

## **What It All Means** **Billing Terms & Definitions**

**Account Number:** The unique number associated with each electric or PowerNET service. One member may have multiple accounts, each with a different account number. Your account number can be found either on page 1, under your name or in the header of each account on your billing statement.

**Annual Minimum Charge:** An annual charge to account for some of the cost of supporting an irrigation account with low energy use during the year.

**Automatic Draft:** The amount automatically charged to the credit or debit card enrolled in Benton REA's AutoPay program.

**Bank Drafts:** The amount automatically charged to the bank account enrolled in Benton REA's AutoPay program.

**Base Charge:** A monthly fixed cost that covers a small portion of the cost to maintain Benton REA's electric system and provide electricity to the member; charged whether or not any electricity is used.

**Bill Date:** The date the billing statement was generated.

**BPA Power Cost Adjustment:** A per-kilowatt charge subject to change based on unexpected fluctuations in wholesale power costs from the Bonneville Power Administration.

**Capacity Charge:** A per-kW charge determined by the peak demand recorded, from either the previous or current irrigation season, depending on the rate schedule. If a demand meter is not in use, the kW is calculated.

**City Utility Tax:** In areas where applicable, a city utility tax is calculated for the electricity used on the account. Each city has its own tax rate set by the city, and some do not have any. Benton REA is required by law to charge this fee for accounts within the boundaries of the cities to which the taxes apply.

**Credit Balance:** The amount currently applied to your account balance, above what is owed.

**Current Charges:** Charges accrued during the billing period stated on the billing statement.

**Current Month Budget Amount:** The current amount due based on the calculated budget (levelized) payment. To learn more about budget (also known as levelized) billing.

**Demand Charge:** The amount charged for the largest amount of electricity drawn from the Benton REA electric system by the consumer. Demand is determined by the average kilowatt delivery during the 30-minute period when the consumption of energy is greatest (the peak).

**Energy Charge:** A per kilowatt-hour charge calculated by the amount of electricity used during the billing period.

**Facility Charge:** A monthly or annual charge for special plant investment needed to serve the account, determined by a separate contract for service and billed in February.

**Invoice Group:** The number given to a group of accounts that will appear on the same billing statement. If applicable, this can be found under your name on page 1 of your billing statement.

**kWh Usage:** The total kilowatt-hours consumed during the billing period.

**Late Charge:** For payments not received by the next billing date, Benton REA charges a 1% or \$5 late fee, whichever is greater. For PowerNET accounts, the late fee is 1% or \$2.50, whichever is greater.

**Meter Multiplier:** A method of measuring electrical use where the demand for electricity exceeds a meter's measuring capacity. Very large homes or commercial/industrial facilities have multipliers higher than 1.0.

**Past Due Balance/Overdue Charges:** The unpaid amount from the previous billing period.

**Power Factor:** A charge applied if the average power factor is less than 97%.

**Present Reading:** The kWh reading on your electric meter recorded on the "Services To" date.

**Previous Reading:** The kWh reading on your previous bill and recorded on the "Services From" date.

**Rate Schedule:** The type of electric service provided to match the needs of each account.

**Seasonal Account Base Charge:** The monthly base charge billed annually in May for seasonal accounts.

**Service Activity:** The address and/or description for the service associated with the account.

**Standby Service:** A charge billed in November to maintain electric facilities for future use at a disconnected or inactive account. The charge is determined by the maximum kW demand from the most recent irrigation season or the installed nameplate horsepower.