

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

NEW ENTERPRISE RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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OFFICE HOURS

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

EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBERS

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

Which is Easier?



MARK MORRISON

MY CHURCH PASTOR AND HIS Sunday morning messages are often a great catalyst and inspiration for some of what I write about in *Penn Lines*. Pastor Randy strikes again. During a recent Sunday sermon, pastor asked the congregation a simple question. He usually takes the long way around to develop the path we will be led down on any particular Sunday, so the question he asked was a bit obscure.


He discussed several ways we communicate and several groups of folks we may communicate with in our daily lives. He then brought light to the different perspectives and paradigms of these social interactions. He asked the congregation if it was easier to rejoice or mourn with these people?

I'm not sure why *Penn Lines* jumps to the forefront of my to-do list at times like this, but having a few weeks to ponder that particular Sunday's message, I decided to put pen to paper for this month's issue.

I am thankful to have been led by Pastor Randy that day. The impact of his message was powerful and brought a new perspective to light that day. As I drove into work Monday morning, his message revisited me. At the time, cooperatives from all over the country were lending a hand to provide aid and power restoration to those impacted by Hurricane Helene. The events of that week were nothing short of tragic and heartbreaking, especially for the hardest hit areas in the mountain towns of western North Carolina.

Four New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) lineworkers volunteered to assist with power restoration efforts at two different electric cooperatives in Georgia, with the majority of their time being spent at Satilla Rural Electric in Alma. Our lineworkers were sent where poles, wire and trees littered the landscape. The storm had transformed beautiful communities, farms, homes and roads into something unimaginable. At the peak of the storm, 54,000 of Satilla's 57,000 members were out of power. A workforce of 1,200 lineworkers and a dedicated membership did not mourn for long, however; they went to work, rejoicing in the support they had from their members, residents, communities, churches, the newly stationed workforce and each other.

Back home, we were amazed to hear compassionate stories of folks lining up to do laundry, cook, change bedding and do all the behind-the-scenes things the workforce needed to keep going. People offered lineworkers food, water and whatever they could so this monumental restoration movement could keep pushing forward. While news outlets and much of social media shared the bad news, there was plenty of rejoicing in the fact that no matter how big the storm, American spirit and electric cooperative passion would be the beaming light that would help these communities get through this terrible adversity. An electrical system that took more 85 years to build and had crashed to the ground was rebuilt in a little more than 20 days and brought back online. I'd say that was thanks to an amazing effort, sparked by unrivaled passion, to keep going in the hardest of times. It's certainly something worth rejoicing over.

This holiday season, the board, management, and employees of New Enterprise REC wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We hope the new year adds many blessings and abundant fulfillment — so much that no matter the obstacle, if we look in the right place, it will be easier to rejoice. As always, please stop by or give us a call to share any thoughts on how we are doing. 

MARK MORRISON
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Big Changes Coming to Waterside

MIKE SHAWLEY, OUTSIDE OPERATIONS MANAGER

THE WATERSIDE SUBSTATION AND SERVICE area is about to undergo a multi-year facelift. Due to significant load growth over the last several years, New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) leadership has determined it is time to replace the 50-year-old wooden structure with a new substation.

The cooperative purchased a one-acre lot next to the existing substation to build the new one. This is a large investment, so the cooperative not only wants to meet today's needs but also serve members' needs for decades. A consulting engineering firm completed a study to analyze current and future requirements. The firm also designed the new structure and specified the equipment to be installed. During the study, we learned that if we increase the voltage output from the substation, the existing feeder lines the additional could accommodate the additional load without having to upgrade those as well.



Currently, the existing substation distributes energy at 7,200 volts, while the new one will do so at 14,400 volts. The change will require the installation of new dual-voltage transformers. When the line voltage is ready to be changed, an outage will be scheduled, members will be alerted and lineworkers will then replace the current transformers.

The Waterside substation provides power to members in Woodbury, Bloomfield and South Woodbury townships in Bedford County. Because this is a large area, it is difficult to switch the voltage on the transformers all at once. New Enterprise REC staff has developed a plan to convert the voltage one area at a time starting with the Salemville circuit. Part of that process involves building a three-phase line along Lafayette Road to connect the Bakers Summit circuit to the Salemville circuit. This will allow power to flow at the lower voltage to the outer ends of Salemville while the voltage is increased at the beginning of the circuit. The new line will also increase service reliability by allowing energy to flow in either direction if storms damage either circuit. Over the last several months, crews have been working along Lafayette Road and have completed about 75% of the new line.

Over the next several years, you will see crews constructing the new substation, as well as working on the lines and changing transformers, insulators, and any other equipment necessary to accommodate the higher voltage. As I mentioned previously, carefully planned outages will be scheduled over the next several years to switch the voltage. We realize there is no good time for an outage, and we apologize in advance for the inconvenience. Your patience and cooperation will be greatly appreciated throughout this project. If you have any questions, please feel free to stop by the office at 3596 Brumbaugh Road, New Enterprise, or give us a call at 814-766-3221. 📞

When the line voltage is ready to be changed, an outage will be scheduled, members will be alerted and lineworkers will then replace the current transformers.

SUBSTATION UPGRADE: A one-acre lot adjacent to the Waterside substation will host a new 14,400-volt substation. The facility, which will replace the current 50-year-old wooden substation, will be designed with future energy needs in mind.

Capital Credits: Our Way of Giving Back to You

ON DECEMBER'S BILLING statement, you will notice an item labeled "CC Retirement" under the detail of charges. At the October board meeting, the cooperative's board of directors voted to approve a capital credits retirement, so your bill may be a little less than expected.

As a not-for-profit cooperative, New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) returns profits, called "margins," back to the membership. This money is allocated to you in the form of capital credits. The amount allocated to you is based on how much electricity you used that particular year.


Each year, the board evaluates the financial condition of the cooperative and determines when it is financially feasible to retire capital credits.


New Enterprise REC will be retiring 2015 and 2018 margins. We also will be retiring 2007 margins from Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc., our wholesale energy provider. All of these margins will be accounted for collectively in the CC Retirement.

When you move out of the cooperative's service territory, it is important that you provide us with your forwarding address. This is necessary because as long as there are unretired margins available in your account, you will continue to receive a check from us.


New Enterprise REC has retired more than \$2.3 million to current and former members over the past 12 years. 📄


BE SAFE DURING THE
HO·HO·HOLIDAYS
10 TIPS TO HELP YOU STAY JOLLY



 Before you plan out your new holiday lighting scheme or repeat last year's festive design, keep these 10 safety tips in mind when decorating outdoors:

- 1 Do not toss light strands up into the air. They could get too close to or come into contact with a power line.
- 2 Before using a ladder, always look up and assess all power line locations.
- 3 Carry a ladder horizontally when transporting it.
- 4 Keep at least 10 feet between yourself (and any item you are holding) and a power line.
- 5 Do not use staples or nails or tacks to secure light strands, cords, wires or extension cords.
- 6 String together no more than the number of strands recommended by the manufacturer.
- 7 Plug all lights and extension cords into GFCI-protected outlets.
- 8 Use lights and extension cords rated for outdoor use.
- 9 Do not use frayed, cracked or otherwise damaged cords, plugs or lights.
- 10 Use only lights and products certified by a reputable testing lab.



 LEARN MORE AT:
Safe Electricity.org


Shop for Christmas Early! Gift Certificates are Available!

NEW ENTERPRISE RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE (REC) has a gift that isn't hard to find and makes shopping easy: electric gift certificates. Our gift certificates make great gifts for Christmas and any time during the year. Christmas, however, is the most popular time to buy them.

If you would like to purchase one, please complete the certificate below. If you would like to give more than one, write the additional information on a separate piece of

paper. Mail this information with your check for the full amount to: New Enterprise REC, 3596 Brumbaugh Road, New Enterprise, PA 16664-8814.

Gift certificates can also be purchased at the office, over the phone or at newenterpriserec.com. We can mail the certificates to the member/recipient or to you. Also, please let us know if you would prefer to remain anonymous. 📧

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<p>Gift Certificate</p>	
<p>Especially for _____</p>	
<p>From _____</p>	
<p>This amount has already been applied to your account: \$ _____</p>	
<p>Authorized by _____</p>	



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative employees and directors would like to wish everyone a safe, healthy, happy holiday season!

The office will close at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 24, and Tuesday, Dec. 31.

The office will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2024, and Jan. 1, 2025.