

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

## Weather watching

# New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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**OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday through Friday**  
**7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

**EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBER**

**814/766-3221**  
**1-800-270-3177**



**Rick L. Eichelberger**  
General Manager & CEO

**MUCH OF** what happens at New Enterprise Rural Electric is weather driven. Our outside efforts are focused on storm proofing the system from wind and snow/ice load on the power lines. We must have the capacity in wire size and transformer size to handle the periods of time where the demand is greatest — the below-zero winter days

and the above 90-degree summer days.

Weather determines kilowatt-hour (kWh) sales. And don't think we are catching a break when the rain comes along instead of snow. It takes dry weather to get our equipment and crews off the roadways to complete pole and wire replacement jobs. Frozen ground allows our trucks to drive across areas to do line maintenance. Poor weather conditions tend to create a few car/pole accidents along the way, too.

As you see from these examples, dealing with weather can be good, and it can be nasty. The weather in January 2014 actually produced the largest kWh sales month in the history of the cooperative. For the first time ever, more than 6 million kWhs were used during the month — 13 percent more than the previous January.

An outage event also occurred for nearly 2.5 hours on Jan. 6 during a sub-zero wind chill evening. As it turned out, a tree fell on a Penelec line in the Everett area and interrupted the power feed to our substation serving Hopewell and Liberty townships; more than 1,100 accounts were affected. This was the worst outage we have had during extremely cold weather for years, and fortunately Penelec crews responded quickly.

### Connecting a small generator

Sometimes coming out of a harsh winter is a good time to look back and ask ourselves if there is a way we might be better prepared. What if weather conditions would have created a disaster such as an ice storm that could potentially have interrupted power for days or even a week? If that would happen, a small portable generator would make life a lot easier. Maybe a furnace motor could be operated, a refrigerator could be kept cool, a few lights could be operated, or a well pump might be able to be used.

Small, portable generators cost a couple thousand dollars, but it would be a long-term investment that would make life easier during a lengthy power outage. These small generators typically require extension cords to be taken into your house and plugged into the device you want to use. They cannot be connected to your breaker box because they would backfeed the power out over the power lines and could kill someone. As soon as the power is backfed to the transformer at the pole, the power is sent out over the power lines at 7,200 volts.

The cooperative has found a device called a **GenerLink**, which the cooperative will install behind our electric meter, to allow you to safely connect a portable generator to your service. This device allows your entire electrical panel to be backed up. You can then use whichever devices in your home you would like. These are for small generators that allow only a few circuits to be used at the same time.

Your investment to purchase this device from the cooperative is less than \$1,000 installed. If interested, please call the office and you will be put in touch with Outside Operations Manager Rodney Decker to discuss the operation of the device and your options. 

# Have you thanked a lineman lately?

BY BRAWNA SELL

**MANY** times, we don't think twice about how electricity gets to our homes and businesses. We wake up to the alarm clock, get a hot shower, and push the garage door opener without even a thought of the people who make all this possible.

Rural electric cooperative linemen work days and sometime nights or weekends to provide "light" to their members. The job of a lineman is not easy. They must be willing to work in all weather conditions at all hours of the day or night. Sometimes they must be willing to work days and nights straight. New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative linemen are willing to do whatever it takes to keep the power on or get the lights back on. They form a solid team with one job in mind — to deliver safe, reliable electricity. Each weekday morning, they climb into their trucks and head out to build or maintain electric services and lines.

In a split second, the day's to-do list can be interrupted due to an outage. It may be as simple as a squirrel getting in the transformer or it may be a major snowstorm with high winds.

Whether under the blistering heat or in below-zero temperatures, line crews are insulated from head to toe for safety purposes. Below is a list of the personal protection equipment they wear each day:

- ▶ Hard hats guard the head from falling objects and bumps. The head is protected with the hard hat in case of an electrical contact.
- ▶ Thick rubber gloves are worn to insulate the hands and fingers from live electrical circuits. This allows the lineman

to repair lines without disconnecting your power.

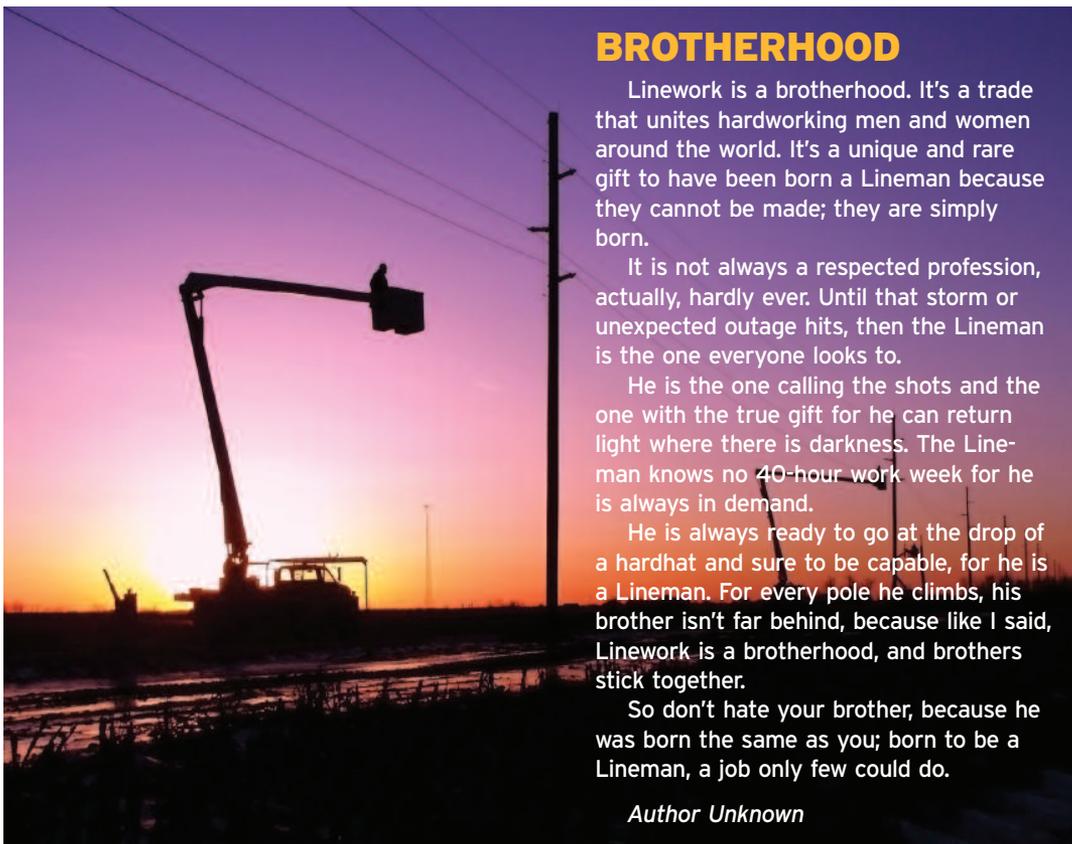
- ▶ Leather protectors are put over the rubber gloves to safeguard the gloves from punctures.
- ▶ Special flame-retardant (FR) shirts are a shield against flames, flash fire and electric arc. Long-sleeved shirts are worn in hot weather, as well as cold.
- ▶ A climbing belt securely supports the lineman's weight when he is climbing poles. This belt holds tools and supplies to free hands when necessary.
- ▶ Trousers are also FR, made out of 100 percent natural fibers. These special trousers protect the lineman from fire or sparks.
- ▶ Safety glasses shield the eyes from debris, flying objects and other hazards.
- ▶ Safety straps are used to wrap around the pole for support and safety while a lineman climbs up the pole.
- ▶ Hooks are used for climbing poles when a bucket truck can't be used or more assistance is needed.

All this equipment is worn each day

so the linemen go home safe, the way they came to work. Safety is a high priority for our line crews — their safety and yours. One wrong move can cost a limb or a life. Whether our line crews are working on daily jobs or in emergency mode, they are responsible for their safety and their co-workers safety.

Rural electric line workers not only work to restore power in their service territory, but they have gone to other cooperatives in Pennsylvania and other states to help fellow line crews restore power after a major storm. This help goes both ways. In the past, we have had other co-ops come to our rescue. Having the extra manpower made the time without power much shorter. It is reassuring to know if a severe storm strikes, a national team of skilled line workers stands ready to answer the call for help.

So the next time the power goes out, try to remember the linemen who are working in the rain, ice, snow, or scorching heat to restore power to all of our homes and businesses. 🌟



## BROTHERHOOD

Linework is a brotherhood. It's a trade that unites hardworking men and women around the world. It's a unique and rare gift to have been born a Lineman because they cannot be made; they are simply born.

It is not always a respected profession, actually, hardly ever. Until that storm or unexpected outage hits, then the Lineman is the one everyone looks to.

He is the one calling the shots and the one with the true gift for he can return light where there is darkness. The Lineman knows no 40-hour work week for he is always in demand.

He is always ready to go at the drop of a hardhat and sure to be capable, for he is a Lineman. For every pole he climbs, his brother isn't far behind, because like I said, Linework is a brotherhood, and brothers stick together.

So don't hate your brother, because he was born the same as you; born to be a Lineman, a job only few could do.

*Author Unknown*

## Home energy efficiency tips

Earth Day is in April each year. Energy efficiency can help “green” the planet while keeping more “green” in your wallet. With record cold temperatures this past winter, we are all trying to find ways to save money.

Below are a few energy efficiency tips you can do without spending a cent:

- ▶ **Turn off your lights**  
This is a simple habit to remember and one that can save you a fortune. Turning off the lights when you leave a room and when you go out makes financial sense, and should appeal to your common sense, too.
- ▶ **Stop your dishwasher drying your dishes**  
Turn off the dish-drying function of your dishwasher cycle and boost your savings account by letting your dishes dry naturally.
- ▶ **Free cooling passages**  
The air comes into your fridge and freezer through a vent on the inside, so make sure you don't place food or items in front of that vent, as the appliance will have to work harder to do its job.
- ▶ **Untangle your drying**  
If you separate your wash before putting it in the dryer, the dryer will be much more efficient.
- ▶ **Use your front door, not your garage door**  
Your garage door opener uses power every time you come and go from your house. Therefore, if you're stopping at home quickly, leave your car in the driveway instead of opening and closing the garage door. Plus, if you have an entrance to your home from your garage, use it instead of opening and closing the garage door for your car, and again for yourself.
- ▶ **Turn off your computer**  
This simple money-saving habit will save you a fortune in power you're just wasting when your computer sits idle.
- ▶ **Turn off lights when TV is on**  
The TV provides its own light if you need to get up and move around the room, and you certainly don't need the light on to see the TV better - in fact it's likely to look better in the dark.
- ▶ **Clean fridge coils**  
Clean coils mean your fridge will take less electricity to keep its contents cold.
- ▶ **Clean dishwasher drain**  
If your dishwasher is clean, then your dishes will be, too, and if you allow only clean water to come through the drain, there is less chance you will need to rewash the dishes and use yet more power.
- ▶ **Keep dryer lint trap clean**  
If the moisture can easily leave the dryer through a clean lint trap, then it will be more efficient and be able to run for less time.
- ▶ **Can your dryer sense moisture?**  
If your dryer has a moisture-sensor feature, make sure this is activated as your dryer will shut off once it senses the clothes are dry.
- ▶ **Light-free day**  
Get into the habit of using no lights for just one day a week. You can make it into a game or challenge for your family, or simply start a romantic candle-lit dinner tradition - all while saving on your power bill.
- ▶ **Paint light**  
Choosing light paint colors can help minimize the need for more lighting as light paint naturally reflects light into dark spaces.
- ▶ **Clean your light fixtures**  
If your light fixtures are clean, you will probably find you can get away with turning on fewer lights, as there is more light coming from the ones already on.
- ▶ **Keep the pool pump clean**  
Make sure the strainer baskets in your swimming pool pump are free and clean, because when they start to get blocked, the pump has to work harder and use more electricity.

## REMINDER: Surge protection available at the co-op

There are basically two types of surge protectors we have available with 10-year product and equipment damage warranty programs at a reasonable price point:

- ▶ Service entrance surge protectors ... (200-amp rated-meter socket adapter).



These devices are designed to stop harmful surges before they can travel toward sensitive appliances and electronic equip-

ment in your home. The co-op installs and the member retains ownership of the device. If the product fails, it can be exchanged by the co-op.

- ▶ Point-of-use surge protector ... (8 outlet-wide spacing, 15-amp rating).



These plug strip devices are used near the electronics or equipment that needs to be protected. It includes telephone, cable

and satellite protection inputs, which must be installed properly. The member maintains ownership of the device, but if the product fails, it can be exchanged at the co-op.

**Helpful hint:** A plug strip is not necessarily a surge-protection device. It may be acting only as an extension cord that just provides you with extra outlets. Our devices cover surges due to lightning strikes.

Please call, email or stop by the office for pricing. Don't hesitate to inquire if you have a special need or would like additional information regarding any products that may be available through the cooperative.

## Contact

Ron Houck: call 814-766-3221 or 1-800-270-3177, extension 227, or email [rhouck@newenterpriserec.com](mailto:rhouck@newenterpriserec.com).

# KIDZCORNER



## 'I Spy' for energy wasters

No matter what age you are, you are never too young to save electricity. Most of the energy we use comes from fossil fuels: oil, coal and natural gas. Fossil fuels are made from plants and animals that lived millions of years ago. They take millions of years to form and can't be replaced. Fossil fuels can only be used once. They are called non-renewable energy sources. If we don't start reducing our energy use, there may not be energy for the future.

Here is a game you can play while learning to save electricity in your home.

Most children are familiar with the game "I Spy." This is the electric "I Spy" game. Instead of spying things that are a certain shape or color, players seek out things in a room that are wasting energy. You don't have to play this game in one room; go through your entire home. See how many items or things you can spy.

### WHAT ARE A FEW ENERGY WASTERS? BELOW IS A LIST TO START YOU OFF:

- ➡ Turn lights off when you leave a room.
- ➡ Turn the TV, video games or computer off when you are finished.
- ➡ Remember to shut the outside door when the heater or air conditioner is running.
- ➡ Open blinds and curtains to let natural light in instead of flipping your light switch.
- ➡ Take quick showers or don't fill your tub completely full.
- ➡ Don't stand with the refrigerator open while you decide what to eat.
- ➡ Wear extra layers when it is cool in your home instead of turning up the thermostat.
- ➡ Close doors to rooms that you don't use during heating and cooling seasons.

This is a list to get you started. As you walk around your home, look for other ways you can save electricity. Just remember, don't make any changes without your parents' permission.

