

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER / CEO

Why we plan outages

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Leroy D. Walls, President
David Bequeath, Vice President
Timothy Newman, Secretary
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Robert Guyer, Treasurer
Dean Brant
Merle Helsel

OFFICE HOURS

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

EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBER

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



Rick L. Eichelberger
General Manager & CEO

HAVE YOU ever received a notification from the folks here at New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative informing you of a “planned outage?” You may have wondered, “What is a planned outage?” and “Why does my electric utility need to perform one?” Occasionally, the equipment we use to bring power to your home needs to

be replaced, repaired or updated. When this happens, as a way to keep our crews and you safe, we plan an interruption to electric service.

When work can be scheduled, we do our best to plan these outages during times when you will be least inconvenienced. We also try to avoid planning them during the winter when you depend on running your heating systems the most. Sometimes the planning becomes immediate and that limits or even eliminates the ability to notify anyone. So remember, there will always be occasions when our crews find a maintenance issue that needs immediate attention and the power is turned off to make a repair.

While they may sound slightly inconvenient, planned outages are actually beneficial to you, our members. Regular system upgrades are necessary for optimal performance, and they increase reliability. Repairing and upgrading our equipment is also critical to maintaining public safety. If older lines need to be

replaced, we plan for it, repair or replace them, and that keeps everyone safe.

For every planned outage conducted by our line crews, there are dozens of times line work is completed while the line is energized. The ongoing training our linemen receive, the equipment used and the safety practices that are in place allow many work tasks to be done without interrupting the power flow. The linemen know their limits and they know the option of turning the power off is ALWAYS available. Their safety and lives are at stake, and strict guidelines ensure this line is not crossed.

Each year, outages are scheduled as we upgrade various pieces of equipment on the line. For example, approximately 75 transformers are replaced each year system-wide as the oldest ones are taken out of service. Many times, the preventative maintenance outage that our linemen perform to make a repair is eliminating the chance of a much longer duration outage waiting to happen.

The next time you see a bucket truck working near your house or crews replacing a pole that was broken by a vehicle and you still have electricity, chances are, our linemen are working on the lines while they are energized.

Here at New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, we want to make sure we are doing everything we can to keep you safe and to keep our system running smoothly. So, the next time you hear about a planned outage, know that it is one of the best ways we can provide you with quality electric service. 

Space heaters

Space heaters can be a quick way to heat up a room. However, they can be as dangerous as they are convenient if used improperly. Space heaters cause 25,000 home fires and 6,000 emergency room visits annually, according to the Harvard University Environmental Health & Safety group.

Approximately one-third of all house fires nationwide happen during the cold, home-heating months between December and February. Equipment that is intended to add a little extra warmth, such as space heaters, is the leading cause of these fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

As part of its Teach Learn Care TLC campaign, Safe Electricity urges that everyone in the home understand the importance of using space heaters safely.

Some cities have banned the use of many types of portable space heaters. Before purchasing or using any type of space heater, check with your local fire department to find out if it is legal in your community.

Below are a few precautions to follow when using electric space heaters:

- ▶ Purchase only space heaters that have been safety tested and UL approved. Make sure the unit is equipped with an

emergency, tip-over, shut-off feature and heating element guards. Read and follow all of the manufacturer's instructions for operation and care.

- ▶ Before using a space heater, make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are in good working condition.
- ▶ Check to make sure the heater is clean and in good condition, and have all problems professionally repaired.
- ▶ Place the heater out of high-traffic areas and on a level, hard, non-flammable floor surface — NOT on carpets, furniture or countertops.



- ▶ Space heaters have one purpose — to provide supplemental heating. Never use them to thaw pipes, cook food, or dry clothing or towels.
- ▶ Remember to keep space heaters at least 3 feet from combustible liquids like fuel, spray cans, and paint, as well

as flammable items such as draperies, blankets, and sofas.

- ▶ Never allow pets or children near an electric heater. Accidental contact could result in serious shock or burns.
- ▶ Do not overload circuits. Never use extension cords or multiple plugs with a space heater, and make sure the unit is not plugged into the same circuit as other electric appliances.
- ▶ If your space heater is plugged into a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) and the GFCI trips, don't assume there is something wrong with the GFCI. Immediately stop using the heater until it can be checked by a professional — if not, a serious shock could occur.
- ▶ Never leave space heaters unattended. Turn off your space heater and unplug it before leaving the room or going to bed.
- ▶ Replace older space heaters with newer, safer models.

Many people also use electric blankets to keep warm during cold winter nights. Before plugging in electric blankets, check for any damage and inspect cords for frays, cracks, or cuts. Electric blankets should not be tucked under the mattress and nothing should be placed on top of the blanket while it's in use, including comforters and bedspreads. Pets should never be allowed to sleep on the electric blanket. ☀

Buy American-made this Christmas

Why not purchase a gift for a family member or friend that is American-made this year for Christmas? Unfortunately, American-made items are becoming harder and harder to find. New Enterprise REC has a gift that is American-made — electricity. So this would be a perfect gift this Christmas or anytime during the year. New Enterprise REC has gift certificates available year-round, but Christmas is the most popular time to buy their American-made gifts.

If you would like to purchase a gift certificate, please complete the certificate below. Should you like more than one, you can write the additional information on a piece of paper. Gift certificates can also be found on our website or purchased at the office. Amounts purchased from our website will not be posted to an account until a form of payment has been made.

New Enterprise REC Gift Certificate

Recipient's Name: _____

Amount of Gift: _____

Purchaser's Name: _____

Purchaser's Address: _____

Purchaser's Phone Number: _____

How should the certificate(s) 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

New Enterprise REC urges safe hunting

AS HUNTING season approaches, please remember that electrical insulators, conductors and other electrical equipment are not on the Pennsylvania hunting season list.

New Enterprise REC encourages hunters to be aware of electrical equipment while enjoying the great outdoors this season. Repairs can be costly in both equipment and outages to our members.

New Enterprise REC recognizes the majority of hunters practice safe hunting and understand the potential risks when discharging a firearm. We encourage experienced hunters who are familiar with the area to identify the locations of utility properties and equipment to young or new hunters in their group and remind them to avoid shooting toward these facilities.

Here are some tips to enjoy the great outdoors while being safe:

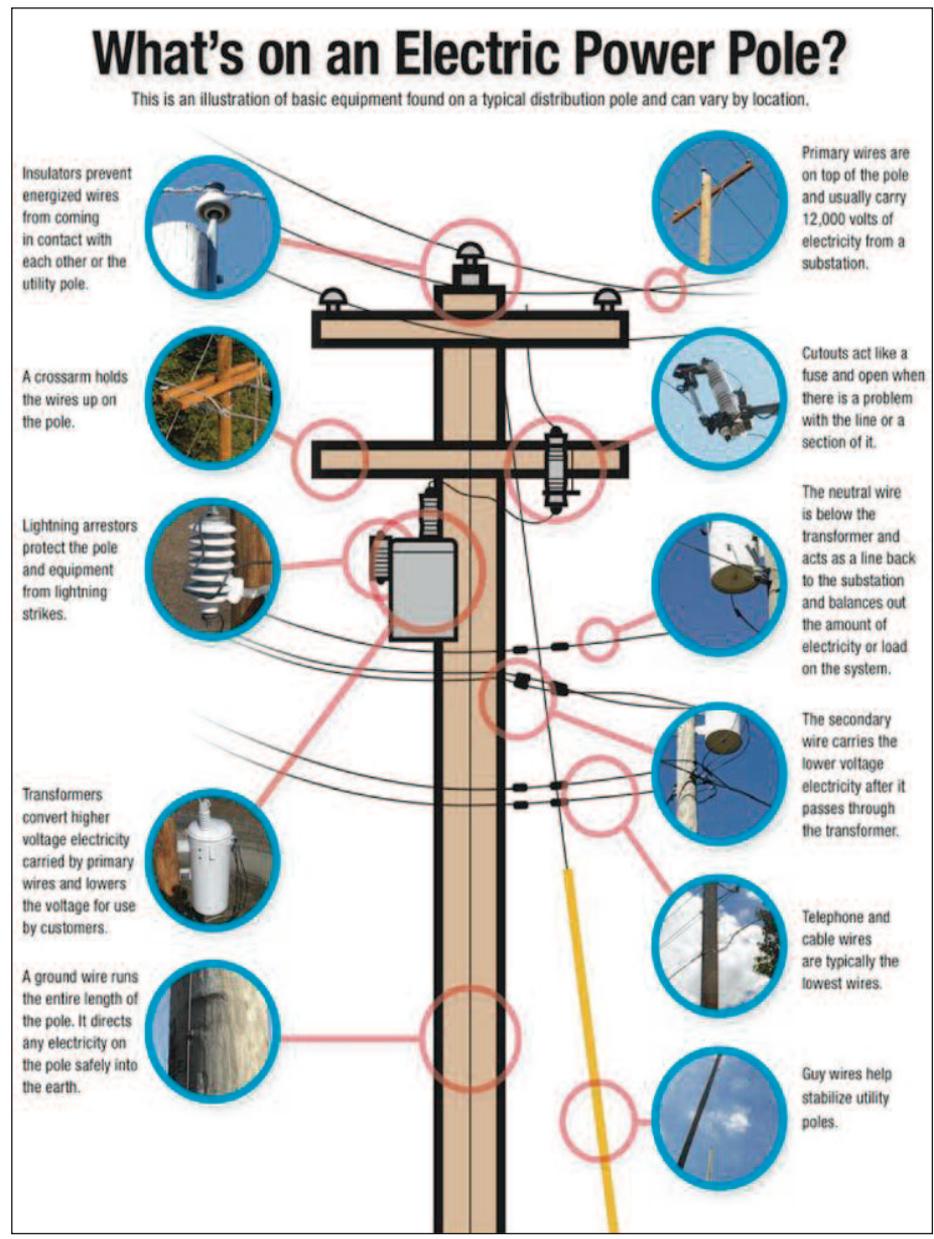
- ▶ Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- ▶ Familiarize yourself with the location of power lines and equipment on land where you shoot.
- ▶ Damage to the conductor can happen, possibly dropping a phase on the ground. If it's dry and the electricity goes to ground, there is the possibility of electrocution and wildfire.
- ▶ Be especially careful in wooded

areas where power lines may not be as visible.

- ▶ Do not use power line wood poles or towers to support equipment used in your shooting activity.
- ▶ Take notice of warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.
- ▶ Do not place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment on the poles can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing

shock or electrocution.

- ▶ Do not shoot at or near birds perching on utility lines. That goes for any type of firearm, including pistols, rifles or shotguns.
- ▶ Do not place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment. Anything attached to a pole besides utility equipment can pose an obstruction — and a serious hazard — to electric cooperative employees as they perform utility operations. ☀



KIDZCORNER

Honoring veterans

Veterans Day originated as “Armistice Day” on Nov. 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I. Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and Nov. 11 became a national holiday beginning in 1938. Veterans Day is not to be confused with Memorial Day – a common misunderstanding, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Memorial Day (the fourth Monday in May) honors American service members who died in service to their country or as a result of injuries incurred during battle, while Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans – living or dead – but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime.

Did You Know?

There are approximately 23.2 million military veterans in the United States.

VETERANS DAY FACTS

- ▶▶ In 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower officially changed the name of the holiday from Armistice Day to Veterans Day.
- ▶▶ In 1968, the Uniform Holidays Bill was passed by Congress, which moved the celebration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. The law went into effect in 1971, but in 1975, President Gerald Ford returned Veterans Day to Nov. 11, due to the important historical significance of the date.
- ▶▶ Britain, France, Australia and Canada also commemorate the veterans of World Wars I and II on or near Nov. 11: Canada has Remembrance Day, while Britain has Remembrance Sunday (the second Sunday of November). In Europe, Britain and the Commonwealth countries, it is common to observe two minutes of silence at 11 a.m. every Nov. 11.

VETERANS STATS

The brave men and women who serve and protect the U.S. come from all walks of life; they are parents, children and grandparents. They are friends, neighbors and co-workers, and an important part of their communities. Here are some facts about the current veteran population of the United States.

- ▶▶ 9.2 million veterans are over the age of 65.
- ▶▶ 1.9 million veterans are under the age of 35.
- ▶▶ 1.8 million veterans are women.
- ▶▶ 7.8 million veterans served during the Vietnam War era (1964-1975), which represents 33 percent of all living veterans.
- ▶▶ 5.2 million veterans served during the Gulf War (representing service from Aug. 2, 1990, to present).
- ▶▶ 2.6 million veterans served during World War II (1941-1945).
- ▶▶ 2.8 million veterans served during the Korean War (1950-1953).
- ▶▶ 6 million veterans served in peacetime.
- ▶▶ 5 states have more than 1 million veterans among their population: California (2.1 million), Florida (1.7 million), Texas (1.7 million), New York (1 million) and Pennsylvania (1 million).

Dean Brant retires from board

In 1986, Dean Brant of Harrisonville joined the New Enterprise REC Board of Directors. For nearly 30 years, he was director for Area 7. Over these years, Dean has served the membership with integrity and concern. He attended local and statewide events to hear the condition of New Enterprise REC and our statewide organization, the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association. Some of the events were training sessions where Dean learned how to better serve the members of New Enterprise REC.

We would like to say “Thank you” to Dean for the many years of service and dedication to not only the members of Area 7, but to all members and employees. His knowledge and experience will be missed around the board table.



PLAQUE TO BRANT: Leroy Walls, president of the New Enterprise REC board, right, presents a plaque to retiring board member Dean Brant, thanking him for his years of service to the cooperative.

