Fourth straight year without an increase in electric rates and sixth straight year for water!
Another Year without Raising Rates!

There aren’t many things that you pay for on a monthly basis that truly haven’t gone up in price over the course of four or six years. RPU staff worked hard under the guidance of the RPU Utility Board to develop a 2013 budget that would not impact customers’ rates.

In order to sustain a viable budget without a rate increase again for 2013, RPU staff worked diligently to ensure that core components of RPU’s business were not compromised including safety, system reliability, and fiscal health.

The RPU 2013 budget was approved by the RPU Utility Board back on November 13, with final approval coming from the City Council on November 19.

While rates will not be going up in 2013, RPU continues to remind customers to conserve energy and water whenever possible. Customers are able to lower their monthly bill by being efficient in how they use electricity and water and by taking advantage of rebates from RPU. For a full list of qualifying rebates, please visit www.rpu.org.

PICK UP YOUR RPU 2013 CALENDAR!

FEATURING:
- Arbor Day Posters Drawn By Rochester Area Elementary School Children
- Information on RPU’s CONSERVE & SAVE® Rebate and Educational Programs
- Monthly Conservation Tips and Partners in Planting Tree Facts
- Available at the RPU Service Center
Location Chosen for RPU’s Newest Water Reservoir

After a long decision process comprised of many opportunities for engagement with customers and the community, the RPU Utility Board voted unanimously on placing the new 3.5 million gallon water reservoir in the existing leased space of the 1.5 million gallon reservoir located at 4th St. SW and 10th Ave. SW.

The new reservoir is necessary to provide adequate water storage for existing and future water demands in the downtown Rochester area.

Staff will now start working with the design engineer to develop bid specifications with the hope of gathering bids by mid-2013 with construction completing in 2014. Estimated construction cost for the new water reservoir is $3,418,100 along with an estimated $10,000 in annual operation and maintenance costs.

The new reservoir will also replace the existing 4th St. SE (near the Government Center) reservoir, which was constructed in 1916.
RPU recently sent a line crew to New York, along with eight other Minnesota crews, to help with restoration efforts after Hurricane Sandy took out power to more than 1 million Long Island customers. The crews worked to help restore power in New York for 10 days.

Once in New York, the crews checked in at a staging area located in Bethpage State Park just north of Massapequa, NY. After a safety check the crews were sent to the city of Hewlett, NY, just east of JFK International Airport. The crews spent five full days in Hewlett working on mainly overhead service problems. Much of the system had trees and branches in the lines, broken utility poles, and downed service lines.

The next five days were spent a few miles east in Oceanside, NY, where the crews helped with a mix of overhead and underground services and also helped with supporting contractors setting up generators for commercial businesses. The need to get businesses up and going again was a big priority because of how much they would be able to help support residential customers who were still without power.

When the crews arrived it was estimated that there were more than 300,000 Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) customers without power. During the time the crews were working in New York, a large snow storm came through the east coast and knocked out service to additional customers bringing the total to more than 800,000 customers.

By the time the Minnesota crews left New York, 99% of the LIPA customers had power restored.
RPU Is Hosting Two Community Education Classes in 2013

Residential Geothermal Heating and Cooling

Whether you are building a new home or considering a new heating and cooling system for your present one, consider the economic and environmental advantages of geothermal technology. It is the world’s most advanced, most cost-effective heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system for new or existing homes. This class will provide you with geothermal basics: what it does and how it works. Learn how it uses the ground as a heating and cooling source. Geothermal heating and cooling systems can provide greater comfort and energy savings. Find out information on federal tax credits and Rochester Public Utilities’ installation incentives.

Instructor: Arnie Lorimor  
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2013  
Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Session(s): One  
Location: Cascade Meadow Wetlands & Environmental Science Center

Solar Energy for Your Home or Business

An overview of solar electric and solar heating systems will be presented. There will be many photos of solar installations so that you can get a good idea of what they look like and how they are installed. Many basic questions will be addressed such as: How well does solar energy work in Minnesota? How much energy do the systems produce? What are the costs involved and overall economics? What incentives are available? Is there any maintenance? There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion.

The instructor is the owner of Solar Connection, (www.solarconnectioninc.com) a solar energy design and installation company located in Rochester. Find out information on federal tax credits and Rochester Public Utilities’ installation incentives.

Instructor: Curt Shellum. Curt is a licensed general contractor and a NABCEP Certified PV Installer™. NABCEP is the National Board of Certified Energy Practitioners.  
Date: Saturday, February 2, 2013  
Time: 10 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Session(s): One  
Location: Cascade Meadow Wetlands & Environmental Science Center

Registration for a Community Education class can be made by calling 507.328.4000 or online through the Rochester Community Education website (www.rochesterce.org).
RPU’s Educational Outreach

An important and vital part of RPU’s business is educational outreach to local students. Recently, RPU employees were able to share their expertise with students at the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) Summit and with a local 4th grade class.

The STEM Summit was a great opportunity to share with students all of the ways that RPU employees use science, technology, engineering, and math on a daily basis. We shared a computer simulation, which is used at our power plant for training purposes and had our electric safety demonstration to show why it is important to be safe around electricity.

More than 2,000 local students were in attendance for the one-day event.

Water delivery and water conservation were the main topics for Mrs. Strauss’ 4th graders from St. Francis of Assisi when they toured an RPU well house and water tower. More than 50 students were able to get up close to the 50th Avenue hydropillar and see how big a structure it takes to hold 2 million gallons of water. The tour also included seeing the inside workings of a well house to see what it takes to get the water from hundreds of feet below the ground.
With the recent announcement of the decommissioning of the Silver Lake Plant (SLP) as a coal-burning and an electric generating facility by the end of 2015, RPU is planning to receive its final delivery of coal in the spring of 2013.

For many years it has been a common occurrence to see semi trucks and rail cars full of coal making deliveries to the east gate of the SLP property.

A conservative estimate of coal remaining in the yard currently is around 43,000 tons.

Interesting Facts
• Not all coal is the same. The boilers at SLP need a specific type of low-sulfur coal from the Illinois-Indiana Coal Basin.
• A rail car can carry up to 100 tons of coal.
• A semi truck can carry up to 25 tons of coal.
• During peak times, SLP can burn up to 100 tons of coal a day.
• Coal can spontaneously combust if left in a coal bunker for too long or if improperly packed in the pile.
• The coal that SLP uses has an ash content of 8%-12%. For every 100 tons of coal burned, there will be eight to 12 tons of coal ash collected and disposed of in a proper and safe manner.

1) A coal crew operator positions the coal car above the pit and grating where the coal is dropped into.
2) Car shakers are used to assist in the removal of coal from the coal car.
3) Looking northeast, the cooling towers are far left, cars waiting to be unloaded are in the middle, and the right shows cars partially in the thaw shed, which is used in cold weather to allow the coal to exit the car.
RPU Service Center
Holiday Hours
The RPU Service Center will be closed the following days.

December 24-25
December 31
January 1, 2013

Payments can always be made online at www.rpu.org or over the phone by calling 855.210.2285. Payments placed in the RPU Service Center Drop box after 4 p.m. on Friday, December 28, will be applied to your account as a January 2013 transaction.

Choose Your Way
TO PAY YOUR RPU BILL

STEP 1: Delivery
Choose a Paper Copy – OR – Receive an e-Bill

STEP 2: Billing Plan
Pay Monthly Amount Due – OR – Budget Billing

STEP 3: Payment Method
• Automatic Bank or Credit Card Payment
• Pay By Phone: 1.855.210.2285
• Pay Online: www.rpu.org
• Mail Payment to the RPU Office
• Walk-In Payment to the RPU Office

To learn more or enroll in e-Bill, Budget Billing, and/or Automatic Payments, visit www.rpu.org.

Be sure to recycle your holiday lights this year for free through January 31, 2013, at the RPU Service Center.