

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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

EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBER

814/766-3221
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FROM THE MANAGER/CEO

Copper thieves at large Members – we need your help!



Rick L. Eichelberger
General Manager & CEO

A VERY disturbing trend is happening all across the country. Thieves are breaking into electric facilities, including New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, and stealing copper wire.

Over the last two years, your cooperative has had copper wire thefts occurring and the problem is getting worse! It is happening all over the country and people

are dying during these acts. Fortunately, no one has died from stealing from New Enterprise REC — at least not yet.

Copper wire is being stolen from electric poles system-wide, including the Cypher area, Plank Road, Polecat Hollow, Hickory Bottom, Potter Creek, Bakers Summit, Cherry Grove and almost the entire Pinchot Road. . . the locations go on and on. The copper ground wire from the ground level to about eight feet high on the pole is being cut and removed.

Area scrap dealers are paying these thieves a few hundred dollars for stolen wire that creates thousands of dollars in damages to electric cooperative property. Laws are being crafted in the state Legislature to track where copper wire originates when taken to the scrap dealers. But in the meantime, every consumer-member of this cooperative pays to make the repairs these thieves create.

The copper thefts have now escalated to your cooperative's substations where short pieces of copper are removed from the ground grid. The integrity of the electric system is jeopardized when sections of copper are missing, and stealing the copper can easily kill the thief. Warning signs are placed on the fences surrounding all of our substations. These signs alert people of the danger that lies within the fenced area. The thief is at times only a few feet from high voltage wires and equipment that can kill instantly. Thieves apparently do not

know the danger of electricity. Just using a set of bolt cutters and cutting bare copper wire could electrocute someone.


In June, the Eichelbergertown substation along Route 26 east of Yellow Creek in Bedford County was broken into. During the investigation with the Pennsylvania State Police, it was determined that a dozen points within the fenced-in substation had pieces of copper cut away. Once again, a few hundred dollars worth of copper stolen was stolen, but it cost several thousand dollars to replace and repair the damage.

Again in July, Waterside substation along Route 36 in Bedford County was broken into with nearly identical damages as the Eichelbergertown substation break-in.

Hundreds of poles have had their grounds stolen and now two substations have had ground wires removed and damaged. These crimes must stop. Not only is it costing each of our consumer-members to repair the damages, but the criminals are risking their lives to receive a few hundred dollars from a scrap dealer for their stolen copper.

My plea is for you to contact the Pennsylvania State Police and the cooperative immediately when you see anyone suspiciously hanging around a utility pole or parked at a fenced-in substation. It might be a four-wheeler stopping alongside each electric pole or a vehicle stopped at a substation and later returning at night.

Please help our linemen and the state police who are involved in these cases by being another set of eyes and ears as these desperate people do these desperate acts. Who knows, these thieves could be consumer-members of New Enterprise REC and neighbors of ours. They are costing you money and may ultimately pay the price with their own life if not caught.

Be assured, New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative intends to prosecute to the fullest extent of the law when the thieves are caught. With your help, we will get this accomplished soon. 

Copper thieves at work



This photo shows the missing section of copper between the fence post and the ground grid.



This pole is located within the substation. A 4-foot section of wire is missing. One of our warning signs is attached to this pole.



Six staples lay at the bottom of this pole where copper was stolen. If you look closely, you can see the stub of the cut wire next to the ground wire.

SAVE TIME, CHECKS, POSTAGE AND GAS with New Enterprise REC's payment options.

- ▶ Auto Pay
- ▶ Recurring Credit Card
- ▶ Pay by phone with your credit or bank card or by check
- ▶ Pay through our website on e-bill

Payments and meter readings can be submitted through e-bill.

Call New Enterprise REC at 814/766-3221 or 800/270-3177 if you would like to sign up for Auto Pay or Recurring Credit Card. There is a form to complete for these payment options.



Go online for energy savings

WITH TODAY'S rising costs for gas, food, heating, etc., more and more people are looking for ways to save money. If you purchase an Energy Star refrigerator, would it really save you money? How long would it take to pay back the new insulation upgrade you have been thinking about? What about a new heating system? Would it save you money?

On July 30, 2008, New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative launched a new look to our website. Not only does the website have a new look, but it now has a powerful tool to help you understand energy and its use. Our website's main page — www.newenterpriserec.com — has a new feature called HOME ENERGY SUITE available to you 24/7. This new tool will help you make decisions about your energy use in the comfort of your home. When you click on this link, it will take you to a number of new functions designed to answer almost any energy question you may have, from how electric is delivered to your home, to how much you can save by changing a lightbulb.

Although I'm sure most of you will want to go directly to the energy calculator to see what changes will have the most effect on your monthly bill, the Fundamentals of Electricity section will help you get a better understanding of the basics — this is also a great section for students working on a report for school.

Throughout the HOME ENERGY LIBRARY, you will find sections on improving existing homes, planning for new homes and outdoor living.

The most popular section will undoubtedly be the calculators. The calculator's quick, one-screen form asks about two dozen questions about your home. Simply click to indicate your home's approximate square footage, age, number of occupants, fuel type and several other variables. Once you have finished entering your information, press "Calculate Your Base House Energy Use" to get an estimate of the monthly and annual energy use and costs for your home. Keep in mind, this total is including all fuel sources (such as the heating oil for the furnace, if that was selected) in



this calculation, not just the electric.

Now the fun begins. What changes would you like to consider? One easy step might be to reduce the temperature on your water heater. Try making that change on the calculator's drop-down menu and click "Calculate" again to see what you might save. To see more savings, adjust your heating settings down or cooling settings up, tighten up your home by reducing air leaks, adding insulation, installing storm windows, or changing out your heating system. Click "Calculate" after each change to see the difference in your monthly energy bill.

Once you've gotten a feel for your home's energy costs and what various changes might save, it's time to take a big-picture look at overall home energy use. Click on the chart to see what you are spending your money on.

As you are working with the calculator, you can click on any of the blue titles (such as "Water Heater Type") for more detailed information on the chosen subject. Information will be displayed to help you better understand that system, how it operates and what improvements

are possible.

In addition to the energy calculator, there are a number of functions built into the HOME ENERGY SUITE that you will want to explore. For quick tips on specific rooms of the home or appliances, go to the INTERACTIVE ENERGY HOME. This page allows you to click on specific rooms throughout the house to get detailed information on appliances in that room. Energy hogs can be discovered through this tool. By clicking on the kitchen, for instance, you will find information on the dishwasher, the refrigerator or the other kitchen appliances. While you are in this area be sure to look at the great tips for using the appliances more efficiently.

So there you have it. Try this new online tool next time you are surfing the net. It's available 24/7 and is just one more way New Enterprise REC is working to help you manage your home energy costs. If you do not have access to the internet, or have any questions, please stop by or contact our office at 814/766-3221 or 800/270-3177. Our employees will be happy to help. ☀

KIDZCORNER

Hey kids, check out our website, www.newenterpriserec.com. Not only does it have a new look, but now there is a section just for you. This section is called Kidz Korner, just like the *Penn Lines* section. Don't worry, it isn't all about learning. You can play games, print out coloring pages and do experiments, plus learn about electricity. There is so much information, you will be able to look at it for hours.



This section is more than just information related to electricity. It has information on natural gas, hydropower, coal, nuclear power, wind, solar and much more. You can calculate how much electricity your television uses, plus track electricity use for many other appliances. You will learn ways to help your family save money on their electric bill each month.

There are safety tips to help keep you, your family and friends safe around electricity. The "Play it Safe" section teaches you what to do in case of emergency. You will learn some lineman talk. Did you know that linemen call a bucket truck a cherry picker? Well, you will learn this plus more lineman talk on our website.

So the next time you are on the internet, check out this new section full of games, experiments and learning more about energy.

Photographers Needed

EACH MONTH, *Penn Lines* has a section called "Rural Reflections." This section displays photos taken by consumer-members just like you.

Should your photo be published, it will be entered into the 2008 "Rural Reflections" contest. The contest has five categories: most artistic, best landscape, best human subject, best animal and editor's choice. Winners of each of these categories will receive a \$75 prize.

So get those cameras out and start snapping away. Send your photos (no digital files) to: *Penn Lines* Photos, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1266. On the back of each photo, please include your name, address, telephone number and the name of the electric cooperative you are a consumer-member of.

