

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER / CEO

Interested in a seat on your co-op board?

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

3596 Brumbaugh Road
P.O. Box 75
New Enterprise, PA 16664-0075
814/766-3221 • 1-800-270-3177
FAX 814/766-3319
Website:
www.newenterpriserec.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Leroy D. Walls, President**
- David Bequeath, Vice President**
- Timothy Newman, Secretary**
- John R. Dively, Asst. Secretary**
- Robert Guyer, Treasurer**
- Dean Brant**
- Merle Helsel**

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

MORE THAN 75 years ago, local residents wanted the convenience of electricity. However, private power companies weren't interested in providing power to these rural people because rural customers didn't provide enough profits for stockholders. Area residents organized to provide the wonder of electricity themselves. New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. (New Enterprise REC), a not-for-profit business, was established by members to serve members.

The membership selects the director to serve in each of the seven director areas that are nearly equal in population. Directors are trustees on behalf of the cooperative's consumer-members, and are elected at the annual meeting.

When you become a consumer-member of New Enterprise REC, you share in the benefits and responsibilities of the cooperative for as long as you remain a member. Any profits are returned to members in the form of capital credits.

The director area up for re-election this year is **AREA 4**. It is represented by Leroy Walls, who has held the seat since 2000.

If you are interested in a seat on your co-op board and meet the qualifications, you could be eligible for nomination in your area. A vote of the members attending the annual meeting on June 16 will determine who serves on

the board for the three-year term.

AREA 4 can be described as Liberty Township and a portion of Hopewell Township in Bedford County, including Pinchot Road, Ravers Gap Road, Raven Run Road, Sugar Camp Road, Mable City, Yellow Creek area, Jacks Corner, along with the northern ends of Plank Road and Polecat Road.

If you live full time in **AREA 4** and are interested in becoming a director candidate, contact or stop by the cooperative office and we can discuss the process. Not sure which area you are located in? A detailed map is available at the office for your review.

If being a director doesn't appeal to you, you still have an important role in the operation of the cooperative. You can nominate and vote for other consumer-members for a director position.

The bylaws of the cooperative outline the qualifications and procedure for the selection of directors. There are certain time frames throughout the procedure that must be followed. The board of directors will select a Nominating Committee in March. The Nominating Committee will prepare a list of nominations and post it at the cooperative office.

Any 15 or more consumer-members acting together may make additional nominations after the list is posted. Consumer-members attending the New Enterprise REC Annual Meeting may make additional nominations from the floor and will vote to determine who serves on the board for a three-year term. 

Make safety your first priority

BY BRAWNA L. SELL

AS WARMER weather nears, many people begin planning for construction of new homes, barns and other structures. Don't forget one very important part of your building project — overhead electrical wires. One of the best ways to avoid an accident is to think ahead. As you plan your job, take a moment to identify any potential hazards. Are you working near overhead wires? Could there be cable buried nearby? Remember, electricity travels at the speed of light, about 186,000 miles per second. At that speed, you don't get a warning. There is no time to react. This is why it is important to respect electricity each and every time you use it or work around it.

Overhead electrical wires can cause injury or death if they are not treated with care. Remember to always contact New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. at least a week before starting any project close to an overhead wire. Our crews can come to your property and make the area safe for a crane or boom truck to operate. Before you dig, call 8-1-1 or 1-800-242-1776. By calling them, all utilities in the area will locate and mark their underground facilities.

Electricity always travels to ground and will follow the path of least resistance to get there. If a conductor of electricity becomes available, the electricity will follow that path to ground. Tools, equipment and your body are excellent conductors. Becoming part of the path to



TIRE DAMAGE: Tires show damage caused by electrical contact. Eight of the truck's tires were ruined by the contact. This accident could have been much worse than it was.

the ground can not only damage your equipment, but more importantly, it can cause personal injury or death.

Electric contacts aren't just dangerous for the operator of the equipment, they are dangerous for anyone standing near the energized equipment. The earth surrounding the energized equipment is energized for a certain distance around the contact. The farther away you are from the contact, the more the strength of the electrical charge decreases. If you are close to the energized area, you should move out of the area by shuffling your feet.

A number of years ago, a boom opera-

tor was setting trusses at a local farm when the boom came in contact with our overhead lines. The operator pulled the boom lever back, which pulled the boom away from the lines. After pulling the lever, he jumped from the truck.

We were contacted by the landowner asking us to cover the

lines. At this point, we didn't know there had been a contact to our overhead wires. When our outside operation manager arrived, the boom was only inches away from the overhead wires. The truck was sitting on eight tires ruined by fire. The fire went out on its own. Thankfully the tires were the only thing damaged, and the operator wasn't injured.

Our linemen who were working in Fulton County were called to go to the farm and make it safe. In the meantime, the appropriate equipment was used to hold the line back from the boom so no further accidents happened.

Once our crews arrived, they covered up the lines with rubber line guards, which made the area safe to work in.

This situation could have been a very deadly accident in more ways than one. No one was touching the truck when the boom came in contact with the lines, and the operator knew to jump from the truck and not to climb down.

If an accident happens

If you are operating a crane, backhoe or other vehicle that comes in contact with an energized power line, do the following:

Stay on equipment. Don't touch



DO IT RIGHT: Water should not be used to put out an electrical fire.

equipment and ground at the same time. In fact, touching anything in contact with the ground can be fatal.

Keep others away. Warn everyone not to touch the equipment or its load. That means buckets, outriggers, load lines, and any other part of the machine. Beware of time-delayed relays. Even after line damage trips breakers, relays may still try to restore power. They may reset automatically two or three times.

Call for help. Get someone to call New Enterprise REC. Stay on the equipment until we shut down the line and confirm that the power is off. Report every incident of power line contact so we can check for damage that could cause the line to fall later. Call 911 if anyone is injured.

Jump clear. If an emergency such as fire forces you to leave the equipment, jump clear. If part of your body contacts the ground while another part touches the machine, current will travel through you. In cases of high-voltage contact, jump clear and shuffle away in small



RUBBER LINE GUARDS: Special cover up material used to cover energized lines to prevent an accident, is placed on the wires by the co-op.

steps. With voltage degree differences across the ground, one foot may be in a higher voltage area than the other. The difference could kill you.

Remember, don't risk your life or an injury; call New Enterprise REC at least a week in advance when undertaking a project near our electrical lines. ⚡

Important information for past-due accounts

- ▶ When our employees come to your home or business to collect a past-due balance, the total past-due balance plus the \$125 collection fee will need to be paid to prevent disconnection or limitation. Payment can be made with cash, money order or debit/credit card. No checks will be accepted.
- ▶ No checks will be accepted in the night deposit on the night before the disconnect/service load limiter date. Should a check be put in the night deposit, your account will be subject to disconnection/limitation.
- ▶ Payment agreements cannot be made the business day prior to the disconnection/limitation date or the actual disconnection/limitation date.
- ▶ Payment agreements must be on the cooperative form and signed by all names listed on the membership papers.
- ▶ Payment arrangements can be made by calling Brawna at extension 4602 or by emailing her at bsell@newenterpriserec.com.
- ▶ You do not have to have a disconnection/limitation notice to make a payment agreement. If you are unable to make one month's payment, call Brawna right away and set up an agreement. It will be much easier for you to get your account paid in full.
- ▶ Once an agreement is made, the payments must be paid as stated or disconnection/limitation will occur.
- ▶ If you have two broken payment agreements, you will no longer be able to make an agreement. The full past due balance will need to be paid before the disconnect/service load limiter date.
- ▶ Should your meter be disconnected or limited, you will need to pay the total bill including charges up to the point of disconnection/limitation, plus additional fees. During business hours, payment must be in cash or debit/credit card. From 3:30 to 7 p.m., we will reconnect or remove a limiter, but the reconnect fee increases. Also during this time period, only cash can be accepted.

DELINQUENT FEES

Collection Fee	\$125
Disconnect or Service Load Limiter Installation Fee	\$75
Reconnect or Service Load Limiter Removal Fee	\$75
Reconnect or Service Load Limiter Removal Fee between 3:30 and 7 p.m.	\$150

Disconnection to resume

During the winter months, New Enterprise REC doesn't disconnect accounts that have past-due balances. However, we do install service load limiters. A service load limiter is installed on a meter base behind the meter. It has a circuit breaker that will open, turning off the electricity if the electric load in the house exceeds the allowable load. Only a few electrical devices can be used at one time. We use these limiters during the winter months because they will allow the furnace to run in a home. This helps to control the amount of electricity used in a household.

Starting in April, disconnection will resume. Disconnect notices will be printed in March with an April disconnect date on them.

If you are unable to pay the full past-due balance, call Brawna at extension 4602 immediately to set up an agreement. A signed written agreement must be in our office before the disconnect date. Therefore, don't wait until a few days before the disconnect date to call the office. It is best to call as soon as you get the billing statement or the disconnect notice. This gives us enough time to get the agreement to you and for you to return it to our office. Should the signed agreement not be in our office before the disconnect date, disconnect will occur. All names on the account must sign the agreement. Disconnection will not occur as long as you have a signed agreement and payments are made as stated. No agreements will be made the business day prior to the disconnect date.

Should you be having trouble paying your bill, you may wish to call your County Energy Assistance office. They are scheduled to remain open until April 3, 2015.

Below are the Energy Assistance Office telephone numbers:

- Bedford County Energy Assistance – 814-623-6127 or 800-542-8584
- Fulton County Energy Assistance – 717-485-3151 or 800-222-8563
- Huntingdon County Energy Assistance – 814-643-1170 or 800-237-7674

KIDZCORNER

ENERGY EFFICIENCY WORD SCRAMBLE



Are you energy efficient? Test yourself by completing the word scramble below – and share these tips with your family and friends!

1. Tell an adult about a leaky _ _ _ _ _ . You don't want the water bill to rise from it. **(efacut)**
2. Wash your full loads of clothes in _ _ _ _ water when possible. **(oldc)**
3. Make sure that _ _ _ is not escaping through cracks in your windows. **(ira)**
4. Set your _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ to 68° or lower, and put on a sweater if you begin to feel cold. **(tasmroteht)**
5. Use _ _ _ _ _ fans to cool down instead of pumping up your air conditioner. **(gclinei)**
6. Use a _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ oven instead of the regular oven whenever you can. **(vacimorew)**
7. Turn on the oven _ _ _ _ _ to check on a dish rather than opening the oven door. **(ltihg)**
8. Replace incandescent bulbs with _ _ _ lights. They last much longer! **(DLE)**
9. When you _ _ _ _ _ your homework, do it the efficient way and use both sides of the paper. **(intrp)**
10. When possible, take the bus or ride your _ _ _ _ _ _ _ instead of using a car. **(bccleyi)**



America's Electric
Cooperatives

ANSWERS: 1. faucet 2. cold 3. air 4. thermostat 5. ceiling 6. microwave 7. light 8. LED 9. print 10. bicycle