New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

3596 Brumbaugh Road
P.O. Box 75
New Enterprise, PA 16664-0075
814/766-3221 • 1- 800-270-3177
FAX 814/766-3319
Website:
www.newenterpriserec.com

FROM THE MANAGER/CEO

Interested in a seat on your co-op board?

Rick L. Eichelberger
General Manager & CEO

MORE THAN 70 years ago, local residents wanted the convenience of electricity. However, private power companies weren't interested in providing power to these rural people. Why? There were no profits for their stockholders.

So area residents organized to provide the wonder of electricity themselves. New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. (New Enterprise REC), a not-for-profit business, was established by members to serve members.

The territory served by New Enterprise REC is divided into eight director areas. Each area has a near equal amount of consumer-members and is represented by a director selected by the membership.

The eight-member board of directors acts as trustees on behalf of the cooperative's consumer-members. Directors ensure your cooperative is operating in your best interest. Today, the election of directors is still a very important part of every annual meeting.

When you become a consumer-member of New Enterprise REC, you share in the benefits and responsibilities of the cooperative. You have a say in how this utility operates.

New Enterprise REC doesn't have stockholders who are interested in lining their pockets. The cooperative's main concern is providing reliable electric service at the lowest cost possible.

The areas with directors up for re-election this year are Areas 1, 2 and 5. Directors currently representing these areas are: John R. Dively in Area 1 since 1997, Robert L. Guyer in Area 2 since 1956, and David A. Bequeath in Area 5 since 2004.

Area 1 includes portions of Bloomfield, Woodbury and South Woodbury townships in Bedford County, including Bakers Summit, Lafayetteville, Route 867 to Muley Lane and Middle Ridge Road.

Area 2 includes portions of Bloomfield, Woodbury and South Woodbury townships in Bedford County, including Hickory Bottom, Pulpit Road, Woodbury Pike and Frosty Hollow.

Area 5 includes mostly Hopewell Township in Bedford County, including Recreational Drive, Piper Hill Road, Plank Road to Tatesville, Brallier Station Road and along Route 26 from Cottle's Corner to the Tatesville area.

If you are a full-time resident of any of the listed areas and are interested in becoming a director candidate, contact or stop by the cooperative office and we can discuss the process. Not sure which area you are located in? A detailed map is available at the office for your review.

If being a director doesn't appeal to you, you still have an important role in the operation of the cooperative. You can nominate other consumer-members for a director position.

The bylaws of the cooperative outline the qualifications and procedure for the selection of directors. There are certain timeframes throughout the procedure that must be followed. The board of directors will select a Nominating Committee in March. The Nominating Committee will prepare a list of nominations and post it at the cooperative office by May 1. Any 15 or more consumer-members acting together may make additional nominations after the list is posted. Consumer-members attending the New Enterprise REC annual meeting may make additional nominations from the floor.

Short circuits: old wiring could be hazardous

RESIDENTIAL electrical wiring changed during the 20th century as new appliances appeared on the scene and electricity evolved from a luxury to a mainstay. More appliances at home led to safety improvements and an increased number of room outlets, leaving older home wiring to play catch-up. Although most older home electrical systems have been upgraded over the years, safety shortcomings may still exist. Since a third of American homes were built more than 50 years ago, home buyers and folks living in older homes should be aware of how wiring changed during the last century.

Electric capacity is a major concern with older wiring systems. Homeowners in the 1930s didn't use a lot of electrical appliances, except for a refrigerator, a few lights and a radio.

An explosion of appliance purchases followed in the late 1940s and early 1950s. But the arrival of air conditioning during the 1960s soon rendered many mid-century home electrical systems obsolete. More recently, residences built as little as 20 years ago might be insufficient for handling entertainment systems and personal computers.

Each year, household wiring and lighting cause an estimated average of 32,000 home fires. On average, these fires result in 950 injuries, 220 deaths and nearly $674 million in property damage, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

"Residential electrical systems are seldom inspected after they are installed and tend to be destroyed in house fires," explains John Drengenberg, consumer affairs manager for Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., (UL), an independent product safety testing and certification organization based in Chicago, Ill. "Homeowners should not assume all is well simply because fuses aren't blowing, circuit breakers tripping, or they're not receiving shocks or smelling burnt plastic. Inside the walls, wire insulation could be cracking and crumbling, especially if wires are drawing more current than they were designed to handle. The wood frame above plaster ceilings could also become charred by lightbulbs that are too close to the ceiling or higher in wattage than the light fixture's rating."

To avoid such hazards, consumers should understand the limits of home wiring systems. Often, this depends on when a home was built or if the electrical system was upgraded. In other cases, though, telltale signs may indicate a problem.

"Any time you receive a shock from an electrical appliance, outlet or wall switch in your home, it's a warning that you should talk with a qualified electrician," Drengenberg cautions. "If a fuse blows or a circuit breaker trips right after you replace or reset it, you have trouble somewhere. Flickering or dimming lights could mean loose connections, overloaded circuits, improper wiring, or arcing and sparking inside walls."

In older homes, heat means too much electrical current's being drawn through outlets.

"If your receptacles or plugs are hot to the touch — you can't keep your hand on them for more than five seconds — you may have an overload," Drengenberg advises.

When too much current gets drawn, wires heat up, baking and eventually weakening the insulation. Wires with damaged, decayed or brittle insulation can lead to shocks and fires.

Another issue associated with older home wiring systems is the number of receptacles in each room. Today's electrical code requires outlets be placed every 12 feet of running wall space, about one per wall in the average 10-by-12-foot room. Houses built before 1956 were required to have outlets placed every 20 feet, while homes built before 1935 weren't required to have wall outlets at all.

"Relying on extension cords is not the answer," notes Drengenberg. "Extension cords are meant for temporary use only and should not be a substitute for permanent wiring."

Proper grounding, meanwhile, prevents painful or even deadly electrical shocks when electricity flows through an improper path. Every home electrical system should have some type of grounding.

Newer homes are wired with cables that include a ground wire. The ground wire allows for use of three-pronged receptacles needed to power certain appliances, particularly ones with metal shells, such as refrigerators and washing machines.

Many wiring systems installed in the 1950s and earlier lacked a ground wire. Homes from this era boast only two-pronged outlets, unsuitable for many modern conveniences. Simply replacing two-pronged receptacles with three-pronged receptacles violates the National

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

In 2010 many state energy offices are offering consumers rebates when they replace old appliances with ENERGY STAR qualified ones. Find out what's available in our state at www.energysavers.gov/financial/70020.html.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Electrical Safety Code if no ground path exists.

In some cases, older homes may feature newer wiring systems. But the era when the wiring was upgraded impacts electrical limitations. Before buying a home, have someone certified in electrical work inspect the system to be safe. Visit www.inspectorseek.com for referrals.

Source: Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.

What to do in case of an outage

- Check your fuses or breakers.
- Check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
- Call New Enterprise REC at 814/766-3221 or 800/270-3177. During business hours, press 2 to report an outage. After hours, listen to the message for the phone number of the lineman on call.
- Have the following information ready: account name, location, telephone number and time the power went out.
- Let the co-op know if you saw any problems such as a broken pole, lines down, trees or limbs on the electric lines, etc.

Looking for *Penn Lines* articles

Do you know someone who you consider a hero? A person who is always helping others, served in our military or is involved in an organization helping children and adults? Maybe you are involved in an organization that is doing good things for others.

These are the types of articles we would like to be writing about. All we hear is bad news and how bad the world is. We need to be hearing all the good news and about the people and organizations that are working to make the world a better place.

Please call, stop by, send or email Brawna to give her your ideas and the name of the person to contact for the details for the story. Brawna's phone number is 814/766-3221 or 800/270-3177, extension 224. The email is bsell@newenterpriserec.com.

Wash clothes efficiently without getting caught in the spin cycle

Washing machines perform a fairly simple function – getting dirty clothes clean. Yet prospective buyers today can be overwhelmed with all of the different models and "bells and whistles" available – top-loading, front-loading, high-efficiency (HE), water saver, steaming and wrinkle removing, to name only a few.

Energy-efficient washing machines, easily identified by the Energy Star label, are a priority for any cost-conscious consumer's list. Approximately 93 percent of all American households have a clothes washer, adding up to 102 million clothes washers across America. About 9 million washing machines are sold each year – efficient models account for slightly more than one-third of sales.

Energy Star-rated washing machines cost slightly more than their less-efficient counterparts, anywhere from $400-$1,500, depending on other features selected. To get a handle on how much electricity a particular unit will draw, pay close attention to the yellow energy guide before making a purchase.

An energy-efficient washing machine can save the typical homeowner around $50 a year, or $540-$600 over the life of the appliance. Efficient machines also save more than 5,000 gallons of water annually. The energy and water efficiencies of clothes washers are measured according to their modified energy factor (MEF) and water factor (WF). These criteria generally limit Energy Star qualification to front-loading and advanced top-loading models.

Front-loading clothes washers use a horizontal or tumble-axis basket to lift and drop clothing into the water, instead of rubbing clothes around a central agitator in a full tub. These units use less energy than conventional clothes washers by reducing the amount of hot water needed to clean clothes. Front-loading models also squeeze more water out of clothes by using spin speeds that are two to three times faster than conventional washers, reducing both drying time and energy use.

Energy Star-qualified top-loading models typically use spray valves to rinse clothes, rather than a new tub of water. This method not only reduces the energy required for water heating, but typically saves an average of 15 gallons of water per wash, compared with conventional clothes washers.

Qualified top-loading models also boast sensors to monitor and adjust incoming water temperature. This keeps water hot enough to dissolve the detergent and provide high-performance cleaning, but cool enough to save energy and minimize hot water damage to fabrics. One limitation of efficient top-loading washers is that many models do not offer a high-temperature standard wash option.

By looking for the Energy Star logo and shopping at a store with knowledgeable staff, you should be able to leave with a new washing machine that will, over time, help pay for itself.

Source: NRECA's Cooperative Research Network

KIDZcorner

Save Energy

NOD'T ☐☐☐ ' ☐

KONW ☐☐☐☐

TAHW ☐☐☐☐

OYU ☐☐☐

TAWN ☐☐☐☐

TOU ☐☐☐

OF ☐☐

TEH ☐☐☐

GEFRAERIROTR ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

RO ☐☐

FEZERRE? ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐?

LOESC ☐☐☐☐☐

TEH ☐☐☐

RODO ☐☐☐☐

TUNLI ☐☐☐☐☐

OYU ☐☐☐

CEDDIE. ☐☐☐☐☐☐.

EB ☐☐

SWIE ☐☐☐☐

DAN ☐☐☐

VESA ☐☐☐☐

NYGREE! ☐☐☐☐☐☐!

Answer: Don't know what you want out of the refrigerator or freezer? Close the door until you decide. Be wise and save energy!

Don't Be Wasteful!

WEHN ☐☐☐☐

RINGUNN ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

ORYU ☐☐☐☐

HRSIHASEDW ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

BE ☐☐

RESU ☐☐☐☐

TI ☐☐

SI ☐☐

FLLU. ☐☐☐☐.

NOD'T ☐☐☐ ' ☐

TEASW ☐☐☐☐☐

GENYER ☐☐☐☐☐☐

RO ☐☐

RETWA. ☐☐☐☐☐.

Answer: When running your dishwasher, be sure it is FULL. Don't waste energy or water.