

# FINE PRINT: Electricity Bill

In this activity, you will explore an electricity bill in more detail to understand its various components. Then, you will answer questions using the sample electricity bill below.

### **Part I: Read The Fine Print**

Analyze this sample electricity bill and answer the questions that follow.

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Pay/Manage your account online at pplelectric.com Questions? Please contact us by May 12. 1-800-DIAL-PPL (1-800-342-5775)M-F: 8am to 5pm

Bill Acct. No.	Due Date	Amount Due
0000-0000	May 12, 2015	\$106.62

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#### Your Electric Usage Profile

Service to: CUSTOMER 123 MAIN ST ANYTOWN, PA 18062

Meter: 0000-0000

Your next meter reading is on or about May 18, 2015.

This section helps you understand your year-to-year electric use by month. Meter readings are actual unless otherwise noted.



Monthly Comparison	Days Billed	kWh	Average kWh/Day	Average Temp.
Apr 2015	30	698	23	43F
Apr 2014	30	734	24	44F

Billing Period	Type	Reading
Apr 17	Actual	19207
Mar 18	Actual	18509
30 Days	kWh Billed	698

Yearly Comparison	Total Use	Avg. Monthly
May 2014 - Apr 2015	10298	858
May 2013 - Apr 2014	11208	934

Billing Summary	(Billing details	on back)
Balance as of Apr 21, 2015	\$0.00	
Charges:		
Total Generation & Transmission Charges	\$64.66	
Total Distribution Charges	\$41.96	
Total Current Charges	\$106.62	
Amount Due By May 12, 2015		\$106.62
Account Balance		\$106.62

How To S	hop For	Electricity
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You can choose the company that supplies your electricity.

Visit papowerswitch.com or www.oca.state.pa.us for supplier offers.

If you are already shopping, know your contract expiration date.

Here's the information you need to shop:

Bill Account Number: 0000-0000 Rate Schedule: RS (Residential)

Current Supplier: Supplier ABC

PPL Electric Utilities price to compare for your rate is \$0.09559 per kWh. This changes the 1st of June and December.

#### Manage Your Account

	Pay Your Bill		Online Options (pplectric.com)
Online:	Visit pplelectric.com	-	Report an outage/check outage status
Phone:	Call 1-800-342-5775	-	Make a payment, view your bill and
Mail:	Use envelope provided		usage history.
ABP:	Automatic Bill Pay (see	-	Sign up for alerts.
	back of stub to enroll)	-	Ernon in poperioss billing, daterinane
Card:	MasterCard, Discover,		bill pay, budget billing.
	Visa or debit, call	-	View your rate schedule at: pplelectric.com/rates
	1-800-672-2413		pplelectric.com/rates
	(service fee applies)	L	
Correspo	ndence:		

Customer Services, 827 Hausman Road, Allentown, PA 18104-9392

Other important information on the back of this bill >

Return this stub in the envelope provided with a check payable to PPL Electric Utilities.



Sign up for Automatic Bill Pay on the back of this bill stub.

Bill Acct. No.	Due Date	Amount Due
0000-0000	May 12, 2015	\$106.62

Amount Enclosed:



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PPL ELECTRIC UTILITIES 2 NORTH 9TH STREET CPC-GENN1 ALLENTOWN, PA 18101-1175

CUSTOMER 123 MAIN ST ANYTOWN, PA 18062

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#### Your Message Center

- With paperless billing, you can receive and pay your PPL Electric Utilities bills online. The process is free, quick, convenient and secure. To learn more or sign up, visit pplelectric.com.
- Information about appliance energy use and tips on saving energy are available through the Energy Library on our Web site, pplelectric.com/e-power
- Before digging around your home or property, you should always call the state's One Call notification system to locate any underground utility lines. You can do this by simply dialing 811, which will connect you to the One Call system. Be safe and call 811 before you dig.
- Clean the lint filter on your dryer between loads. A clogged filter cuts air flow and wastes energy. A clean filter shortens drying time and saves money.
- Save postage and late charges sign up for Automated Bill Payment.

General	Info	rmat	ion
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Generation prices and charges are set by the electric generation supplier you have chosen. The Public Utility Commission regulates distribution rates and services. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regulates transmission prices and services.

PPL Electric Utilities uses about \$0.59 of this bill to pay state taxes and about \$2.47 is used to pay the PA Gross Receipts Tax.

Billing Details - (Bill Acct. 0000-0000	)	Page 2
Previous Balance	\$137.05	
Payment Received Apr 20, 2015 - Thank You!	-\$137.05	
Balance as of Apr 21, 2015		\$0.00
Charges for - PPL Electric Utilities Residential Rate: RS for Mar 18 - Apr 17 Distribution Charge: Customer Charge 698 kWh at 3.52500000 per kWh System Improvement Charge at 3.15% PA Tax Adj Surcharge at -0.13300000%	14.13 24.60 1.57 -0.05	
Total Distribution Charges		\$40.25
Total Generation & Transmission Charges (see Supplier Billing Details page)		\$64.66
Other Charges for PPL Electric Utilities		
Late Payment Charge	1.71	
Total of Other Charges		\$1.71
Amount Due By May 12, 2015		\$106.62
Account Balance		\$106.62

#### Understanding Your Bill

Customer Charge - Monthly charge to recover costs of billing, meters and equipment.

Distribution Charge - Monthly charge to recover costs of local equipment used to deliver electricity from high-voltage transmission lines (see Transmission Charge) and safely step down voltage for use in your home or business.

System Improvement Charge - Monthly charge to recover costs for improving, repairing and replacing equipment that delivers electricity to your home or business.

**kWh (Kilowatt-hour)** - A measure of how much electricity your household uses. One kilowatt-hour equals the amount of electricity used by ten 100-watt lights left on for one hour.

Late Payment Charge - Charge added if you do not pay your bill by the due date.

Rate RS - Rate for service to a private home.

State Tax Adjustment Surcharge - Monthly charge or credit to reflect changes in various state taxes. The surcharge may vary by bill component.

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Type(s) of Meter Readings: Actual - Measures your monthly electricity use based on an actual reading.

Enroll in Automatic Bill Pay (ABP) and your monthly electric payment will be automatically deducted from your bank checking account. To enroll, sign and date this form and return with your check payment (voided check not required). Money orders, cashier and foreign checks do not qualify for enrollment.

I authorize PPL Electric Utilities to automatically deduct from the checking account as shown on my enclosed check, all future payments for the PPL Electric Utility bill account number listed on this payment stub. I will notify PPL Electric Utilities if I decide to cancel this authorization.

Checking Account holder signature \_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: To enroll using a savings account for ABP, visit the billing and payments section at www.pplelectric.com/my-account

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## **Supplier Billing Details**

Bill Acct. No.	Due Date	Amount Due
0000-0000	May 12, 2015	\$106.62

These are the generation and transmission charges from your supplier(s). If you have questions, please contact the supplier that served you during that period.

Supplier ABC

For questions on these charges, please contact this supplier at:

Phone:

1-800-555-2222

 Supplier ABC **Customer Services** 1234 MAIN ST ANYTOWN, PA 18102 Charges for - Supplier ABC

Generation & Transmission Charges for Mar 18 - Mar 23 ENERGY CHARGE 121KH@0.129

Total Supplier ABC Charges

\$15.61

Supplier 2

For questions on these charges, please contact this supplier at:

Phone:

1-800-555-2222

Supplier 2 **Customer Services** 1234 MAIN ST ANYTOWN, PA 18102 Charges for - Supplier 2

Generation & Transmission Charges for Mar 23 - Apr 17 SUPPLY CHARGE: 577 kWh @ 0.08500 GROSS RECEIPTS TAX \$2.89 49.05

Total Supplier 2 Charges

\$49.05

Total Generation & Transmission Charges: \$64.66

- 1. When is this electricity bill due?
  - a. April 21, 2015
  - b. May 2, 2015
  - c. May 12, 2015
  - d. December 12, 2015
- 2. What is the amount due for this electricity bill?
  - a. \$41.96
  - b. \$64.66
  - c. \$106.62
  - d. \$137.05
- 3. Look at the bar graph for the year-to-year electricity use by month. Which of the following statements below is TRUE?
  - a. The electricity use is highest during the spring months (March, April, May).
  - b. On average, this meter has read LESS electricity use in 2015 than 2014, for February, March, and April.
  - c. On average, this meter has read MORE electricity use in 2015 than 2014, except for January.
  - d. The electricity use is lowest during the summer months (June, July, August).
- 4. You're trying to figure out what you pay annually for electricity. Why might multiplying today's total of \$106.62 by 12 give you an <u>inaccurate</u> estimate of total cost?
  - a. April is too early in the year to estimate an annual cost
  - b. Your April electricity usage was third lowest all last year, so it will likely underestimate your annual cost
  - c. Your April electricity usage is abnormally high, so it will likely overestimate your annual cost
  - d. April only has 30 days, not the typical 31, so it will underestimate your annual cost
- 5. What advice would you give this customer for the upcoming summer months from a budgeting perspective?
  - a. Continue consistent monthly budget without any adjustments
  - b. Budget more money for the summer air conditioning usage
  - c. Use the heater instead of air conditioning because it is cheaper in the summer
  - d. Avoid using the heater and air conditioning altogether
- 6. If you wanted to compare the rate of another electricity supplier in the "How to Shop for electricity" box, PPL electricity Utilities price is about \_\_\_\_\_ per kWh.
  - a. \$0.04
  - b. \$0.08
  - c. \$0.10
  - d. \$0.12

7.	For Yearly Comparison, the average monthly use for May 2014 to April 2015 was kWh (kilowatt per hour).  a. 858 b. 934 c. 10,298 d. 11,208
8.	All of the following are payment options for this electricity bill EXCEPT  a. Online payment  b. Phone payment  c. Mailing a check in the provided envelope  d. Mailing cash in the provided envelope
9.	Under Billing Details, what percent of the total account balance goes towards total generation and transmission charges?  a. 39%  b. 61%  c. 84%  d. 100%
10.	On page 3 of the bill, you see you actually receive your electricity from two different suppliers. Which statement is true?  a. Supplier ABC supplied more of your power at a higher cost per kWh  b. Supplier ABC supplied more of your power at a lower cost per kWh  c. Supplier ABC supplied less of your power at a higher cost per kWh  d. Supplier ABC supplied less of your power at a lower cost per kWh
	: What Did You Learn? hat you learned from analyzing the electricity bill to answer this question.
11.	Using information from the electricity bill, explain the importance of budgeting electricity into monthly finances. How would you create a plan to adjust your monthly budget as bills fluctuate month by month?

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