New meters provide up-to-date billing
In 2017, members will catch up 21-day lag in payments

M any member-owners joined Kenergy decades ago and remember little about their first few months of service.

But those who joined more recently may recall their first billing statement did not ask them to remit a payment. Instead, it asked for a meter reading only.

In fact, the first request for payment did not come until the second billing cycle. As a result, this process created a 21-day lag in billing.

In other words, most Kenergy members have used 21 days of electricity they have not paid for. This billing gap amounts to about $7.5 million in unclaimed revenue.

Rather than ask members to pay for 21 days of service in one installment, Kenergy will stretch out the remittance period over 12 months, beginning in January. Therefore, during each month in 2017, a couple of extra days will be added to members’ bills.

We estimate this will increase monthly bills by $8.92.

Collecting this revenue will bring Kenergy’s billing up to date and will more accurately reflect current business practices.

At the end of 2017, the billing lag will be recovered and gap payments will cease.

Going forward, the cooperative’s new digital meters, which were installed during the past year, allow Kenergy to practice up-to-date billing.

This new technology improves service and brings Kenergy up to industry standards.

Up-to-date billing has advantages for members. It gives them the opportunity to review usage data that was captured only days before statements were processed. This more efficient system should reduce calls, allowing our offices to operate more efficiently.

If you have questions about the gap in billing, go to kenergycorp.com to review an online fact sheet.

During 2017, members should view this portion of their statements to see how many days of service are being billed.
Paul Stewardson drives a 2000 Chevy Blazer. While it’s fine for trips around town, he doesn’t trust it to drive as far as Marion, Ill., where a Veterans Affairs clinic is located. Besides, there are times when Stewardson isn’t allowed to drive after medical tests, so he needs someone along for the ride.

Stewardson, who enlisted in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, went a year without a ride before he found out about the Caldwell County Veterans Van. “It’s very useful for people like me,” he said.

The Caldwell County Veterans Van has served veterans about seven years, said Paula Massey. She works at Princeton’s VFW Post No. 5595. The van is a combined effort of the Princeton VFW and American Legion.

The van service depends on two things: donations and volunteers. Gasoline, alone, costs up to $400 a month. Insurance on the van adds up to about $3,000 a year.

Veterans contact Massey, who schedules the van and arranges for volunteer drivers. She estimates the van makes an average of 15 trips per month.

The van travels to Paducah, Hanson, Hopkinsville, Evansville, Ind., Marion, Ill., and Clarksville and Nashville, Tenn., where U.S. Veterans Affairs clinics and hospitals are located.

A dozen or so drivers are approved; however, only about seven drive regularly. Many

PSC grants Kenergy rate increase

On Sept. 15, the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) granted Kenergy new rates that will increase revenue by $2.36 million, or 1.8 percent.

As a result, the average monthly bill for residential member-owners increased by about $3.60, or 2.3 percent.

The PSC set the monthly residential customer charge at $18.20. Kenergy’s new residential rate per kilowatt hour is 10.2038 cents.

Kenergy sought a revenue increase of $2.56 million. As a non-profit cooperative, Kenergy is required by the Rural Utilities Service — the federal agency that is its primary lender — to meet certain financial criteria.

Those requirements were the basis for the PSC’s decision to award Kenergy most of the requested increase.

By law, Kenergy was allowed to put its proposed rate into effect on May 20, or six months after its filing date. Therefore, members will receive a credit on their bills for any amount that was over-collected between that date and the ruling on Sept. 15.

Kenergy officials estimate the average residential member’s total credit to be less than $1.

Although Kenergy received nearly all of the additional revenue it requested, the PSC expressed concern about the utility’s employee compensation and benefits packages.

“Recognizing growing concerns over compensation levels with increasing electric bills, the Commission believes that employee compensation and benefits need to be more sufficiently researched and studied,” the PSC said. “The Commission will begin placing more emphasis on evaluating salary and benefits as they relate to competitiveness in a broad marketplace.”

To read the entire PSC ruling and documents filed in the case, go to psc.ky.gov. The case number is 2015-00312.
volunteers are retired and like to spend winters in Florida, and life sometimes gets in the way.

“It’s really hard at times to find drivers,” Massey said. “We’re always looking.”

George Steele, a Kenergy member from Hopkins County, is her go-to driver.

Steele, who served in the Army for 21 years, has driven the Caldwell County van about five years.

“It’s a way of paying back my community,” Steele said.

His wife, Carol Steele, is a veteran, too. She served in the Army. In fact, that’s how the couple met.

She’s gone along with her husband on trips a time or two.

The average pick-up time is between 6 and 7 a.m. Depending on the type of medical appointment, some trips can take as long as seven to eight hours, so volunteers must be dedicated.

It works out great for the Steeles, Carol Steele said, because her husband suffers from allergies, especially when she dusts or vacuums. She waits until he’s scheduled to drive a fellow veteran to the doctor. Then, she cleans their home.

Carol Steele is proud of her husband’s dedication and volunteerism. “There are a lot of vets around here who need the service,” she said.

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Chocolate chip cheese ball
By Kathy Gebhard

1 package of cream cheese (8 oz.)
½ c of butter softened (no substitute)
¼ tsp vanilla extract
¾ c confectioner’s sugar
2 Tbsp brown sugar
¾ c semisweet choc chips (mini)
¾ c chopped pecans
Graham crackers

Beat cream cheese, butter, vanilla and gradually add sugars. Beat just until combined, fold in chocolate chips. Cover and refrigerate two hours. Place mixture in large piece of plastic wrap – shape into ball. Refrigerate one hour - roll in pecans. Serve with Graham crackers.
Have you caulked windows and doors and prepared your home for winter? Kenergy offers rebates on programmable thermostats and insulation. Review our residential rebates at kenergycorp.com.

Don’t read your meters anymore!

Five directors to be elected in 2017

Prior to Kenergy’s 2017 Annual Membership meeting on June 13, individuals will be elected to represent Districts 4, 6, 8 and 9, as well as the cooperative’s large industrial members.

District 4, which currently is represented by Susie Givens, includes the area of Henderson County west of the Pennyrile Parkway and west of that portion of Highway 41 that runs to the north of the Pennyrile Parkway.

District 6, which currently is represented by Larry Elder, includes that area of Daviess County west of U.S. Highway 431.

District 8, which currently is represented by Billy Reid, includes that area of Daviess County north and east of Kentucky 54.

District 9, which currently is represented by Brent Wigginton, includes all of Hancock County.

A district director must be a member of the cooperative and must reside in the district he or she represents.

The Industrial Director must be a member of Kenergy or the employee of a member industry having a contract demand of at least 1,000 KW and must reside in a county all or a portion of which is located within Kenergy’s service territory. Steve Henry is the current Industrial Director.

Any 15 or more members may make nominations of eligible persons for district director and any five or more large industrial members may make nominations of eligible persons for industrial director.

Nominations shall be by signed written petition and shall be submitted to Kenergy not less than 110 days prior to the annual meeting.

Only members eligible to vote in a district are authorized to sign a petition nominating a member from that district, and only those eligible to vote in an industrial director election are authorized to sign a petition nominating a person for industrial director. Directors shall be elected only from nominations by petition.

The petition must be submitted to the cooperative by 4 p.m., Feb. 23. If the petition is valid, the name of the nominee will be posted.

TOGETHERWESAVE

Energy-saving tips

Smart home landscaping can lower your electric bills. Trees on the east and west sides of your home provide shade—and reduce your cooling costs—during hot summer months. Shade for your air conditioner can save 10 percent of your cooling costs. And by adding vegetation to the north side of your home, you can reduce winter winds that trigger higher heating costs.

Find more ways to save at TogetherWeSave.com.

Featured Discounts

Preservation Station, West Louisville
10% off one item over $30 not marked “firm”

Clark’s Health & Nutrition, Owensboro
20% off total order

Phill’s Custom Cabinets, Owensboro
Free estimates & $100 off knobs & pulls (See details)

Salsarita’s, Owensboro
10% off total order excludes catering & alcohol

Pizza by the Guy, Owensboro
20% off regular price – excludes buffet

For more details and offerings, visit kenergycorp.com or pick up a list at any Kenergy office.