



Update



December 2014



A Message From The General Manager/CEO

By Dan Laws

*“Christmas holidays can cause
electric bills to reach new highs.”*

Colder than normal temperatures are the prediction for this winter. Electric space heaters, electric blankets and electric water heaters will be used extensively. I mention these three because they are big energy users, but they bring a lot of comfort that is really needed on a cold winter day. Likewise, the Christmas holidays can cause winter electric bills to reach new highs.

It isn't uncommon for a member to tell me they have had the largest electric bill they have ever had on their February 5 RGEC electric energy bill. They will tell me there has been no unusual usage whatsoever, never realizing that the February bill is for usage from December 21 to January 21. The glow of friends and family visiting for Christmas is a distant memory in early February. However, that electric usage played a part in making the holidays festive and joyous.

If you have been set up to use RGEC's SmartHub, you can actually go back and see what your usage was on a particular day, or set of days. You will be amazed at how much extra house guests will add to your energy usage. This is especially true when some of them are children. I know you wouldn't trade the times you have during the Christmas holidays for a lower electric bill, and I wouldn't ask you to. Priceless memories are made, and they are the fabric of our American culture. They are experiences that enrich our families and strengthen bonds.

I mention them only to remind you that their impact on your electric energy usage won't be noticed until you get your February bill, so don't be surprised when you see it. Instead, reflect on those special memories and conclude what I conclude every year...it was money well spent.

While I am on the subject of energy costs, please know that we work very hard to meet all of our regulatory obligations, managing the cost of wholesale power, as well as meeting your need for safe and reliable electric energy at an affordable price. Not the cheapest price, but affordable. Every once in a while, I will get a letter or email and it will say, "Dan, why aren't our energy prices as cheap as thus and such company?" No criticism intended, but the question is a little short sighted.

It would be the same as saying, "Dan, you and Bill Gates are both men, you both wear pants, you both shave, and you both have wives. So, why don't you make the same amount of money?" It would be nice if the world were that simple. The reality is Bill Gates has a lot of things working in his favor that I have found to be a little elusive. Brilliance would be one example. Now, I suppose it is likely there are things that I can do that Bill can't...at least I hope that's the case. If it's not, then I am a real loser! The fact that he is a man and I am a man doesn't mean that we are capable of the same things. I hope my analogy clears things up for a few.

We will continue to try to match up against other utilities that are fifty times larger than RGEC, but in the meantime, have a wonderful Christmas with friends and family. I can assure you that Darlene and I will. We will enjoy watching our grandchildren enjoy the wonder of the holidays. We will watch our children work at the role of parenthood with pride and we will be thankful for the grace of God that has afforded us the opportunity of being able to see it all. The Christmas message is simply this; I owed a debt I couldn't pay, and Jesus came to earth to pay a debt he didn't owe.