

# PARK SPARKS

JULY 2020

PARK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives

## A BRIEF FIELD GUIDE TO YOUR ELECTRICAL SERVICE

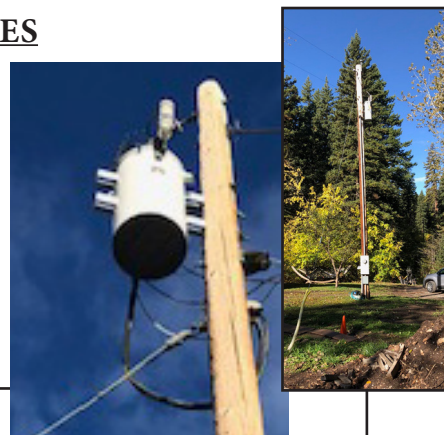
Residential electrical services include a variety of equipment that bring power to your meter. Here we show some of the most common equipment that might be seen in our service territory.

Also included is a guide to understanding your meter screens.

### TWO MAIN TYPES OF SERVICES



How power is brought to your property is different for each location. Do you know which type of service you have?



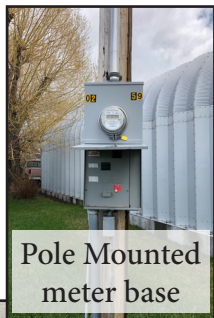
**Underground service** - pictured here is an underground transformer. We understand these can be unsightly, but please refrain from covering them. Our crews must have a minimum of 10' working space at all times.

**Overhead service** - pictured here is an overhead transformer. These can be of differing sizes depending on the service size. The meter can be located on the same pole, or away from it.

### METER BASE TYPES



Pedestal mounted meter base



Pole Mounted meter base



Structure mounted meter base

Do you know where your meter is located?



**Meter** - the meter number is located under the words "Park Electric Coop" and for most residential services starts with 1000. Most meters bases have a main breaker located in the panel under the meter.

### METER SCREEN READOUTS

1. First Screen - a series of 8's (if your screen is blank, there is no power to it.)



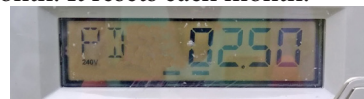
2. Current Usage - The second screen displays the kWh reading; what the bill is based on.



3. Voltage- The third screen displays the current voltage.



4. Peak Demand - The fourth screen displays the peak demand or the max amount of energy used in one month. It resets each month.



## Managers Comments *by Matt Haggerty*

### Outages in the Paradise Valley.

I would like to help explain the number of outages that our members have experienced in the Paradise Valley over the last few years, and the measures that are being worked on to reduce them. I'm sure most, if not all of us have driven by line crews working on the transmission lines between 6-mile and Livingston the last two years. These crews are working for NorthWestern Energy. You might ask, what does this have to do with Park Electric? The simple answer to this question is it has a lot to do with us. These NWE transmission lines feed our substations. Most years 50% of our outage minutes in this area have been caused by outages from our power supplier. The reason these outages are so frequent is the transmission lines serving our substations are very dated, and in poor condition. When you combine that with the weather events that we experience each year, it causes a large amount of failures on these old lines. Because of this, several years ago Park Electric started working with NWE to get these lines replaced to increase our reliability to our members. Replacing these lines will help reduce outages in the long term. The lines that they are being replaced are part of a two-year replacement plan that started in 2019. These transmission lines serve three of Park Electric's substations that serve Paradise Valley.



Now let's review some of the outages that have been experienced recently. I would like to share that not all work can be done while the lines are energized. In 2019 many of the outages were planned by NWE for their contracted crews to perform their work safely. And some of the outages were un-planned, and happened on Park Electric lines. One example of this was when we had our regulators blow up in Pine Creek substation. The outages experienced in 2020 have not been planned. Most but not all of the outages have been related to the work replacing the transmission lines, or in sections that have not been replaced yet. Here is a review of several of the outages we experienced in the last 6 months. One was from old NWE wire breaking while crews were replacing it with new wire, one was from ice buildup on NWE lines, another was from a dump truck hitting Park Electric's lines, and the latest outage was from a brace failing on NWE transmission lines. But wait there is good news! The replacement of these lines is expected to be completed in June of this year. Once the work is complete, Park Electric will have redundant feeds to these three substations. This will allow for a backup feed if one of the lines trips out. Having this project completed should significantly improve our reliability in this area. This does not mean that you will not experience outages from time to time. But there should be a noticeable difference going forward.



### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Spending more time at home? Try an online energy audit to assess the overall efficiency of your home. Visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov), then enter "home energy yardstick" in the search box to get started!

