

# 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**  
**1-800-270-3177**

FROM THE MANAGER/CEO

## Time is running out: filling the generation gap



**Rick L. Eichelberger**  
General Manager & CEO

**ELECTRIC CO-OPS** have important energy choices to make. We can't stall or wait for a magic "electricity" bullet. Tighter government regulations — and the high cost to comply with new rules — may signal "lights out" for many of the nation's older coal-fired power plants at a time when forecasters predict energy demand will eventually outpace supply. We're approaching crunch time in our ability to keep the lights on — we need to build new power plants.

The recent economic turmoil, terrible as it was, provided some much-needed breathing room for addressing our growing energy needs. But as the economy rebounds, so will our nation's hunger for electricity. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) predicts when the final 2010 numbers are tallied, energy use will shoot up 5 percent from 2009 levels.

We've encouraged you to be energy efficient both for your sake (lower electric bills) and to help mitigate the need to build new generation sources. You've certainly done your part; between 1980 and 2006, the average amount of energy each American used dropped 2.5 percent. But with an ever-expanding population, these measures are not enough to completely offset escalating energy demand.

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the nation's bulk power grid watchdog, estimates we need to build 135,000 megawatts (MW) of new generation by 2017 to meet

demand. Generation facilities on the drawing board, though, will only deliver 77,000 MW — leaving a generation gap.

Compounding this issue, some of our current power plants may soon be shut down by federal regulations. One NERC-commissioned report claims new government rules could force utilities to retire or retrofit 33,000 MW to 70,000 MW of generating capacity by 2015. Meanwhile, every year we delay building new plants drives up construction costs. If we wait too long, we could see power shortages by the end of this decade.

Traditional power plants (coal, natural gas, nuclear) take between three years and a decade to build — not leaving much wiggle room before shortages become a reality. Renewable energy resources, notably wind farms, can be constructed more quickly, but they're not perfect options. It may sound cliché to say the wind doesn't always blow, but it's the truth — and you wouldn't be satisfied with only having power 40 percent of the time.

At New Enterprise REC, we're focused on affordability. Our nation needs to build new power plants before the need for electricity outstrips current generation resources. Although New Enterprise REC doesn't build and operate power plants — as a distribution cooperative, we focus on delivering power to you — we're working with our wholesale power supplier, Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc., to find the best fuel mix solution for your future. We appreciate your support as we make these critical and time-sensitive choices. Balancing your energy needs with electricity reliability and affordability is one more way we're looking out for you. 

## New Enterprise REC helps members log on for home energy savings

New Enterprise REC knows there are members who want to know the real story behind their home's energy use.

These consumers try to conserve — they switch out lightbulbs, and even add insulation in the attic. But they still want to know — are they making a difference?

Now New Enterprise REC is helping them find these answers and more with just a couple of clicks of a computer mouse.

The Home Energy Calculator at [www.newenterpriserec.com](http://www.newenterpriserec.com) offers residential members a complete analysis of their energy use based on simple information they provide.

From the home page, the user simply opens the calculator and selects from: “I

am interested in viewing a comprehensive report of my energy usage,” or “Where are my energy dollars going?” or “What are some no-cost or low-cost recommendations for my home to lower my energy costs?” or “I want to run a custom comparison.”

With easy navigation, the user indicates the home's square footage, age, number of occupants and a few other variables. They also input types of appliances, windows, even TVs (yes, it makes a difference!).

The analytic “engine” behind the calculator, which is offered by 450 utilities nationwide, factors in local energy rates and weather data. Within seconds, a colorful pie chart appears showing what portions of the monthly bill went for heating, cooling, lighting — even the TVs.

The Home Energy Calculator lets the user try various scenarios like adjusting heating or cooling settings, adding insu-

lation or installing storm windows. They can also preview the cost-savings actions that would fit their budget and see the impact of longer-term investments.

Running a whole calculation takes less than 10 minutes. It's free and available 24/7. If you do not have internet access, call the co-op office or stop in and the staff will run the calculation for you and print a copy for you to keep.

The calculator on New Enterprise REC's website is the latest-generation home energy application available on the market. The tool meshes perfectly with the needs of our consumers who are super-focused on controlling energy costs. There's plenty of information out there about how to save energy. This shows members exactly where their energy dollars are going, the month-to-month differences, and the cost savings of implementing the suggestions the tool gives them. ☀



Look for these links on our website!

### April co-op calendar

April 6 - Disconnect service for accounts with past due balances. If you need to make a payment arrangement to avoid being disconnected, the last day to contact Brawna at extension 224 is April 4.

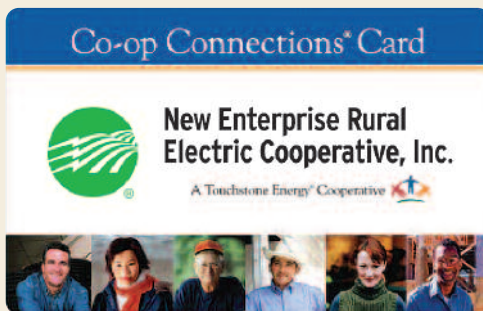
April 22 - Office is closed in observance of Good Friday.

April 27 - Disconnect service for accounts with past due balances. If you need to make a payment arrangement to avoid being disconnected, the last day to contact Brawna at extension 224 is April 25.

April 28 - Regular payment and meter readings are due.

### Co-op Connections card savings

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative members saved \$2,852.62 on prescriptions by using their Co-op Connections card from October to December. This represents a 28 percent savings off of regular prescriptions. January savings were \$1,359.33, which was 41 percent. Remember, if you do not have prescription coverage or take medication that is not covered by insurance, make sure you show the pharmacist your Co-op Connections card. If you did not receive a card or have lost your card, please call Wendy at extension 230 to receive another card.



### APRIL ENERGYtip

Inexpensive and simple-to-install, low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators can reduce home water consumption and water heating costs by as much as 50 percent.

Simply installing a high-efficiency showerhead and faucet aerator will save about 7,800 gallons of water per year in an average household. An easy-to-install faucet aerator will reduce both the flow rate (from 4 to 7 gallons per minute to 1 to 2.75 gallons per minute) and splashing while increasing areas of coverage. This conserves water and improves faucet performance at the same time. Low-flow heads save more than 12 gallons per shower (a savings of 44 percent over non-conserving showerheads). Ultra-low-flow heads conserve even more, using only .8 to 1.5 gallons per minute, reducing the average five-minute shower's water use from 40 to 7.5 gallons.



# Home improvement time – think before you dig

**WHETHER IT'S** a dream deck addition or a landscaping masterpiece, construction projects often are undertaken in the summer.

But if your planned projects include digging — like planting a tree or bringing in a backhoe for trench work — you'll have to wait a few more days so the job can be done safely. Under-

ground utilities, such as buried gas, water, and electric lines, can be a shovel thrust away from turning a summer project into a disaster.



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

To find out where utility lines run on your property, dial 811 from anywhere in the country a few days prior to digging. Your call will be routed to the Pennsylvania One Call center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing, and affected local utilities will be notified.


In a few days, a locator will arrive to designate the approximate location of any underground lines, pipes and cables with flags or marking paint so you'll know what's below. Then the safe digging can begin.

Although many homeowners tackling do-it-yourself digging projects are aware of "Call Before You Dig" services, the majority don't take advantage of the service. A national survey showed that only 33 percent of homeowners called to have their lines marked before starting digging projects, according to the Common Ground Alliance, a federally mandated group of underground utility and damage prevention industry professionals.

Although light gardening typically doesn't call for deep digging, other seemingly simple tasks like planting shrubs or installing a new mailbox post can damage utility lines. A severed line can disrupt service to an entire neigh-

borhood, harm diggers, and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. There's no need: the 811 service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities

interrupted, and can help you avoid serious injury. For more information about local services, visit [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com). 



## Retirement and promotions

After serving 27 years with New Enterprise REC, Leslie Zimmerman, outside operations manager, will be retiring effective April 22. Rod Decker, former crew chief, will be taking over the outside operations manager position. Rod has 24 years of service with New Enterprise REC. John Colyer, who has 17 years of service, will be the new crew chief.

Zimmerman started at the co-op as a lineman/meter reader on Aug. 28, 1983. He reports that he has seen a lot of changes over the years, improvements in the building and with the system. However, he notes that changes in this electronic age have seemed harder rather than easier in recent years.

"Being able to restore power during storms and knowing the customer satisfaction was very rewarding and enjoyable," Zimmerman adds.

He says he will miss his fellow coworkers and office staff, but he is looking forward to fishing, boating, hunting, working in his local church, helping with the local food bank and traveling with his wife, Sandy, during his retirement years.

Decker also started as a lineman/meter reader. He is looking forward to the challenges his new position will offer. His goal is to follow in Zimmerman's footsteps as outside operations manager. Best wishes to Rod and John with their new positions and happy "golden years" to Les.



**STAFF CHANGES:** Leslie Zimmerman, left, is retiring as outside operations manager. Rod Decker, center, former crew chief, will be taking over as outside operations manager, and John Colyer, right, will be the new crew chief.

# KIDZCORNER



## Groundhog Job Shadow Day

On Feb. 4, in the spirit of Punxsutawney Phil, New Enterprise REC participated in the 13th annual Groundhog Job Shadow Day.

Jori Houck, an eighth-grader at Northern Bedford Middle School, is the daughter of Ron and Vanessa Houck of Hopewell. Ron, our technical services representative, takes care of our AMI meter services, mapping, right-of-way clearances and disconnects.

Jori discovered that the co-op has a phenomenal amount of software. New Enterprise REC's AMI meters are all computerized and digital. Information downloads to a computer server and then transfers to our billing department. All employees can then access this information to use in their day-to-day operations.



**THIS IS WHAT I DO:** Ron Houck, technical services representative, demonstrates part of his job to his daughter, Jori.

"By learning how to operate systems such as these, we are preparing ourselves for the future generation of employers," Jori says.

Jori, who realizes there is more to a co-op job than just sitting at a desk all day long, says, "Without talented and dedicated employees, we wouldn't be where we are today."

### WHAT IS JOB SHADOW DAY?

Job Shadow Day is a nationwide effort to introduce young people to the world of work by giving them an up-close look at the workplace.

Many middle school and high school students have not had the opportunity to explore various career options by visiting a workplace. In 1996, the first local Job Shadow Day was conducted in Boston. In 1997, the National Job Shadow Coalition was formed to encourage participation in a shadowing initiative across the United States. The goal was to help young people explore the skills and education needed to succeed in today's and future job markets, and to encourage the development of relationships between students and caring adults. Given the current economy, students need these valuable experiences more than ever.

Job shadowing enhances students' career awareness and career planning, and it provides the business community with an opportunity to invest in the future by helping youth explore careers and see the value of education.