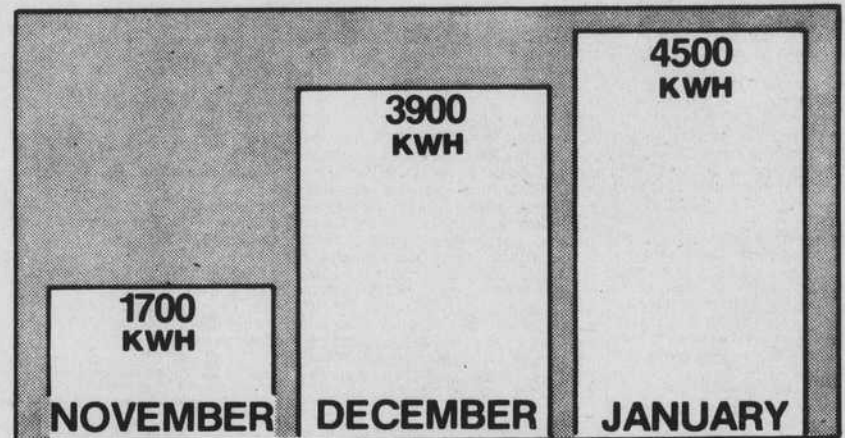


# 4 Questions and Answers about your electric bill.

## 1 Why is the electric bill higher than it was a few months ago?

It's higher because you are using more electricity than you did back in the fall. How much more depends upon several things. The major factors are: type of heating — either gas or electric; type of electric heating — heat pump or resistance units; and the adequacy of insulation in your home. The chart at right shows power consumption over the past three months in a typical electrically heated residence.



## 2 Why is the electric bill higher than one for the same period last year?

Because of rate increases. During 1974 our rates went up an average of 26%. *This is an average figure.* If you use a lot of electricity, the % increase will be higher. The accompanying chart shows the increase in dollars for typical homes by comparing December 1973 with December 1974 bills.

IF YOU USED THIS AMOUNT OF ELECTRICITY	IN DECEMBER 1973 YOU WERE CHARGED	IN DECEMBER 1974 YOU WERE CHARGED	% INCREASE
500 KWH	\$11.37	\$ 12.46	9.6
1000 KWH	16.20	19.44	20.0
1500 KWH	21.02	26.42	25.7
2000 KWH	25.85	33.40	29.2
3000 KWH	35.50	47.36	33.4
5000 KWH	54.80	75.28	37.4
7000 KWH	74.10	103.20	39.3

Rates shown do not include 4% city tax surcharge.

## 3 Isn't a 26% increase in one year high?

Yes, it is.

But the costs involved in producing and delivering electricity have been skyrocketing. Examples:

1. In January 1972, fuel oil cost \$5.09 per barrel. Today, we must pay from \$10.58 to \$14.08.
2. In January 1972, we paid \$5.17 per ton of coal. Today, it costs us from \$5.68 to \$24.50.
3. In 1972, it cost us \$3.76 a ton to freight coal. Today, the cost is \$4.93.
4. Utility poles have gone from \$65. to \$128. each during this period; aluminum from 31¢ a pound to 63¢.

Not only have these and other costs increased, but the rapidly declining availability of natural gas for fuel is forcing us to use more and more higher priced fuel oil. We know these facts don't make your bill any lower, but we hope they help explain why rates have increased.

Our residential rates remain the lowest of any utility in the entire Southwest. Nationally, they are the fifth lowest of 164 utility companies recently surveyed.

## 4 What can be done to cut the amount of your electric bill?

If you live in a single family home, make certain you have enough insulation. In an electrically heated home, inadequate insulation is the single biggest waster of electricity. Call an insulation contractor or talk to a home improvement dealer. The potential savings can make it well worth your time.

No matter where you live, get in the habit of using less electricity. Set the thermostat at 68° instead of 72°. Use cold-water detergents. Turn off the lights and TV sets when you're through with them. Fill your dishwasher before turning it on. These and other common-sense practices will lower your power bill.

**NEVADA POWER COMPANY**