

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.

3596 Brumbaugh Road
New Enterprise, PA 16664-8814
814-766-3221 • 1-800-270-3177
FAX: 814-766-3319
Website: www.newenterpriserec.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Leroy D. Walls
President
Timothy Newman
Vice President
David Bequeath
Secretary
Merle Helsel
Asst. Secretary
Curtis Brant
Treasurer
Brian McCoy
Mark Swope

OFFICE HOURS

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

EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBERS

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

COOPERATIVE CONNECTION

Paying the Price for Policy and AI: The Cooperative Difference in a Time of Grid Stress



MARK MORRISON

RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES RUN ON a pretty straightforward promise: deliver power to members at the lowest possible cost. But right now, forces beyond our control are testing that commitment in ways we haven't seen before.

At heart, it's a math problem, but the math isn't adding up. Electricity demand in our region is climbing faster than new supply can come on-line. Across the 13-state PJM Interconnection (PJM) region, which includes Pennsylvania and New Jersey, supply and demand for electricity have become unbalanced.

Supply is shrinking. On one side of the equation: Policy shifts have accelerated the retirement of coal and natural gas plants, while promoting growth in intermittent sources like wind and solar. Many of the reliable, always-available plants that powered the region for decades are gone, and replacement resources are not being built fast enough. New projects are stuck in permitting or delayed by the same supply-chain disruptions cooperatives have struggled with for years.

Demand is exploding. On the other side: Electricity consumption is skyrocketing, and it's not just population growth or electric vehicles driving the surge. The real disruptor is artificial intelligence (AI). Across our PJM region, tech companies are racing to build massive, AI-driven data centers — facilities that consume as much electricity as entire cities. Industry forecasts show this demand accelerating over the next five years, with no sign of leveling off. This data center demand is constant and fundamentally changes how much power our region needs.

As a result, we're watching an alarming gap widen between how much electricity people need and how much the grid can actually deliver. The gap between those two forces is what's increasing costs across the entire PJM region, including costs for electric cooperatives.

While cooperatives strive to provide power at the lowest cost possible, these market forces are increasing the pressure and making a rate adjustment unavoidable. But cooperative ownership gives us tools that other utilities don't have.

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) receives most of its energy from Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny), the wholesale power provider we own with 13 other rural electric co-ops in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Through Allegheny, we've invested in generation resources, including nuclear and hydroelectric plants, formalized long-term power-purchase agreements, and even secured federal grant funding to boost our supply of affordable, nuclear power. This strategy insulates us — and you — from the worst of the market chaos. Through long-term planning, Allegheny continues to deliver some of the most stable, affordable generation rates in the PJM region to cooperatives, even as market prices spike elsewhere.

Cooperation amplifies our impact. Through Allegheny and the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, our statewide advocate, we pool resources, such as joint purchasing, shared training and coordinated planning, to reduce costs. We also work directly with you to manage peak demand — those times when the system is stressed — which helps keep everyone's rates lower.

The current energy environment has affected all of us — not just cooperative members at New Enterprise, but every electric consumer in the country. This environment was not created by any investor-owned utility, municipal electric supplier or electric cooperative. Instead, this environment was created by government policy — or a lack thereof.

For decades, there has not been an administration that has sought to protect energy

Continued on page 14D

Bringing Light to the Cove

WENDY CONLEY, MEMBER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

FIVE YEARS AGO, BARB DETWILER brought a thought to “light:” It was a new fundraising idea for Southern Cove Power Reunion (SCPR), a local group dedicated to preserving the farming lifestyle of the past.

She envisioned a community Christmas light show

that was affordable and had room to expand. The idea sounded risky, but Barb jumped at the chance to bring it to life when SCPR’s Board of Directors approved the event.

Not knowing what to expect the first year of the drive-thru light show, she was hoping to at least break even and gain some experience. Instead, it was a huge hit, with visitors coming from out of town to experience the displays, which now number about 48.

This year’s Country Christmas Light Show is scheduled from 5 to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 5 and 6, and 12 and 13, at the SCPR show grounds, 145 Cave Road, New Enterprise. Admission is only \$5 per car.

Affordable family fun

When Barb’s kids were younger, she says it became increasingly difficult to go places that didn’t cost a fortune. She was aiming for affordable family fun — and that’s what the light show delivers. You can bring your whole family and have a great experience without breaking the bank. In addition to the Christmas light display, SCPR also hosts tractor pulls in the spring and summer as well as the annual Power Reunion Show in September. The Christmas light display gives the organization the ability to raise funds during a slow time of the year.

According to Barb, each business and organization



ON DISPLAY: Santa and Frosty found their way to New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative’s display.



ON DONNER, ON BLITZEN: With the reindeer leading the way, Santa drove this Bolinger Bus to Southern Cove Power Reunion’s Christmas display.



FOR SALE: Wreaths and swags will be available to purchase from the Northern Bedford FFA and horticulture groups.

sets up its own display and provides an extension cord to illuminate it. Barb has a dozen “elves” who bring the displays to life by plugging them in and making sure they have enough power to make it all work.

But it doesn’t stop with the lights.

Santa Claus makes an appearance every night in the clubhouse, where families can also enjoy complimentary



FINISHING SECOND: Pleasant Pines Estate won second place last year in the crowd favorite category.

hot cocoa and homemade cookies, graciously donated by a team of volunteer bakers. The Northern Bedford FFA and horticulture groups will have pine wreaths and swags for sale. SCPR will have sweatshirts, blankets, hats and other items for sale as well. Bedford County Dairy Princess Kylie Guyer and her court will be handing out complimentary milk.

If weather permits, families can also schedule a horse-drawn wagon ride. To check availability, visit the Southern Cove Power Reunion’s Facebook page.

Merry Christmas, and SCPR hopes you enjoy the show! 🎅


SHOP 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 buy 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 Rural Electric Cooperative, 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. Please let us know if you would prefer to remain anonymous.

 <p>New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative</p>	<p>3596 Brumbaugh Rd New Enterprise PA 16664 (814) 766-3221 or 800-270-3177</p>
<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>	

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Continued from page 14A

needs for all citizens by preserving baseload generation and building out all types of energy and power supply. Instead, our elected leaders have chosen energy-producing winners and losers based on fulfillment of their individual political ideals and agendas, and the 2026 energy prices are the result.

For New Enterprise REC, this translates to an increase in the

generation, transmission, demand and capacity components of our wholesale electricity rates. Safe, reliable, affordable electricity remains our core commitment. While we can't control regional supply shortages or soaring demand, we can control how we respond, and that means making smart decisions to shield our members from the worst of these market pressures and the uncertainty ahead.

Our focus will always remain on our members. We will continue to control what we can here at home, support our communities and provide the best value and service to our membership. That is the cooperative difference.

Please stop in or give us a call anytime. ☎

MARK MORRISON
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!*

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

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

**The office will be closed
on Thurs., Dec. 25, 2025
and Jan. 1, 2026.**

