

# 18. THE VOLK FIELD REGION'S ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEMS



**Energy rates in the Volk Field Region are competitive and our utility service is reliable.** The cost of energy to residences, businesses, and industries has a direct effect on a family's budget or a company's bottom line. Having access to reasonable energy rates and reliable service is a consideration in deciding where you live, locate your business, or if your company will go ahead with expansion plans. In Wisconsin, the average energy costs, in comparison with other regions of the U. S., are competitive and reliable. As mentioned earlier, Juneau County orients toward western Wisconsin and the three counties of the Fort McCoy Region. These four counties are very interrelated for energy and telecommunications system purposes, among many others.

The majority of electricity in Juneau County is provided by Alliant Energy, a multi-state regional utility company. However, the municipalities of Elroy, New Lisbon, and Wonewoc each provide their own electrical services.

Wisconsin's energy rates for electrical and natural gas were compared with states in six different Census divisions across the U.S. and included the Mid-Atlantic Region, East-North Central, South Atlantic, West South Central, Mountain and the Pacific contiguous region. The State rate comparison for residential, commercial and industrial consumers are outlined in Table 18.1 (Electrical Rates) and Table 18.2 (Natural Gas Rates). The source for the data is the U.S. Department of Energy-Energy Information Administration.

**Wisconsin electrical rates for residential, commercial, and industrial customers are low.** The state's low energy costs in comparison with the state rates in the six census divisions are listed in Table 18.1. It is also important to note that Wisconsin electrical rates were lower than the average rate for the entire Nation in 2003. The low energy costs in the Volk Field Region benefit both homeowners, businesses and the Department of Defense by making electrical service in the area more affordable. Our reasonable utility costs can serve an influential role in business expansion and expansion of facilities at Volk Field as well.

**TABLE 18.1**  
2003 Wisconsin Electrical Rates—State Price Comparison  
(Cents per kilowatt hour)

State	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Average
California	11.90¢	12.62¢	8.61¢	11.04¢
Florida	8.60¢	7.10¢	5.48¢	7.06¢
Georgia	7.74¢	6.59¢	4.03¢	6.12¢
New Mexico	8.63¢	7.49¢	4.85¢	6.99¢
New York	14.23¢	13.08¢	5.24¢	10.85¢
Texas	9.19¢	7.93¢	5.34¢	7.49¢
Wisconsin	8.60¢	6.91¢	4.69¢	6.73¢
U.S.	8.71¢	8.13¢	4.95¢	7.26¢

Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration—*Electric Power Monthly—September 2004*

**The natural gas rates for residential, commercial and industrial customers in Wisconsin compete favorably with other states in the Nation.** Wisconsin's natural gas rates for 2003 were compared with state rates in six different census divisions as outlined in Table 8.2. On average Wisconsin natural gas rates were in line with natural gas prices in the six states from the census divisions.

**TABLE 18.2**  
2003 Wisconsin Natural Gas Rates—State Price Comparison  
(Dollars Per Thousand Cubic Feet)

State	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Average
California	\$8.25	\$9.19	\$9.09	\$8.84
Florida	\$10.96	\$16.23	\$15.47	\$14.22
Georgia	\$9.70	\$11.84	\$11.29	\$10.94
New Mexico	\$6.61	\$8.10	\$7.77	\$7.49
New York	\$9.01	\$11.05	\$10.69	\$10.25
Texas	\$7.57	\$8.90	\$8.56	\$8.34
Wisconsin	\$8.18	\$9.37	\$9.23	\$8.92
U.S.	\$8.15	\$9.23	\$8.97	\$8.78

Source: U.S. Department of Energy-Energy Information Administration/*Natural Gas Monthly (September 2004)*

Overall Wisconsin's rates were similar to U.S. average natural gas prices. Having access to reasonable rates lowers the cost to residential and business users. A significant factor in a company's decision to locate in a certain area is the cost of utility services. The Volk Field Region's ability to attract new business start-up and business expansion projects because of the area's low

energy costs provide opportunities for economic development.

***There are a variety of telecommunications companies that provide services to areas of Juneau County.*** These companies include Century Tel, Verizon, GTE, the Lemonweir Valley Telephone Company, Central State, and PTI Communications. Volk Field and adjacent Camp Douglas utilize the Lemonweir Valley Telephone Company for their local services. Volk Field also has access to fiber optic telecommunications cable, as do the municipalities of Elroy, Mauston, and New Lisbon.