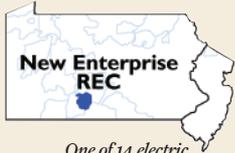


FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER / CEO

## The journey continues

# New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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**7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

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



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

**THROUGHOUT 2013**, you will notice that New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) is celebrating. The celebration will be for 75 years of providing electricity to our communities. Living in darkness was depressing and frustrating, plus doing everything by hand must have been back-breaking prior to the availability of electricity.

At some point, the pioneers of our cooperative began the journey with a very simple idea. What if rural areas had electricity? Could it improve the quality of life as it did for those in nearby villages that were connected to the power company lines?

It was understandable that economics prevented for-profit utilities from making a return on their investment in building lines to sparsely populated areas. So, what about building them without expecting a profit? What a concept!

In the 1920s, more than a decade before New Enterprise REC incorporated, a number of citizen groups (and future members of New Enterprise REC) built their own power lines and connected into the power company system. These were the first rural electric lines in Pennsylvania — they were built prior to President Franklin D. Roosevelt's creation of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) in 1935, which led to the lighting of rural America.

As these chestnut pole lines began to age and maintenance began to increase, the area pioneers furthered their journey by organizing and incorporating the New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative. The incorporation date for this not-for-profit operation was Nov. 18, 1938. This brought badly needed organization and strength to continue the mission of connecting new rural residents/farms in portions of Bedford, Fulton and Huntingdon counties. The handful of remaining privately owned lines in the area were turned over to the cooperative to rebuild and maintain, and the gaps between them began to be built in and energized.

The cooperative system of poles and wires has become a model in our communities as to how electricity should be provided. The total emphasis is on a reliable source of electricity at an affordable cost rather than the "profit-making" component that investor-owned utilities have.

The pioneers of New Enterprise REC were in some ways pioneers for the state of Pennsylvania. They began a journey from an idea of building rural electric lines using chestnut trees to forming a not-for-profit electric cooperative to continue the mission. The journey continues today as 450 miles of line are maintained. The system grows an additional couple of miles each year within the service territory assigned by law to the cooperative.

Please join us in celebrating your cooperative's 75 years of organized existence throughout 2013. 

# Right-of-way

**IF YOU RESIDE** in the Hipplés Cave area in Bedford County, I'm sure a few months ago that you noticed the joint effort of K.W. Reese and our linemen clearing trees and brush. This work was done to help improve reliability of service to you. The line that runs through this area from the Waterside Substation is a main, three-phase feed that supplies power to the Waterside, Hipplés Cave, Hickory Bottom, Woodbury and Frosty Hollow areas.

Therefore, it is very important to keep this area clear of dead and fallen trees. New Enterprise REC does have a policy of a 40-foot right-of-way with each pole. We clear trees 20 feet on each side. However, with the difficulty of accessing this area, especially during bad weather (rain and snow), we had decided to widen this area. Besides cutting the trees, our linemen were also



**BEFORE:** It doesn't take long for trees to encroach on rights-of-way.

busy replacing all the aging poles.

Each year, New Enterprise REC budgets so many dollars for maintaining the right-of-way, including cutting and vegetation spraying. We hope this will help keep your lights on during good or bad weather.

We appreciate all those consumer-



**DURING:** A K.W. Reese employee prepares to cut a limb on New Enterprise REC right-of-way.

members who permitted us to have access to their property to cut trees. A special thank you goes to Paul Helsel and Peter Yorke for their cooperation and access to the area through their fields. 🌳



**AFTER:** New Enterprise REC widens the right-of-way area in Bedford County to make it easier to access lines during bad weather. The goal is to improve system reliability for co-op members.

# Attention, landlords

Be sure when you are renting your properties, you have the renter(s) put the account into their name. If the account is in the renter's name, you, as a landlord, are not responsible for any of the renter's unpaid bills.

A credit check is done on any new member opening an account in their name. The credit check determines the amount of deposit. For those people with excellent credit, no deposit is required. An average credit rating requires a \$125 deposit. A \$250 security deposit is required for individuals with below-average credit. Should a person have no credit history, a \$125 security deposit is needed.

To get electric service with New Enterprise REC, membership papers must be completed and a \$5 membership fee is required. In addition, a security deposit of the above amount must be paid before an account can be transferred to a new renter's name. The account remains in the landlord's name and he/she is responsible for the bill until the renter(s) take care of the paperwork and fees.

So, remember to follow up with your renter to make sure he/she took care of those obligations before you give them the keys. 🗝️

## November co-op calendar

Nov. 12 - Office closed in observance of Veterans Day

Nov. 20 - Disconnect past due accounts (last day to make payment arrangements with Brawna is Nov. 16 – contact Brawna at extension 224)

Nov. 22 - Office closed in observance of Thanksgiving

Nov. 28 - Payment and meter reading due date

## Services to save you money & time

**AUTO PAY** – Auto Pay is a program designed to automatically withdraw your electric payment from your checking or savings account on the 20th of each month. To start this program, a completed form is required, along with a voided check. Call or stop by the office to get one of these forms, or you can get the form on our website at [www.newenterpriserec.com](http://www.newenterpriserec.com).

**RECURRING CREDIT CARD** – The recurring credit card program is very similar to Auto Pay. With this program, the cooperative will charge your monthly bill to your credit card on the 20th of every month. Call or stop by the office to get the required form.

**BUDGET BILLING** – New Enterprise REC can set up your account on budget billing. With this program, the computer looks back at your previous 12 months' use, averages it and rounds it off to the nearest \$10. This procedure is done each month so your account doesn't get too large of a balance due or a credit balance. A signed form is required for this program. The account needs to have a zero balance before we can set it up on the billing. On-time payments are required for the Budget Program.

**LIFE-SUSTAINING EQUIPMENT** – New Enterprise REC keeps a list of consumer-members who require life-sustaining equipment. Each account is coded so we know at a glance if someone in your household has this equipment. Your physician will need to complete a form, which must be updated each year. Being on this list doesn't guarantee you never will be without electricity, but we will do our best to get you back in service as soon as possible.

**PENN LINES** – Each month, all consumer members receive a copy of *Penn Lines*. Every issue provides feature stories, safety tips, suggestions to increase energy efficiency, recipes, plus much more. New Enterprise REC's information is located in the middle four pages. This section lets you know what is happening at your co-op.

**FAMILY-IN-NEED FUND** – Consumer-members may elect to have their electric bill rounded to the nearest dollar with the extra cents going into the Family-in-Need Fund. This fund is designed to assist families experiencing a hardship paying their electric bill.

**PAYMENT BY PHONE** – Members who wish to pay over the phone can call our office between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., and one of our member service representatives can take your payment by check or credit/debit card.

**PAYMENT THROUGH THE WEBSITE** – Internet users can now pay online. Go to [www.newenterpriserec.com](http://www.newenterpriserec.com) and click on "Bill Pay." First-time users will need to register. With our new E-Bill program, you can enter your meter reading, pay your bill and view past bills and/or past account history.

# KIDZCORNER

## Turkey football

**It just wouldn't seem like Thanksgiving without a post-dinner football game.**

What you need:

- ➡ Turkey mascot

Instructions:

1. In this wacky backyard contest, players pair up with their elbows linked, and each team is handed a turkey mascot. You can make a mascot by taping a colored-paper turkey head to one end of a football. (You can also just stuff a brown bag with crumpled newspaper and draw on a face with colored markers.)
2. On cue, the pairs try to make their way to the finish line at the far end of the playing field.
3. The first team to get there without dropping their bird or unlinking their arms wins.

