Minimizing Your Bill

Large General Service/Schedule 10

We have switched some of our Dominion Virginia Power clients to the Large General Service/Schedule 10 Rate. It can be an attractive alternative for some power customers of particular sizes who have certain operating characteristics. If you are served under this rate, your pricing varies widely depending on the season, day of the week, time of day, outside temperature, load on the Dominion Power system and the generating capacity available at the time.

Within the published tariff documents from the utility, this rate consists of six pages of numbers, tables and electrical jargon. A small portion of the rate is shown below to illustrate a few key points. This portion of the rate only covers the energy generation charges during the summer months and does not include the basic customer charge, distribution demand charge, distribution kWh charge, transmission demand charges, pricing during the rest of the year or the riders associated.

As you can see, the pricing during on-peak hours of “A” days is much higher than all other hours and days. In fact, the pricing during the on-peak hours of an “A” day is 2,640% more than during the off-peak hours of “C” days.

What is an “A” day?

Under this rate, Dominion has the right to declare up to 28 “A” days per calendar year. These tend to be the hottest summer weekdays or the coldest winter weekdays. The demand on the system is very high on these days. The pricing has been established to encourage customers to minimize usage during the on-peak hours of an “A” day.

How do I know when it’s an “A” day?

By the end of each business day, Dominion Virginia Power declares the day classification that will apply on the following day. UMS monitors this information and notifies our clients currently on this rate by way of email.

If you wish to be added to the distribution list, please notify Nicolette Thomas at the UMS Corporate Office by phone or email: 910-793-6232 ext. 115 or NThomas@UtilManagement.com

You can also determine day classification by calling 1-800-446-4877.

Do I have to curtail usage on “A” days?

No. However, you can greatly reduce your electric bills by taking steps to minimize usage on these days.

How can I minimize usage?

A few ideas to reduce your electric usage on “A” days are:

- Pre-cool air-conditioned areas so they are a few degrees cooler than normal prior to 11:00 AM. Then return the thermostat to the normal setting at/after 11:00 AM.
- Turn off the AC in unused/empty storerooms, conference rooms, etc. during on-peak hours.
- Schedule the running of washers and dryers, etc.; run them prior to 11:00 AM or after 9:00 PM when possible.
- Schedule the running of production equipment to avoid on-peak hours, or run the equipment on the weekends if possible.

Are the on-peak hours the same year-round?

No. The on-peak hours vary seasonally; see the chart below.
Energy Consumption from Lighting Dropping in U.S. Commercial Buildings

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, electricity for lighting in commercial buildings dropped from 38% to 17% between 2003 and 2012. This reduction was largely due to a dramatic reduction in incandescent lighting and the widespread adoption of more efficient sources of fluorescent lighting. If more current data were readily available, the drop would likely be even more significant due to the shift toward LED lighting over the last few years.

Your competitors are converting to LED; are you keeping up?

Lighting is no longer the largest end use as a share of total electricity consumption, as shown in this figure published by the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Air is Free, Compressed Air is Expensive

A recent survey by the U.S. Department of Energy showed that, for a typical industrial facility, approximately 10% of the electricity consumed is for generating compressed air. Much of that air is wasted by leaks in the system. You can find leaks by wandering the production floor when your plant is closed and listening for hissing sounds. If your compressor is cycling off and on during non-production hours, you have leaks.

Find & Repair Leaks
in your compressed air system to save money.

Wind Energy is on the Rise

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, electricity generated by wind in the U.S. now exceeds energy generated by hydroelectric plants. The figure to the right shows U.S. utility-scale wind and hydro generation from January 2002 through December 2016. Numbers in million megawatthours.

Utility Management Services, Inc.
6317 Oleander Drive, Suite C
Wilmington, NC 28403
888.867.3230
www.UtilManagement.com

Payments ONLY to:
PO Box 890134, Charlotte, NC 28289
Credit Card Payments, call:
888.867.3230 ext. 101

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