Keep doors open for even heat distribution if using central heating. Close unused rooms if using space heaters or zoned heating to focus warmth where needed.



**BIG COUNTRY**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

**Agricultural Tax Exemptions** – In order to claim an exemption from Texas sales and use taxes on electricity and other items used in agricultural and timber operations, you are required to provide us with a registration number on Texas Agriculture Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certification Form 01-924. All water wells should be exempt if used for irrigation or watering livestock. The Texas Comptroller's Office issues the registration number and those wanting to claim the exemption must fill out an application. Registration numbers must be renewed every four years. Applicants can request a paper application to mail in by calling 1-800-252-5555 or download a copy from the comptroller's website, [www.getreadytexas.org](http://www.getreadytexas.org). The generic exemption certificate, Form 01-339, cannot be used to claim the agricultural exemption. Accounts that do not have the new required form on file will be subject to taxation.

**Commercial Tax Exemption Records** – A completed and signed exemption form is required for each commercial tax exempt account. Accounts that do not have current exemptions on file will be charged to taxable accounts. Any refunds for taxes must be claimed from the State of Texas. Thank you for your help.

## Which Irrigation Rate Option Suits Your Needs?

Each year, irrigators may select the rate option that best fits their operation. To simplify these choices, we have eliminated Rate C, as Rates A and B have proven more beneficial for our members. Any members currently on Rate C will be contacted directly to assist with this transition.

BCEC offers the following irrigation rate options:

### Rate A - Flat Rate

A single, consistent charge for all kilowatt-hours (kWh) used.

- \$0.116875 per kilowatt-hour (kWh)

This option may work best for members who irrigate less frequently or only for short periods during the month.

### Rate B - Stepped Charge

A tiered rate structure that may be more economical for irrigators with higher monthly usage:

- First 100 kWh per installed horsepower (HP): \$0.154776 per kWh
- Next 100 kWh per installed HP: \$0.100632 per kWh
- Over 200 kWh per installed HP: \$0.059482 per kWh

### How to Choose the Right Option

There is an annual horsepower charge of \$19.50 per horsepower (minimum \$97.50), billed in April. If you have a center pivot, multiply your total drive horsepower on your pivot by 25% to determine the billing horsepower for your center pivot. Then add the horsepower for your pump to calculate your total billing horsepower. It is important that we have your correct horsepower so that we can bill your account accurately.

In considering the choice of Option A or Option B, it is essential to determine how often you will be watering. If you water more than 45% of the month, Option B may be the better choice. If you begin watering during the last few days of a month and run over into the next month only a few days, you may not fully utilize the benefits of choosing Option B.

### Important Reminders

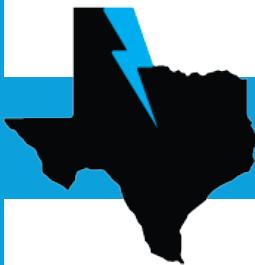
- Irrigation rate selections are made annually and cannot be changed during the year once selected. Therefore, please carefully review the options above when selecting your annual rate.
- Please note, irrigation rate reminder letters will not be mailed this year.

### How To Make or Update Your Selection

If you would like to change your irrigation rate option, you may:

- Call your local BCEC office, or
- Submit your selection online at [bigcountry.coop/form/irrigation-rate-options](http://bigcountry.coop/form/irrigation-rate-options) or by scanning the QR code.

If no action is taken, your irrigation service will remain in its current rate class. If you have any questions or would like help determining which option best fits your operation, please don't hesitate to contact us—we're happy to help.



[www.bigcountry.coop](http://www.bigcountry.coop)

### Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 7:30-12:00, 1:00-5:30

Friday: 7:30-11:30

### Contact Us

Toll Free: 1-855-940-3872

Roby: (325) 776-2244

Stamford: (325) 773-3684

Snyder: (325) 573-3161

### Report Outages

Please **call** your local BCEC office to report power outages.



## We're Mobile!



Access your BCEC account anytime with SmartHub! Download the app for your mobile device today by visiting [www.bigcountry.coop](http://www.bigcountry.coop) or searching for SmartHub in the app store.

### Ask about our partnerships with:



**Rural Development Assistance Available Through BCEC**  
BCEC is an Equal Opportunity Lender.

Big Country Electric Cooperative, Inc. has a limited amount of funds available for low-interest loans to qualified applicants to stimulate rural development. Applicant does not have to be a member of Big Country Electric Cooperative. Please contact Sarah McLen at [smclen@bigcountry.coop](mailto:smclen@bigcountry.coop) for details.



Call 811 at least 2 working days before you dig.  
Visit [www.texas811.org](http://www.texas811.org) for more information.