

HOW TO READ YOUR ALPS BILL
(numbers below correspond to #'s on bill invoice example above)

1. **Energy Total** : Total energy for all sites (metered energy + losses when energy is transported through wires + energy that is either lost or gained through measurement errors). This value may be partly or fully estimated depending on whether an up-to-date meter reading is available at the time the invoice is created. Adjustments are made on later invoices to correct them to actual readings. All energy is purchased from generators at the wholesale Alberta Electric System Operator ("AESO") Power Pool price.
2. **Energy Costs**: is the total cost for all sites of purchasing energy at the Power Pool, plus pool trading charge, retail fee, and fixed price block energy cost.
3. **Wire Service Provider Costs**: is the total cost of delivery of electricity through wires for all sites, without mark-up.
4. **Municipal Consent Access Fee (MCAF)**: a tax fee that the Municipal Government Act imposes on distribution companies for the right to have utility 'access' within each municipality. Not all municipalities have this fee, and the rate varies amongst different municipalities.
5. **Adjustment(s) Pre-GST**: adjustments (positive or negative \$) that are applied to your bill for estimates made in prior bills because actual meter reads were not available at the time (before GST is applied).
6. **GST**: is the goods and services tax for the site.
7. **Balancing Pool Cost**: this may be a debit or credit (\$/kWh) set by the Balancing Pool (has not been used for some time now as it is now included in the regulated utility wires charge).
8. **Adjustment(s) Post-GST**: adjustments or costs which are not subject to GST, such as late payment charges, NSF charges etc.
9. **Fixed Cost**: a cost that does not vary based on consumption. It is the fixed number of kWh you contracted to consume each month in your contract, times your cost per kWh.
10. **Floating Cost**: is the cost of power pool purchases (which varies in price by the hour) that you used above or below your contracted fixed energy. If you use less than your contracted price per hour, the difference is sold back to the pool.
11. **Retail Cost**: total energy consumed in kWh x retail fee in \$/kWh.
12. **Total Retail Cost**: Fixed Cost + Floating Cost + Retail Cost + Pool Trading Charge (Pool trading charge is not currently shown in a column on the bill, but instead added to the total retail cost)
13. **Wire Svc Prov Cst**: See point # 3 above
14. **MCAF Costs (Municipal Consent & Access Fee)**: is the fee for the site (tax under Municipal Government Act) that is imposed by municipalities on distribution companies for the right to have utility 'access' within each municipality. Not all municipalities have implemented this fee, and the rate varies amongst different municipalities.
15. **Pre-GST Adjust**: See point # 5 above
16. **Balancing Pool Cost**: See point # 7 above
17. **GST**: See point # 6 above
18. **Post-GST Adjust**: See point # 8 above