



# Mountain View GAZETTE

## Olds' power offer covers Fortis area

John Gleeson, *Mountain View Gazette*, December 7, 2010

The Olds Institute's offer of cheaper electricity is available to customers anywhere in the FortisAlberta service area, officials have confirmed.

"It's not just Mountain View County – it's broader than that," community economic development officer Gail Scott told the *Gazette*.

"It's quite open. As long as it's a Fortis line, we can take the application," Scott said.

"We're not going to turn anyone away who sees this as something they want to participate in."

Launched Nov. 1 and licensed by Service Alberta under the Fair Trade Act, Mountain View Power was created to take advantage of cheaper power being sold to rural electrification organizations by the Calgary company UtilityNet.



Noel West/*Mountain View Gazette*

Gail Scott and Joe Gustafson outline the new service at a recent Olds P & P meeting.



Based on current comparisons, residential consumers could expect to pay about \$10 less each month on their electricity bills if they sign up, Joe Gustafson, chair of the institute's technology pillar committee, told Town of Olds councillors at a meeting last month.

A 14,000-square-foot commercial building could save more than \$3,500 a year by signing on, Gustafson said. Large businesses and facilities, however, cannot switch over if they exceed the cap of 250,000 kilowatt hours.

The Fortis service area extends only a few miles east of Olds across Highway 2 but takes in most of the area west to the B.C. border as far north as Hinton and Whitecourt, and northeast beyond Athabasca and Lac La Biche. It also stretches south to the U.S. border.

The service area excludes the cities of Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat, as well as a large area southeast of Stettler and Drumheller.

The rates offered by Mountain View Power for residential and

commercial users are about three cents lower per kilowatt/hour than those charged by other retailers, Gustafson said. UtilityNet sells power at the industry "spot price" and takes one-half of a cent from each kW-h sold, while the institute collects one penny.

The paperless system means customers are charged through direct debit and all transactions are handled online. There are no costs for switching over from other energy providers or cancelling the agreement, which requires 15 working days' notice. However, consumers should check with their current provider to see whether their contracts include a penalty for cancellation prior to the contract's expiry date.

As of Friday, 16 accounts had been registered with Mountain View Power, six of them businesses and 10 residential sites, with three pending, Scott said.

For more information see [www.mountainviewpower.com](http://www.mountainviewpower.com) or call 1-877-244-7294 (toll-free) or 403-244-7299 (ext 123).