

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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

Emergency Outage Number
814-766-3221
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From the General Manager/CEO



Cooperative recap

By Mark Morrison

AS WE close the books on 2021, I am happy to report on some of the progress we have made over the past year and chat a bit about our plans for the upcoming year.

2021 was a busy year for the cooperative lineworkers. Our work plan sets lofty goals for pole replacements and system maintenance each year to ensure that we are doing what is necessary to keep the lights on. While the initial focus was simply on replacing aging and end-of-life pole assets, the cooperative was able to relocate a few pieces of line from undesirable locations to areas where truck access is now a possibility for power restoration. We are also focusing on replacing aging pole systems.

The same holds true for 2022, when line improvements are slated for the Wells Tannery, Sherman's Valley and Tatesville areas. We will also be surveying equipment, the design of our substations and delivery points in preparation for upcoming improvements.

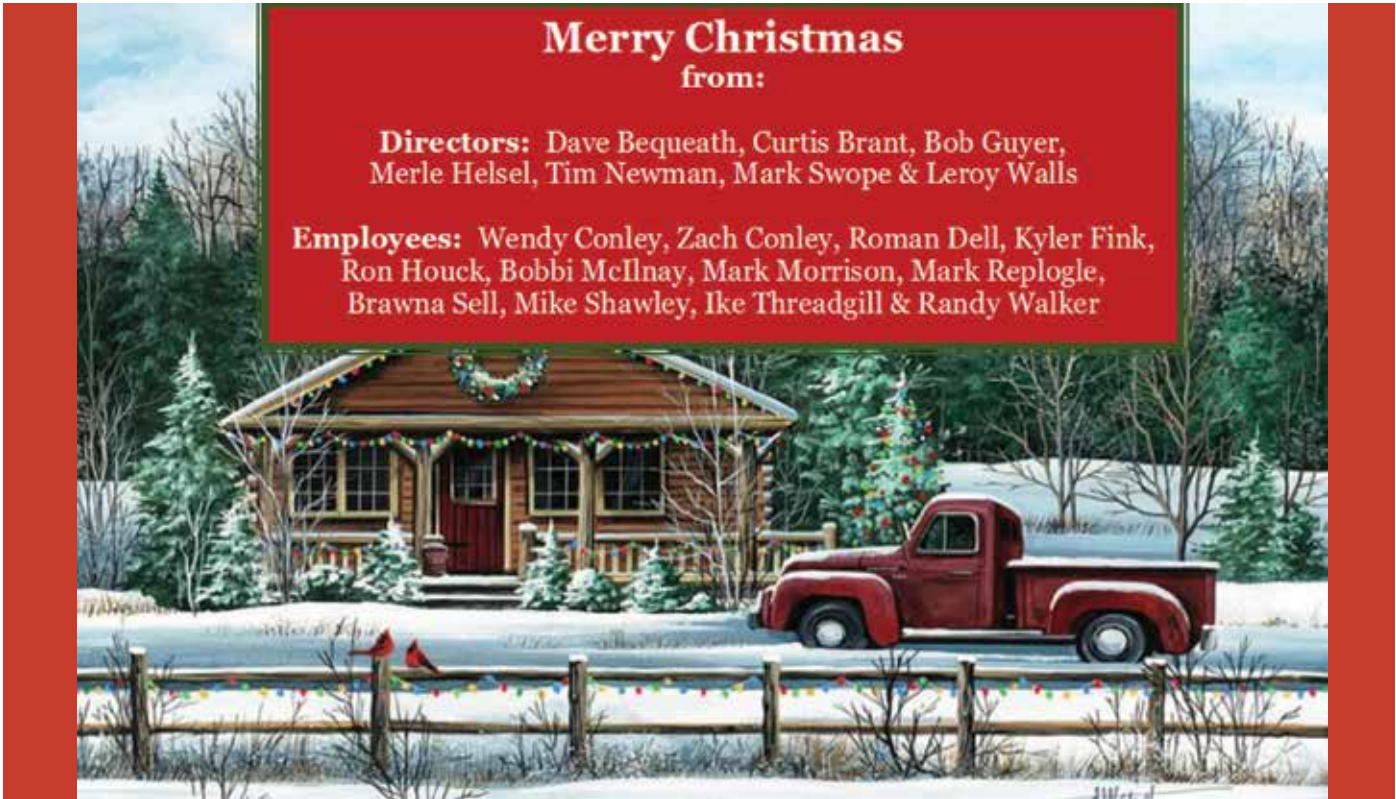
In September 2020, we began the initial design and engineering upgrades for our Waterfall substation. I am happy to announce the new station was energized in October 2021. This is the first of many delivery-point improvements slated for the upcoming years. The upgrades to the Waterfall facility will increase system capacity

and provide options for redundancy.

One of the biggest operational expenses for the cooperative is right-of-way and vegetation management. Each year, New Enterprise lineworkers and contractors perform maintenance on upward of 70 miles of cooperative line. Our crews make their way around the system every six years for scheduled work. Our plan also includes provisions for hotspots, or areas that pose an immediate threat to safety and reliability. In 2021, work was completed in the Hickory Bottom and Saltillo areas. Right-of-way work for 2022 is scheduled for the Salemville-Waterfall substation service area. As always, any time you are concerned a tree may pose a threat to the line, let us know and cooperative personnel will come out and take a look.

One of the advantages of being a member of an electric cooperative is the return of capital credits to the membership. Our 2022 budget includes the continuation of our capital credits retirement plan. Capital credits retirements for 2021 will be credited on the December billing cycle. To date, the capital credits plan has returned nearly \$1.6 million to the membership.

I am hoping you all have a very merry Christmas and happy New Year. Please stop by or give us a call to share any thoughts on how we are doing. ❁



Merry Christmas
from:

Directors: Dave Bequeath, Curtis Brant, Bob Guyer,
Merle Helsel, Tim Newman, Mark Swope & Leroy Walls

Employees: Wendy Conley, Zach Conley, Roman Dell, Kyler Fink,
Ron Houck, Bobbi McInay, Mark Morrison, Mark Replogle,
Brawna Sell, Mike Shawley, Ike Threadgill & Randy Walker

Buy American-made this Christmas

Why not purchase a Christmas gift for a family member or friend that is American-made? Unfortunately, American-made items are becoming harder and harder to find. New Enterprise REC has a gift that isn't hard to find and makes shopping easy: electric gift certificates. Our gift certificates make a great gift. While they're available year-round, Christmas is the most popular time to buy them.

If you would like to purchase one, please complete the certificate below. Should you like more than one, you can write the additional information on a 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 are also available on our website, newenterpriserec.com, and at the cooperative office. Amounts on internet-purchased gift certificates will not be posted to an account until payment has been made.

New Enterprise REC Gift Certificate

Recipient's Name: _____

Purchaser's Name: _____

Purchaser's Address: _____

Purchaser's Phone Number: _____ Amount of Gift: _____

How the certificate should be signed: _____

(Mom & Dad, The Jones Family, Joe & Betty, etc.)

(Please circle one)

I wish to remain anonymous

Mail letter to recipient

Mail letter to purchaser

Don't let a fire ruin your holidays

THE HOLIDAYS bring heightened risk for accidental fires. December and January are the leading months for residential fires. We know winter can be a hectic and stressful time, so our fire-safety tips are easy and simple to follow. We want you and your family to stay safe and have a stress-free winter season.

Holiday decorations. More than 20% of people will not turn off holiday electric decorations and lights before leaving the house or going to sleep at night. Holiday lights and trees are the most common culprits to initially catch fire. Inspect all holiday lights thoroughly to ensure they are working properly. Make sure to set up your tree at least 3 feet away from any heat sources. Even though holiday lights are meant to be cheery and bright, if safety is neglected, they can prove to be a not-so-festive fire hazard.

Overloaded outlets. Overloaded electrical circuits are a major cause of residential fires. Outlets that carry too much electricity will generate a significant amount of heat, which causes wear and tear and can eventually

lead to a fire. To prevent this, plug all appliances directly into the wall receptacle outlet. Replace worn and old extension cords to avoid accidental overheating. Remember, only plug in one heat-producing appliance into an outlet at a time.

Space heaters. Space heaters are responsible for 79% of deadly home fires. During the winter months, structure fires caused by heating appliances increase from 17% to 27%, causing 47,700 home fires each year. Don't leave space heaters on for an extended period and never leave them unattended. Never use in wet spaces, such as bathrooms or kitchens, and keep all materials at least 3 feet away from your space heater.

Dryers. The leading cause of dryer-related fires is the failure to clean dryer vents regularly. The lint that builds up in the dryer is highly flammable and can clog the venting system. Improper dryer installation can also quickly



lead to an electrical fire. Always clean your dryer lint filter after every load of laundry and inspect the vents every few months for lint build up.

Electric blankets. Electric blankets can malfunction due to wear and tear, manufacturing issues and improper usage, all of which contribute to the danger of combustion. Many electric blanket-related fires are caused by units that are 10 years or older. Regularly check and throw out old or worn electric blankets and heating pads. Also, unplug them when they're not being used.

We encourage you to follow these safety tips to avoid electrical fires this winter and have a safe holiday season. ❄️

Family in Need

This program helps members who are struggling to pay their electric bill. The funds go to New Enterprise REC members only.

Members joining this program agree to have their monthly electric bill rounded up to the nearest dollar, with the extra change going in this fund.

It's easy to start. Just complete the form to the right. You can stop contributing any time by calling, emailing or stopping by our office.



Family in Need Sign-up Form

I would like to donate to the Family in Need Fund. I understand my monthly bill will be rounded up to the nearest dollar with the extra change going to this fund. This will be effective with the next billing.

Account Name: _____

Account Number(s): _____

Signature: _____

Date Signed: _____

Electrical safety tips for the holidays

THE HOLIDAY season brings families and loved ones together for celebration. Whether hosting an event or traveling to someone's home, you likely spend a lot of time preparing for events. During the hustle and bustle, remember to make safety a priority to ensure nothing spoils the fun and your holiday is a happy one.

As you make final preparations for holiday and family celebrations, take some of these simple safety steps.

Remember to always turn off decorative holiday lights before going to bed or leaving home. A timer can help make sure this happens.

Also, don't overload extension cords or outlets. Electric overloads can cause shocks and start fires.

Ensure that fresh-cut trees as well as artificial ones are placed away from heat sources, such as registers, fireplaces, radiators and televisions.

Water your fresh-cut tree frequently.

During the holiday season, your home may see increased traffic, including children and pets. Make sure all electric cords are out of high-traffic pathways and areas. Do not run cords through doorways or hide them under rugs or carpets. Do not let children or pets play with light strands or electric decorations.

The kitchen can be one of the busiest rooms in the house with the cooking and baking of holiday treats. Here are some tips to remember when working in the kitchen:

- ▶ Stay focused and attentive to baking, brewing and simmering foods.
- ▶ Keep cooking areas clean and clear of grease.
- ▶ Do not leave combustible items, such as towels or pot holders, near the stovetop.
- ▶ Never plug more than one high-

wattage appliance into a single outlet.

- ▶ Make sure outlets near sinks are equipped with ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs).
- ▶ Always have a working fire extinguisher on hand and know how to operate it.

If you are traveling for the holidays, please drive safely. If you get into an accident with a utility pole, the safest place is almost always inside the vehicle. A downed line does not need to be sparking to be energized. Always assume all low and downed lines are energized and dangerous. Call 911 to have the utility notified immediately.

Only exit the vehicle if it is on fire. To do so safely, jump clear of it with your feet together and without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Keep your feet together and shuffle or "bunny hop" to safety. ❁

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*Days of
Holiday
Safety*



It's easy to make safety a part of your holiday with these tips. Tackle one a day and you're well on your way to a safe New Year!

Day 1 **What's that noise?** Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Make sure everyone knows what to do if they hear them.

Day 2 **What a shocker!** Before use, inspect all electrical lights, decorations and extension cords for damage.

Day 3 **Two's company, three's a crowd.** Do not overload outlets with too many decorations or devices.

Day 4 **Is it working?** Test your ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) to make sure they're protecting you.

Day 5 **Ouch!** Prevent trips and falls by keeping cords safely along walls and out of doorways and high traffic areas.

Day 6 **Kids eat the darndest things!** Avoid putting lights, metal hooks, breakable ornaments, and other small decorations within reach of young children.

Day 7 **Thirsty?** Keep your Christmas tree stand full of water. A fresh, green tree poses less of a fire hazard than a dry tree.

Day 8 **Make a wish!** Blow out the candles before leaving a room or going to bed.

Day 9 **Nice and warm.** Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn — decorations, trees, gifts and curtains.

Day 10 **Can't touch this!** Consider installing tamper-resistant outlets/receptacles to prevent kids from inserting objects into the slots.

Day 11 **Escape Route:** Share your family fire escape plan with overnight guests.

Day 12 **Hot stuff!** Keep children away from cooking areas; use back burners and turn pot handles in away from little hands.

There's no greater gift you can give your family than a safe and happy holiday! Learn more at holidaysafety.org.