

What is demand?

“Demand” is the maximum electricity usage during the month over a specific period of time. Demand varies from hour to hour, day to day and season to season. This usage, which is expressed in kilowatts (kW, not kilowatt-hours) is called the “demand” on the system. Surry-Yadkin EMC monitors demand over a 15-minute or 60-minute period (depending on the rate). The member-consumer is charged for the highest 15-minute or 60-minute average recorded on the demand meter. After we read the meter each month, demand is reset to zero and the meters starts over, recording the highest 15-minute or 60-minute average for the next billing period.

What is demand charge?

Demand charge is based on each member-consumer’s maximum 15-minute or 60-minute demand on the utility’s distribution system each month. Demand is measured in kilowatts (kW). Members are billed according to kW of demand for their rate.

Why are demand charges used?

Demand charges are the way Surry-Yadkin EMC pays for generation and distribution capacity it needs to meet peak demand that occurs from time to time. The demand charges SYEMC pays to its wholesale power supplier also is calculated based on the highest demand during the month. SYEMC uses the same method to bill demand to demand-rate members.

How can demand charges be reduced?

To reduce demand charge, examine your operation.

- What energy-efficient improvements can be made?
- Does all of the equipment need to be running at the same time?
- If not, what can be turned off while other equipment is running?

Often there is equipment that is operated infrequently. If this is the case, can some other equipment be turned off while this equipment is running? The result may be a significant savings in your monthly demand charge.

Energy (kWh) vs. Demand (kW)

Energy Consumption (kWh) — The basic measure of electric energy use is measured in kilowatt-hours or kWh. For example, a 100-watt light bulb consumes 100 watts per hour. If that bulb is left on for 10 hours, it will consume 1 kWh.

Demand (kW) — Demand is measured in kilowatts or kW. KW is the basic unit of electric demand and is equal to 1,000 watts. If 10 100-watt bulbs are left on for an hour that member is

still consuming one kWh but it is also placing a 1 kW demand on the wholesale power provider by having all of the bulbs on at once.