

# INSIDE PASSAGE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

WATTS NEW [www.insidepassageelectric.org](http://www.insidepassageelectric.org)

Like us on Facebook

Volume 17, Issue 1

January, 2026

## AVOID OVERLOADING SURGE PROTECTORS

Plugging in too many high-powered devices and exceeding its capacity can create fire risks, trips breakers, overheats the power strip, and damages electronics. You should avoid “daisy-chaining” (plugging in power strips into each other) and high-wattage items such as space heaters, hair dryers, or microwave ovens. Use surge protectors only for low-power electronics and replacing them if they feel hot, buzz or show scorch marks.

Signs of an overloaded surge protector:

Warm or hot to the touch, a major sign of excessive heat. Flickering lights or device shutdowns indicates power instability. Frequent breaker trips means the protector or house breaker is doing its jobs but is overloaded. Buzzing or crackling sounds is a precursor to failure. Scorch marks or burning smell is a serious hazard and requires immediate unplugging.

How to prevent overloading:

Use only for lower-power devices such as computers, chargers, TVs, or lamps. Avoid high-wattage appliances such as space heaters, hair dryers, toasters, microwaves, or portable ACs into a power strip. Never plug a power strip into another power strip or extension cord. Match amperage by using cords/strips with the correct amperage rating for the load. Provide ventilation by keeping power strips uncovered and away from heat sources.

What to do if overloaded:

Unplug immediately by removing the surge protector from the wall. Disconnect devices by unplugging some items to reduce the load. Inspect by checking for damage, heat, or odors. Replace if damaged or consistently tripping off. IPEC has meter surge protectors for \$150 which includes installation.

## COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

Cooperative principles are core guidelines for member-owned organizations such as IPEC. The seven cooperative principles are:

### 1. Open and Voluntary Membership

Membership in a cooperative is open to all people who can reasonably use its services and stand willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, regardless of race, religion, gender, or economic circumstances.

### 2. Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Representatives (directors/trustees) are elected among the membership and are accountable to them. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote); cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

### 3. Members' Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative; setting up reserves; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

### 4. Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control as well as their unique identity.

*(Co-op Principles continued page 2 column 1 previous page)*

*(Co-op Principles continued page 1 column 2 previous page)*

### **5. Education, Training, and Information**

Education and training for members, elected representatives (directors/trustees), CEOs, and employees help them effectively contribute to the development of their cooperatives. Communications about the nature and benefits of cooperatives, particularly with the general public and opinion leaders, help boost cooperative understanding.

### **6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives**

By working together through local, national, regional and international structures, cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies, and deal more effectively with social and community needs.

### **7. Concern for Community**

Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies supported by the membership.

## **CAPITAL CREDITS**

In 2004, the Tlingit-Haida Regional Electrical Authority transitioned to Inside Passage Electric Cooperative (IPEC). Receiving electric service from IPEC, means that you are a member-owner of the cooperative and makes you eligible for capital credits if your balance has not been written off for lack of payment.

At their October 10, 2025 meeting, the IPEC Board approved the first retirement of Capital Credits. The 11.2% retirement begins with the 2007 year. This is due to an operating margin loss in 2004 of (\$99,777.92), a positive margin in 2005 of \$40,511.61 and a positive margin of \$50,665.29 in 2006. When the loss is applied to the 2005 and 2006 operating years, this takes us to the 2007 year.

If you received electric service from IPEC in 2004 through 2007 and are still a current member-owner of IPEC, you will see a retirement credit on your December 2025 billing statement. Your retirement amount will show as a separate line item which reduces the balance due.

For those previous customers that are no longer a member-owner of IPEC, they will be receiving a check in the mail sent to the current address on file. Therefore, it is very important to keep IPEC apprised of any address changes.

## **2026 ANNUAL MEETING**

The 2026 annual meeting will be held on May 8, 2026 in Kake. The Klukwan Director will be up for election. Nominating petitions will be mailed to Klukwan residential customers in February. In order to run for the Klukwan District, your primary residence must be in Klukwan and your name must be listed on the billing account. Per IPEC's bylaws, only residential customers are eligible to run for the Board of Directors.

## **IPEC PURCHASES LANDING CRAFT FOR THAYER HYDRO PROJECT**

Due to the necessity of crossing Killisnoo Inlet for the Thayer hydroelectric project, IPEC purchased a new 25 foot landing craft with twin 115 HP Suzuki engines. The boat is capable of hauling a side by side for transportation to the powerhouse. The landing craft will be stored in Angoon for maintenance of the Thayer hydro project under construction.

