

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

EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBERS

814-766-3221
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It's a Big Pond



MARK MORRISON

THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES, MANY OF us have heard these expressions: It's good to be the big fish in a little pond, or it's a big pond and you're a little fish. Whether walking the halls of high school or caring for a herd of cattle, the analogy still fits. The same holds true in the power market.

Likewise, the 14 Pennsylvania and New Jersey cooperatives that represent more than 200,000 rural electric consumer-members are swimming in a large pond — and I'll save you the suspense: We are not the biggest fish. We are, however, in one of the best positions relative to the rest of the power-buying market in the PJM service region. PJM is the regional transmission organization that coordinates the movement of electricity for 13 states and Washington, D.C.

Being in this position is more important now than ever, with the lack of a clear domestic energy policy through at least the past three presidential administrations. Over the past four years, in particular, domestic energy from traditional, reliable, dispatchable sources has come under attack and positioned the consumer at the end of the line to pay more than ever for electric use.

Recently, the news has been filled with stories about artificial intelligence, highlighting how this groundbreaking technology promises to create a utopian future for us all. And the race is on for the big players in the computing world, like Google and Microsoft, to compile and reuse digital data as fast as they can. The drive to construct data centers is impacting power supply markets like never before, and the amount of energy these facilities consume borders on gluttony. This, coupled with the recent assault to prematurely retire our most reliable and traditional forms of power generation, has created a supply-and-demand storm, increasing costs from \$28.92/megawatt (MW)-day to \$269.92/MW-day, according to a July 2024 article by Ethan Howard in *Utility Dive*. Unfortunately, end-of-the-line energy consumers are left with higher rates because of this scenario.

As cooperative members, we have been insulated to a degree from these wild power market price swings thanks to the work of Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc., our wholesale energy provider, and the staff at the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, both based in Harrisburg. The cooperatives in Pennsylvania and New Jersey own approximately 65% of our collective power consumption needs. Thus, our exposure to these wild swings is limited. The cooperative will see an increase in the generation, transmission and capacity portions of our electric bill in 2025, and this will affect our wholesale rates for the year. The change locally will be small and may not be noticeable to all New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative members.

We strive to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity to all members. We also focus on service to the membership and on always doing our best to control costs locally where we can, realizing that we are indeed a small fish in a big pond. If you have any questions, feel free to stop in or give us a call. 📞

MARK MORRISON
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

For the Love of Cards

WENDY CONLEY, MEMBER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

JEANNE DEFIBAUGH OF NEW ENTERPRISE has always bought and mailed cards to make people feel they are special. One day, 11 years ago, Jeanne, a member of New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC), decided she wanted to make her own. She went to a department store to get the materials, but when looking at all the options, she soon felt overwhelmed.

There must be an easier way, she thought.

Jeanne then started watching online videos about how to make cards. She also came across a website for Stampin' Up, a paper-crafting company. There, she found profiles of demonstrators who could help her learn, too. After viewing a few of them, she came across a profile for Everett native Sandy England and knew she could guide

her through the card-making process.

Sandy, a member of neighboring Bedford REC, received Jeanne's message for help and invited her to a class. Jeanne says it was still overwhelming, but Sandy made the process easier.

A new addiction

It takes about 30 to 45 minutes to make a card. Jeanne gets many of her ideas from the internet. To start, she picks out a stamp and puts it on paper. She then places the dye that matches the stamp over top of the image. She then runs this through a machine — called a cut-and-emboss machine — that cuts out the design. From there, she colors the design with blending markers and crayons



Something for Every Occasion

SOMETHING FOR EVERY OCCASION: Uniquely designed cards, calendars and boxes are a few of the items created by New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative member Jeanne Defibaugh.

and places it on the card using glue or adhesive dots. She also may add ribbon, beads or glitter to the designed card. Most of her supplies come from Stampin' Up.

Jeanne says making cards has become very addictive, and she makes about 20 a month. She has sent out more than 100 cards to friends and family. Jeanne is now a demonstrator for Stampin' Up, but still makes cards with Sandy. She does have a few ladies over to her "she shed" that she had her husband install after her card-making hobby quickly outgrew the space in her home. Jeanne also sells her cards, but mostly she gives them away and makes baskets with cards and projects for fundraisers. She makes invitations and cards for every holiday and special occasion, such as graduation, birthdays, and more. Every card you can imagine, Jeanne will make.

With the Stampin' Up process, she can also make calendars, bags, small boxes and framed art. Jeanne really enjoys spending time in her shed designing and making cards and projects. She also loves giving someone a reason to smile when they see one of her hand-crafted cards. And because Jeanne's granddaughter, Raylee, also enjoys "making cards with Grandma," it gives her one more reason to love what she does. 📧



FROM START TO FINISH: At left, Jeanne Defibaugh lays out a handful of stamps, which she then used to create the Christmas card at right.



STAMP OF APPROVAL: New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative member Jeanne Defibaugh holds a box of cards that she made. Defibaugh is a demonstrator for Stampin' Up, a paper-crafting company.

Do you have medical devices that require electricity?

Do we have a form on file stating you have medical equipment? If not, call the New Enterprise office so we can send you a form for your doctor to complete.

Outages do occur, and especially during severe storms, service restoration may take several days, or longer. Therefore, we strongly recommend that our members with special needs install standby backup generation equipment or have some type of backup available. Please contact our office for more information on this type of equipment.

Sales Tax Notice

ARE YOU PAYING SALES TAX for your service? If so, call the cooperative's office at 814-766-3221, and we will see if you can be exempt from the tax. The Department of Revenue requires us to maintain a certificate, which members must sign for each metered service. If you received a form and did not return it to the office, you will be assessed the tax. Signed forms are valid for three years. The cooperative will be sending forms within the next few months to those whose certificate will expire this year.

Landlords who keep a rental account in their name and certain businesses are required to pay sales tax. If you have a business and are exempt, please include your sales tax exemption number on the form.

You are exempt from the tax if the property is:

- ▶ a primary residence (doesn't matter if you own or rent the property)
- ▶ a vacation home
- ▶ used directly for manufacturing, mining, farming, dairy or ship-building operations performed as a business

- ▶ used for an organization or institutional activity by a religious organization, volunteer firefighters, non-profit educational organization, or charity holding a charitable exemption
- ▶ directly used by a purchaser in the production, delivery, or rendition of public utility service and/or construction, alteration, or maintenance of public utility facilities other than buildings. Purchaser presently has on file with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission the following
Tariff of Rates: _____

PA PUC No. _____
Supplement _____

- ▶ used for another purpose (personal garage, shed, barn — buildings must be on your primary residential property)

Please call the office at 814-766-3221 if you have any questions or need a certificate to sign.

Snowmageddon, Snowpocalypse, SnOMG!

Whether it's a big snow storm or an everyday snowfall, there's a risk of death by shoveling. Sudden exertion after being sedentary for several months can put a big strain on the heart. Pushing a heavy snow blower can also cause injury.

Shoveling heavy, wet snow can cause back injuries and heart attacks. So don't push yourself!

- ❄ Dress warmly, covering your head, fingers and toes.
- ❄ Take it slow and stretch before you begin.
- ❄ Stay hydrated and don't shovel after eating or while smoking.
- ❄ Shovel only fresh, powdery snow; it's lighter.

- ❄ Push small amounts of snow rather than lifting.
- ❄ Take frequent breaks and do not work to the point of exhaustion.

Know the signs of a heart attack, including chest discomfort, an uncomfortable feeling of fullness and shortness of breath. Stop immediately and call 911 if you're experiencing symptoms; every minute counts.

**Safe
Electricity.org®**