

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

Containing cost increases



FROM THE GAS PUMP TO the grocery store, we have all seen costs going up. Pandemic-driven supply chain disruptions, a war in Ukraine, and skyrocketing natural gas prices have fueled inflationary pressures and cost increases in just about every sector.

In addition to international events impacting prices in our lives, the current administration in Washington is making good on a 2020 campaign promise to cripple the domestic production of fossil fuels. In a 2020 campaign debate, Joe Biden said, “... no more drilling on federal lands, no more drilling, including offshore, no ability for the oil industry to continue to drill ...” Oil, natural gas, and coal account for 60% to 80% of the electricity generated here at home, and for the past century, have provided the citizens of this country with inexpensive, reliable and dispatchable energy. The result of this policy to limit domestic energy production is that electric generation costs and energy bills are going up for all of us.

In this challenging economic climate, however, your cooperative remains committed to containing costs. We have had a remarkable record of stable and low-cost generation rates over the past several years, but power costs are rising.

The cooperative is currently reviewing the results of a rate study. Based on wholesale power projections, it will be necessary for the cooperative to adjust member rates for 2023. Management is exploring options based on the rate-study findings, the cooperative’s energy-use profile and current energy market costs. It has been 10 years since our last rate increase, and we will consider all options to ensure we provide the best value to our membership.

That said, while your generation rate is set to increase in 2023, it will still be among the lowest in the region. That’s because your not-for-profit cooperative has long made investments to help curb costs to our members.

The notion of investing in our areas and taking care of our own needs has endured throughout our cooperative history. In 1946, it led to the creation of Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny) by rural electric cooperatives in the state for that very purpose: taking care of our own power needs.

Today, Allegheny is the energy provider for 14 electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, including New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. Each cooperative has a seat on the Allegheny board of directors, whose decisions continue to be driven by the needs of our rural communities and their residents.

In the late 1970s, Allegheny made the decision to invest in a nuclear plant, becoming a part-owner in the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (Susquehanna) in Luzerne County. Today, Allegheny’s 10% share of the plant provides more than 50% of all the energy needs of all of Allegheny’s member cooperatives.

Allegheny also owns the Raystown Hydroelectric Plant, a hydropower dam in Huntingdon County. In addition, cooperatives have been receiving generation since the 1960s through long-term hydropower agreements negotiated with the New York Power Authority.

Combined with Susquehanna’s output, these investments have helped shield cooperative consumers from periods of intense market volatility. They represent 65% of our power portfolio, requiring Allegheny to purchase only about 35% for our remaining needs. This portfolio has been a bulwark against recent rising energy costs. Whereas investor-owned utilities are subject to 100% of the spikes in

Continued on page 14C

Small change can change lives

WENDY CONLEY

THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS FINALLY here. Some call it the most wonderful season of all. That's because we associate it with family traditions and gathering with friends and loved ones. It's a time of giving and spreading joy.

This time of year also serves as a reminder of the many good things we have right here in our community and why it's so important to spread the good as far as we can, especially to the most vulnerable in our area. It's a reminder, too, of how wonderful our community is and what a big impact we can have when we work together.

When you are a member of New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC), you help us spread the good throughout the year. Through our Family in Need program, your donations help local families and individuals by providing financial assistance with their energy bills.

You round up your utility bill to the nearest \$1 and that difference goes to the Family in Need program. By donating to this fund, you're making a big difference in the life of someone who may be experiencing a job loss or health issues. It may be a small amount, but it helps in a big way. You are helping to meet an immediate, critical need, but just as important, you are telling this person the community cares.

The cooperative also has gift certificates available if you want to donate to a specific person. You can stay anonymous or provide your name to the receiver so they know who helped them.

Over the years, our community-focused programs have supported local food banks, donated to the humane society, supported local schools and fire companies, fed hungry families, enabled families in need to keep the lights on, and so much more.

New Enterprise REC also participates in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Tour, where



we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong immersion to experience democracy in action. Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you and your neighbors.

You've likely heard cooperative directors and staff mention the cooperative principle "concern for community," which is part of New Enterprise REC's DNA. It defines who we are as an organization. When we first brought electricity to this community in 1938, the quality of life improved. We support our communities by participating in parades and events and donating to local efforts.

As a cooperative, we have a stake in this community. We hope you will think of New Enterprise REC as more than your energy provider, but also as a catalyst for good in our community.

If you wish to participate with the Family in Need program or purchase a gift certificate, please contact the office to learn more or see the gift certificate information on page 16C.

We wish all of our members a joyous holiday season. May it be merry and bright! 🎄

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Continued from page 14A

market prices, our exposure has been limited to this 35%, helping to temper cost increases.

To further assist consumers, cooperatives are putting revenue toward tamping down generation costs for 2023. Used for rainy-day situations like the current market volatility, Allegheny maintains a deferred revenue fund. The Allegheny board has decided to use a portion of this fund to help absorb the impact of the generation rate increase in 2023.

The decision to raise rates is never taken lightly. It's made by a board of fellow cooperative members who understand what a cost increase will mean to the community. That's why cooperatives work hard at keeping costs down. The generation rate increase for 2023, while necessary, also reflects that continuing cooperative effort to contain costs. 🌱

MARK MORRISON
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas and happy New Year!

Directors: Dave Bequeath, Curtis Brant, Merle Helsel, Brian McCoy, Tim Newman, Mark Swope and Leroy Walls.

Employees: Wendy Conley, Zachary Conley, Roman Dell, Kyler Fink, Ron Houck, Conner Kagarise, Bobbi McInay, Mark Morrison, Mark Replogle, Mike Shawley, Isaac Threadgill and Randy Walker.

The office will be closed Monday, Dec 26, 2022 and Monday, Jan 2, 2023.



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 a great gift for Christmas or 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 want 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 newenterpriserec.com or by visiting or calling our office. The cooperative can mail the certificate to the member or to you. Also, please let us know if you would prefer to remain anonymous. 🌱



3596 Brumbaugh Rd
New Enterprise PA 16664
814-766-3221 or 800-270-3177

Gift Certificate

Especially for _____

From _____

This amount has already been applied to your account: \$ _____

Authorized by _____

Deck the halls safely

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE PUTTING UP lights and decorations to get you in the holiday spirit. It's something many do without incident; however, the holidays are also one of the most hazardous times of the year when it comes to electrical fires and accidents.

Safe Electricity has several tips to help you deck the halls safely this season:

- ▶ When decorating outside, look up and around for power lines. Never throw strands of lights or other decorations into trees near power lines.
- ▶ Keep ladders, equipment and yourself at least 10 feet from power lines.
- ▶ Match plugs with outlets. Do not force a three-pronged plug into a two-pronged outlet or extension cord.
- ▶ Outside, use only lights, cords, animated displays and decorations rated for outdoor use. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on

how to use them. Ensure outdoor outlets or extension cords are equipped with ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs).

- ▶ Never string more strands of lights together than recommended by the manufacturer.
- ▶ Do not staple or nail through light strands or electrical cords. Use plastic or insulated hooks to hang lights.
- ▶ Do not attach cords to utility poles.

The outside of your home is not the only place where you need to be cautious of electrical dangers. Also be careful when placing and decorating trees inside your home. Keep fresh-cut and artificial trees away from heat sources, such as registers, fireplaces and radiators. Also, water fresh-cut trees frequently and turn the tree's lights off before you go to sleep. Use a timer to help.

For more information and holiday safety tips, go to SafeElectricity.org.

Keep Your Holidays MERRY & BRIGHT

Don't add stress to your holiday season. Knowing how to properly use and hang lights could prevent injury or fire.

- 1** Make sure your home's electrical system can handle the load.
- 2** Unplug lights or decorations before changing a bulb or other parts.
- 3** Do not use cords or plugs that are damaged, frayed or cracked.
- 4** Only use lights certified by a reputable testing lab.

In addition, consider LED lights when replacing old light strands. LEDs use 80 to 90% less energy than incandescent bulbs.

Learn more: SafeElectricity.org

12 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.