2013 IREA PRICE INCREASE

IREA Power Company has increased their rates. They have levied a new $10 per month service charge for everyone. Calls to the company will be told that this change was made by the board of directors. I challenge this since only the public utilities commission of Colorado (PUC) can authorize a change of a utility company's rates and tariffs. The new rates and service charge were in fact authorized by the Colorado PUC and are now in effect. This change negates the minimum charge that many of us have contracted for and which has been in place for many years. The old minimum charge was based on the amount of capital dollars that a homeowner paid for out of pocket at the time of installation. Three minimum charges of $4.70, $15, and $25 per month have been in effect. The new bill will include only a $10 per month service charge and the cost of energy. The energy rates were increased by about 2 1/2% and approved by the PUC.

There is an option available to reduce our power cost for those residents who choose to disconnect their power for the winter months. To do so, simply call IREA with five business day advance notice and they will disconnect the power at no charge. In the spring we can call IREA again with five business day advance notice and have the power reconnected at no charge. This would eliminate any charge for power during the dormant months. IREA engineering informed me that a charge of $20 on weekdays or $65 on weekends would be levied for same day connections or disconnections without the five business day advanced notice. I also found that a physical visit to the meter is not required since our meters at Wildwood are read by Telemetering signals sent over the power line to the IREA control center. They also recommended that for us who have locked gates, that we leave a key with IREA at their Woodland Park office.

The above information was provided by the IREA engineering department in Sedalia, Colorado to Delbert Bills on March 18, 2013.