



December 2011
Volume 24, No 12



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Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—

Effective December 1, Brainerd Public Utilities (BPU) customers will see adjustments in their electric, water, and wastewater treatment rates. The electric rate adjustment will affect only commercial customers who are being billed a demand charge. BPU's demand charges paid to Minnesota Power, which is BPU's wholesale power provider, have increased 57% over the last three years, while BPU customer rates have increased only 9% during the same time period. The adjustment will increase cash flow by approximately \$311,000 for 2012.

Increased electric demand charges also affect the operating costs for the water and wastewater departments, so all BPU customers will see an adjustment in the commodity charge for both water and wastewater. The water rate will be adjusted from \$1.75/1,000 gallons to \$1.85/1,000 gallons and the wastewater rate will be adjusted from \$2.15/1,000 gallons to \$2.40/1,000 gallons. The adjustments will increase cash flow by approximately \$177,000 for 2012.

BPU customers will also see an additional \$3 charge on their monthly bill named "Water Improvement Fee". BPU has significant existing water infrastructure assets that need to be rehabbed or replaced, and does not have the necessary funding in place to pay for these major improvements. Many of the projects need be done within the next two to four years. This fee will generate approximately \$160,000 of cash flow annually.

Class	Current Electric Rates			New Electric Rates		
	Monthly Charge	All kWh	All kW	Monthly Charge	All kWh	All kW
Residential	12.00	0.0604	-	12.00	0.0604	-
General Service (GS)	20.00	0.0609	-	20.00	0.0609	-
GS—Demand	33.00	0.0322	12.00	33.00	0.0322	12.60
Large Power (LP) Secondary	120.00	0.0241	15.25	120.00	0.0241	16.00
LP—Primary	120.00	0.0235	14.75	120.00	0.0235	15.50
Industrial	120.00	0.0199	14.25	120.00	0.0199	15.00
Dual Fuel	-	0.0420	-	-	0.0420	-
Off Peak Energy	-	0.0360	-	-	0.0360	-

If you have any questions regarding these adjustments, please feel free to attend the monthly BPU Commission meeting. The Commission holds their monthly meetings, the last Tuesday of each month, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

The Power Cost Adjustment will remain unchanged at \$0.007 per kWh.

The proposed monthly charges also include the \$0.53 Minnesota Department of Health charge to accommodate the mandatory State charge that has been placed on each water meter in the State since July 1, 1992. Water and wastewater treatment customers outside the City limits will be charged 200 percent of the applicable rate .



Monthly Charge (By Meter Size)	Water Rates		Wastewater Rates	
	Current	New	Current Debt Service Charge	New
5/8 & 3/4 Inch	\$ 11.00	\$ 11.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
1 Inch	34.00	34.00	13.00	13.00
1 1/2 Inch	51.00	51.00	18.00	18.00
2 Inch	95.00	95.00	22.00	22.00
3 Inch	155.00	155.00	31.00	31.00
4 Inch	240.00	240.00	39.00	39.00
6 Inch	380.00	380.00	55.00	55.00
8 Inch	730.00	730.00	70.00	70.00
All Meters			9.00	9.00
Infrastructure Charge		3.00		
Commodity Charge				
(Per 1,000 Gallons)	\$ 1.75	\$ 1.85	\$ 2.15	\$ 2.40

Watt's Weather

Total Precipitation
November 2011 1.7"
November 2010 4.1"

Average Temperatures
November 2011 Hi 42 Lo 27
November 2010 Hi 40 Lo 25

BEFORE DIGGING: Call Gopher State One at **1-800-252-1166** for water and electric locations. All requests for locations must be made by calling the above toll free number at least **48 hours** before digging begins.

Business & Repair Office Hours
7:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Business: 829-8726 Repair: 829-2193

Emergency 24 hour service 365 days a year:
218-829-2193

EMAIL@BPU.ORG WWW.BPU.ORG

NOTICE: All electrical work performed in the City of Brainerd requires a "Request for Electrical Inspection" form to be filed, and work inspected by our inspector. Please call **825-3210** or **829-2193** for more information.



Billing Cycles & Due Dates

Your BPU due date is determined by the first two numbers of your account number.

Sorry, but BPU can not change due dates. Please refer to [the second sheet of this newsletter](#) for more detail.

Billing Cycle	Due Date each Month
01, 02, 03, 04, 05	3rd of every month
06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 20	10th of every month
11, 12, 13, 14, 15	17th of every month
16, 17, 18	24th of every month

Set-top Boxes

May use as much energy as a refrigerator!



Are You Wasting Electricity?

More than 80% of US homes subscribe to some type of pay television service, resulting in more than 160 million set-top boxes. Based on a recent study completed by National Defense Council (NRDC) and the ECO Group, set-top boxes consume 27 billion kWh of electricity annually (2/3 of which occurs when they are not even in use), which is equivalent to the annual household electric usage for the entire state of Maryland.

Fortunately, there is great potential for reducing the electric usage from these electronic devices. Some of those ways are;

UNPLUG IT— When you go away on vacation.

TURN IT OFF — Turn off TVs, lights radios and other devices when you are not using them.

UNPLUGGED MADE EASY —Use a *standard power strip* to turn off multiple devices with one switch. It's like unplugging them. Use a *SMART power strip* for TV and computer peripherals and stereo components.

1. Plug the main device (*TV, computer*) into the primary outlet.
2. Plug other peripherals (*for entertainment centers — stereo, VCR/DVD player; for computer work centers — printer, scanner, monitor*) into the secondary outlets. Electronics that are plugged into the secondary outlets will be powered off when the main device is turned off or shut down.
3. Devices that must stay on can be plugged into the constant outlets which are marked on the power strip.

Use a *timer* for electronic equipment you don't need all the time but want to be ready when you need to use it — things like *set-top boxes* (e.g., satellite box), *computer networking equipment* (e.g., routers and modems), and *tool chargers*.

For example, turn off set-top boxes late at night and power them back on early in the morning — they'll recover their settings long before you turn on your TV.

Reading Your Meter

BPU has two meter readers that read over 7,000 residential & commercial electric and water meters each month. For accurate billing it's important for our readers to have access to the utility meter(s) each month. Here are some ways you can help.

- We encourage customers to unlock gates (or provide a current key) and keep a path shoveled to meter during winter months.
- Pen dogs and other pets on your scheduled reading dates.
- Remove any obstacles blocking the meter; keep shrubs trimmed and remove any other items that may block the meter(s).

Your meter(s) will be estimated if the meter readers feel unsafe conditions exist or if a property is locked and BPU does not have a key. They will leave a door hanger if they are unable to get an actual reading.



Your help makes our meter readers' job easier and ensure the accuracy of their readings.

Here is a list of [phone numbers](#) to help you get the answers you are looking for

Questions on billing statements	825-3207
Moving in or out of a rental, or selling/purchasing a home	825-3200
Want to pay using a credit card (Visa or MasterCard)	825-3201
Set up a payment arrangement	825-3223
Business Office	829-8726
Repair Office	829-2193

MOVING

If you are **moving**, please notify our office at 825-3200 at least a day in advance to have your meters read for your final bill. Please have your forwarding address ready to give to us.

Also, if you are **selling** your property, we need the new owner's name when you call in to final your account.

BPU requires an application for service to be filled out if you are beginning service with us or transferring service in our service area.

The application is on our website at www.bpu.org. We can also mail the application to you. We will not read the meters until we have received the completed application, a copy of your lease (if renting) and a photo copy of a photo ID.

