

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Leroy D. Walls, President
David Bequeath, Vice President
John R. Dively, Secretary
Robert Guyer, Asst. Secretary
Dean Brant, Treasurer
Timothy Newman
Ellis Sollenberger

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

WE NEVER know when weather is going to create power interruptions, but we do know the potential exists. So each and every day, our efforts include storm proofing the system as best we can. Often times, we totally rebuild lines, while other times storm proofing may be as simple as tightening a loose guy wire.

The age of power lines and equipment often is the main driver of maintenance issues that lead to outages. So one hopes most of the older facilities and threatening trees near power lines have been taken care of before a weather event strikes. We take seriously the responsibility of having power lines in a condition that will handle a certain amount of high winds or heavy wet snow. Although outages can never be eliminated, they certainly can be minimized.

This reliability commitment continues in 2013 at the same level as in the past, which has consistently reduced our power outage time. Programs are in place to identify and correct any threatening situations throughout the New Enterprise Rural Electric service territory that may cause a needless power outage. Our linemen are our eyes in the field for finding power outage hazards before an outage occurs. Their efforts have not been ignored. After all, they are the ones who risk their lives in nasty weather conditions to restore power.

Our goal at New Enterprise Rural Electric is to provide the most reliable electric service in a cost-effective manner. To continue this reliable service, we must have the revenues to support this goal. During the 2013 budget process, it was determined that additional revenue would be necessary to continue our work efforts. This budget includes the payout or retirement of capital credits in December 2013. As everyone pays slightly more each month, many will recover most of this in a capital credits check at the end of the year.

Effective Jan. 1, 2013, and appearing on the bills distributed in February, the customer charge for all rate classes increases \$3, and each yard light increases \$0.75 per month. All of these dollars remain at the cooperative to ensure our service reliability level continues.

The generation and transmission (G&T) amount increases slightly from 7.2 to 7.3 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh). This money goes to Allegheny Electric Cooperative, our G&T supplier, for the kWhs it provides. We will monitor the rate monthly, but we expect it to hold throughout the year.

The monthly impact of an average residential account using 900 kWh per month is an increase of \$3 for distribution and 90 cents on the G&T side. The additional \$3.90 increases a 900 kWh bill to \$106.10. For most households, a slight amount of weatherproofing and a capital credits check at the end of the year will offset the increase. ☀

January calendar

Jan. 24 - Service load limiters installed for past due accounts (last day to call Brawna at extension 224 to set up payment arrangements is Jan. 22)

Jan. 28 - Payment and meter reading due date

And the lights came on...part 1

IT WAS January 1927 and a frigid wind was blowing as a crew of nine young men dug a hole along a country road. These young men not only had to deal with the freezing wind, they had to dig in frozen ground. They struggled to dig deep enough to set the poles with "spoon shovels" and iron digging rods. On top of the inclement weather, they dealt with water problems and layers of limestone. Many times as they were digging, water would spring up or their shovels would hit limestone. Dynamite was the only way to get past the limestone rock common to the area.

Lawrence Guyer wrote in his diary, "Helped to set light line poles a forenoon. Ground frozen." Although his entry was short and sweet, most folks at that time knew what it was like to set poles in the cold January weather.

Some of the crew members may have had second thoughts about the venture they were involved in. Was all this hard work really worth it? These young men were setting and climbing poles, and stringing wire with little or no safety training. Their training was grabbing the pole-climbing gear and heading up the pole. Four or more men were needed to complete the dangerous and grueling job of setting a pole.

Some may have had second thoughts, but the Penn Central Power & Light

Company of Altoona assured them they would energize their homes and farms with the wonder of electricity. Penn Central Power & Light would supply the electricity, but the families needed to build and maintain the lines. Electricity would provide families with convenience and safety. So the men continued the back-breaking labor.

All the hard work paid off on May 17,

1927, when the Southern Cove line was "hot." A few more farm houses and barns had the convenience of electricity. The Southern Cove line wasn't the only privately owned electric line in the area. Lawrence Guyer, Lester Clapper, John Grubb and Harold Over recalled electric lines also going up in Bakers Summit and Hickory Bottom. Diesel engines may have been supplying electricity for lines in the Woodbury and New Enterprise areas as early as 1925.

Unfortunately, nearly 10 years would pass before the majority of the homes and villages in the region — and throughout the nation — would have the marvel of electricity. Guyer stated

the Cove was a bit ahead of its time in electrification. The federal government created the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) in 1936 to help rural residents form rural electric cooperatives.

Why was the Cove so far ahead of most of the nation? The area was isolated from nearby cities by rugged, often ice- and snow-covered hills, but the area was home to many thriving dairy farms by the turn of century. Milk was transported daily to Philadelphia by train and Johnstown by truck. The dairy farms were close enough together and prosperous enough to take advantage of the new technology.

Chestnut trees were used as electric poles. The chestnut tree was hit by a blight most likely caused by a fungus introduced on imported Asian chestnut trees. This devastating blight killed chestnut trees from Maine to Georgia.



NRECA

By the mid 1930s, the farmers who had built their own power lines or used generators began to see the advantages of joining with others to form a rural electric cooperative. The private lines were difficult to extend to other farms and they were very expensive to maintain.

Lester Clapper stated, "One of the first winters after the lines were up, we had two feet of heavy wet snow and ice four inches deep on the lines."

When repairing the lines, people would hire someone who knew a little about electricity or they did the repairs themselves. Soon a new occupation became popular — the electrician. ☺

To be continued...next month

Information for this two-part series was compiled by Brawna Sell from historical documents at New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative.

Stay warm and save energy this winter

BY MADELINE KEIMIG
Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

ON TOP OF staying warm throughout the winter months, a lot of people worry about saving money and energy. According to a poll by the Consumer Reports National Research Center, four out of 10 consumers are worried about money this holiday season.

The average family spends \$2,024 a year on energy; nearly half of that goes toward heating and cooling costs. Stay warm and save energy with these helpful winter tips:

- ▶ **Pick smarter lightbulbs.** Decorate for the holidays efficiently with strands of light-emitting diodes (LEDs). Using LED holiday lights for 12 hours a day cuts seasonal lighting costs by 90 percent when compared to traditional incandescent holiday lights.
- ▶ **Check furnace filters.** Be sure to clean or replace your heating and cooling system's air filter. At a minimum, change the filter every three months; a dirty filter clogs the system, making the system work harder to keep you warm.
- ▶ **Install a programmable thermostat.** Is your home alone most of the day? Programmable thermostats can knock up to 10 percent off heating bills with the ability to automatically turn temperatures down 10 to 15 degrees for 8 hours a day.
- ▶ **Insulate water heaters and pipes.** Wrap water pipes connected to the water heater with foam, and insulate the water heater, too. To save about \$75 annually, consider lowering the water heater temperature from 130 degrees to 120.
- ▶ **Bundle up your home.** The more heat that escapes from cracks, the more cold air enters, causing your system to work harder and use more energy. Use an incense stick to spot air leaks. When it's windy outside, hold a lighted incense stick near your windows, doors and electrical outlets.

TOUCHSTONE ENERGY COOPERATIVES



CHANGE FILTERS REGULARLY: Change your heating and cooling system's air filter at least every three months; a dirty filter clogs the system, making the system work harder to keep you warm.

If the smoke blows sideways, you've got a leak that should be plugged with weather-stripping, caulk or expandable foam.

- ▶ **Use a low-flow showerhead.** About 14 percent of your energy bill funds water heating. Low-flow showerheads can minimize water use by up to 50 percent — a helpful change, especially when extended family members visit for the holidays.

Want more ways to save? Take the home energy savings tour and see how little changes add up to big savings at www.TogtherWeSave.com.

Sources: Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, ENERGY STAR, U.S. Energy Information Administration, Consumer Reports

Madeleine Keimig writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives, the national branding program for 700-plus electric cooperatives in the U.S.

KIDZcorner

Attention high school juniors



ARE YOU a high school junior from Forbes Road, Northern Bedford, Southern Huntingdon or Tussey Mountain? Are your parents or legal guardians consumer-members of New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC)? If your answers are "yes" to both questions, you have fulfilled all qualifications for the 2013 Rural Electric Youth Tour.

New Enterprise REC, along with rural electric cooperatives from all across the country, sends students on this trip of a lifetime to our nation's capital, Washington, D.C. The dates for this all-expense-paid adventure are June 16-21, 2013.

SO WHAT IS THE RURAL ELECTRIC YOUTH TOUR?

The Youth Tour provides high school juniors with an outstanding opportunity to learn about democracy and leadership in Washington, D.C. You will learn first-hand about politics, community development and today's social issues while touring historical sites, and enjoying an All-States Dance, a trip down the Potomac River, and a night at the theater.

A LITTLE HISTORY

Over 50 years ago, then-U.S. Sen. Lyndon Baines Johnson inspired the Youth Tour when he addressed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Annual Meeting in Chicago. The senator and future president declared, "If one thing goes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the nation's capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents."

What started out as a few young people working during the summer in Sen. Johnson's office is now an event that brings more than 1,500 high school students from across the United States to Washington, D.C.

SUPPORT OF NEW ENTERPRISE REC DIRECTORS

New Enterprise REC directors believe it is important to teach students why electric cooperatives were created and how government works. Students come away from this outstanding trip with memories and friendships that last a lifetime.

Still not sure if this trip is for you? Check out the Youth Tour's website, www.youthtour.coop, where you can check sections featuring students, parents, educators and tour alumni.

If you are interested in this great trip, contact Brawna at the cooperative's office at extension 224 or by email at bsell@newenterpriserec.com. You can get the necessary paperwork from Brawna or your high school guidance counselor.