

# What's Current



The Powerful Choice

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## NOVEC to offer levelized billing

**N**ext month, NOVEC will introduce a new levelized billing program for residential customers to replace the current fixed amount budget plan.

### No surprises

Levelized billing is based on a rolling 12-month average. A levelized bill is based on the average of the previous 11 months billing and the current month's billing for the service address. Levelized billing prevents drastic changes in your bill, even in the coldest or hottest months.

### No need to settle-up

Because the levelized billing amount is recalculated each month based on a rolling average, the need to "settle-up" or reconcile balances annually is eliminated. Reconciliation of your account will be necessary only if you move or decide to cancel your participation in levelized billing.

### Join anytime

You can enroll in levelized billing at any time, as long as NOVEC has been providing electricity to your home for at least one year. We'll simply calculate your levelized payment based on the average billing for your home.

**Levelized billing prevents drastic changes in your bill, even in the coldest or hottest months.**

### Current budget customers

Current fixed budget customers will be automatically converted to levelized billing after the settle-up month in July. Your August bill will reflect your first levelized bill amount.

### For more information

If you do not wish to convert to the levelized plan or for more information, contact the Customer Service Center at (703) 335-0500 or (888) 335-0500, or via e-mail at [customerservice@novec.com](mailto:customerservice@novec.com). Frequently asked questions about levelized billing and examples are available on our website at [www.novec.com/billpay.cfm](http://www.novec.com/billpay.cfm).

## NOVEC ofrece facturación nivelada

**El próximo mes, NOVEC introducirá un nuevo programa de facturación nivelada para clientes residenciales, con el fin de reemplazar el actual plan de presupuesto de cantidad fija.**

### Sin sorpresas

La facturación nivelada se basa en un promedio acumulado en un período de 12 meses. Una factura nivelada se basa en el promedio de los 11 meses anteriores de facturación más la facturación del mes actual en la dirección donde se presta el servicio. La facturación nivelada evita cambios drásticos en su factura, aún en los meses más fríos o calientes del año.

### No hay necesidad de ajustar cuentas

Debido a que la cantidad de la facturación nivelada se recalcula mensualmente con base en el promedio acumulado, se elimina la necesidad de "ajustar cuentas" o verificar los saldos anualmente. Esta verificación de su cuenta será necesaria solamente si se traslada de domicilio o decide cancelar su participación en la facturación nivelada.

### Afíliese en cualquier momento

Usted puede afiliarse al plan de facturación nivelada en cualquier momento, en tanto NOVEC le haya suministrado electricidad a su hogar por lo menos durante un año. Simplemente le calcularemos su pago nivelado con base en la facturación promedio de su hogar.

### Actuales clientes bajo el plan de presupuesto

A los clientes que actualmente estén bajo el plan de presupuesto fijo se les convertirá automáticamente al plan de facturación nivelada después del mes de ajuste de cuentas en julio. Ya para el mes de agosto, su factura reflejará su primera cantidad de facturación nivelada.

### Para obtener mayor información

Si no desea convertir su plan actual al de facturación nivelada, o para obtener mayor información, comuníquese con el Centro de Servicio al Cliente al (703) 335-0500 o al (888) 335-0500, o bien, a través del correo electrónico: [customerservice@novec.com](mailto:customerservice@novec.com). Tanto las preguntas que frecuentemente se formulan como ejemplos de la facturación nivelada se encuentran disponibles en nuestra página de Internet en: [www.novec.com/billpay.cfm](http://www.novec.com/billpay.cfm).

## Another \$5 million special capital credits return this month

The NOVEC Board of Directors authorized another special retirement of capital credits to be distributed this month. Approximately \$5 million will be returned to customers as a credit on their July 2005 billing statements. As with prior special capital credits returns this year, July's distribution will be to current customers, who were NOVEC customers anytime between 1986 and 2003. This is the third special capital credits distribution in 2005; \$2.5 million was returned in January 2005, as well as \$5 million in June 2005.

## How much will a swimming pool add to your electric bill?

When considering the installation of a swimming pool you must factor in not only the cost of supplies and chemicals, but also the operating cost of pool pumps. You might think that the small motors in swimming pool pumps would make little difference in your electricity consumption and expense; however, this cost can be significant. The size of the pool and pumps along with the hours of filtering will determine the electric operating costs.



Pool manufacturers and dealers often disagree on the necessary operating times of pool pumps. Some recommend 10 to 12 hours per day, while others recommend continuous operation. Most agree pumps should be sized to completely recycle the water twice during a 24-hour period. A one-cycle operation of 10 to 12 hours usually will keep a pool filtered except when used frequently by large groups.

### Calculate the monthly cost

To calculate the approximate cost of operating your pool pump you need to know its wattage or horsepower. This information is usually found on the nameplate or on the side or back of the pump motor. Electrical usage (kwh) of a pump (or any appliance) can be determined using this formula:

$$\frac{\text{wattage} \times \text{number of operating hours} \times 30 \text{ days}}{1,000} = \text{monthly kwh}$$

**EXAMPLE:** The average one horsepower pump uses approximately 1,650 watts. With 12 hours of operation per day, the kwh usage and cost of operation for this pump would be:

$$\frac{1,650 \text{ watts} \times 12 \text{ hours} \times 30}{1,000} = 594 \text{ kwh} \times .08 \text{ cents} = \$48 \text{ per month}$$

**Remember pool pump motors operate most efficiently when strainers are kept clean and motors run no longer than necessary.**

## Herbicides at work on the NOVEC System

**For nearly 10 years, NOVEC has used herbicides to control woody vegetation in our utility right-of-way corridors. The proper application of safe herbicides is an invaluable tool for utilities. Advancements in the chemical composition of herbicides that allow the targeting of specific plants also benefit VDOT, landscapers and homeowners who use herbicides as a low cost "weed" control.**

At NOVEC, we are specifically concerned with eliminating fast-growing woody brush trees from under our overhead utility lines. We use herbicide to target tree species such as oak, poplar, sycamore, gum, ailanthus and maple, which can grow directly into overhead lines and cause problems, as well as block access to right-of-way areas. By eliminating these trees as saplings, the cost of future tree trimming is greatly reduced.

A single two-man herbicide application crew from Osmose, Inc. is the only full-time applicator on the NOVEC system. Osmose utilizes a foliar (leaf) application herbicide typically from a backpack sprayer, targeting only individual saplings. This crew also sprays vines on poles and guy wires.

Asplundh, our tree-trimming contractor, utilizes an anti-resprouting herbicide on the stumps of most hardwood tree removals to prevent a new tree from growing off the old root system.

Herbicides are used year round on the NOVEC system, but are most noticeable as saplings with leaves suddenly die and turn brown several weeks after spraying. Our goal is to perform the right-of-way maintenance required for service reliability, while at the same time create aesthetically pleasing and wildlife-friendly rights of way.

**For more information** about NOVEC's herbicide applications, visit [www.novec.com/rightofway.cfm](http://www.novec.com/rightofway.cfm) or call (703) 392-1661, or (888) 335-0500, extension 1661.



**An Asplundh professional applies anti-resprouting herbicide on a hardwood tree stump to prevent a new tree from growing off the old root system in a NOVEC right-of-way area.**

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What's Current is produced by the NOVEC Public Relations Department for Cooperative customers. If you would like additional information or if you have suggestions for future articles, please contact: NOVEC PR, P.O. Box 2710, Manassas, VA 20108 or send e-mail to: [ssmarrelli@novec.com](mailto:ssmarrelli@novec.com).