

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
7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBER

814/766-3221
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GUEST COLUMN

Upgrading Electric Service – Things You Should Know



by Ron Houck
Technical Service
Representative

WITH SPRING just around the corner many people are thinking about building a new home, adding a garage, or upgrading their current electric service. Before starting this work, there are some things you should know first.

Q: Do I need an electrical inspection on an upgrade of service?

A: In most cases an inspection is required. A service upgrade from 60 amps to 100 or 200 amps usually requires modification of everything from the panel box to the weather head. (See next page for electricians and inspection agencies.)

Q: Will New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) need to do any work when I upgrade my service?

A: Sometimes New Enterprise REC will need to install larger service wire.

Q: When should the service wires from the transformer to the house be replaced?

A: The secondary service wires should be replaced when damage is apparent, loads increase, or a service upgrade is performed.

Q: How do I have my meter base loosened to install siding? Can this be done on the same day?

A: The member must schedule an appointment with New Enterprise REC to disconnect the power. New Enterprise REC may be able to wait until siding is installed, otherwise a second trip later in the day will be necessary.

Q: Who is responsible for the wires running from my house to my sheds, barns, or other areas?

A: The overhead wire from the transformer to a meter location is the

responsibility of the cooperative. A meter location could be on a house, building, or pole near or between buildings. All service wires directed to other locations are the responsibility of the member.

Q: Can I place a permanent structure directly under New Enterprise REC's primary wires?

A: New Enterprise REC does not recommend building any structure beneath power lines. If a new structure is being built, it should have a minimum of 7.5 feet horizontal clearance and 12.5 feet vertical clearance. This information can be found in the National Electric Safety Code.

Q: How far can the disconnect base be from a mobile home?

A: A maximum of 30 feet.

Q: What size of disconnect box do I need for a mobile home?

A: 100 amp or 200 amp, depending on the loads within the home. Electric heat requires a 200-amp box.


Q: How deep does the cord running from the disconnect box to the mobile home need to be?

A: Members should check with an electrical inspector for the current requirements.

Q: Can a meter base be attached to a doublewide home?

A: It depends on the construction of the doublewide. An electrical inspector should be consulted in these cases.

Q: There is only power in half of my house. Would this be New Enterprise REC's problem?

A: It could be. Check your breakers or service disconnect first. If you have safely checked what you can with your equipment, call the office so one of our employees can check out the cooperative's equipment. An electrician may need to get involved to determine if the problem is believed to be inside the house. 

Electrical Inspectors

Below are the approved agencies for all townships/boroughs in the New Enterprise REC service territory. These may change from time to time.

For work completed in the following counties, call these agencies or inspectors:

Bedford County

Commonwealth Code Inspection Service, Inc.
9528 Lincoln Hwy, Suite 3
Bedford, PA 15522
814/624-0224

Fulton County

Commonwealth Code Inspection Service, Inc.
21939 Great Cove Rd
McConnellsburg, PA 17223
717/485-3295

Huntingdon County-Clay Township

Nelson Nead (Private 3rd party contractor)
814/448-3013

Huntingdon County-Wood Township

Guardian Inspection Services, Inc.
Tom Hagie
814/447-3901 or
814/643-3480

Electricians

B&B Electrical
B&B Service
Bob Dibert & Sons
Electrical Services - Dennis Hess
Fluke Electric - Wendell Fluke
Hite Electric - Jeff Hite
Keystone Electric - Brian Mellott
M & S Electric - Martin Steach
Manana Electric
Miller's
Tim Batzel
Zimmerman's Electrical - Clyde Zimmerman

814/259-3991
814/928-4766
814/239-8412
717/987-3796
814/766-3824
814/793-2620
717/485-3191
814/635-0580
814/224-5252
814/635-3094
814/766-2388
814/793-1870

Shade Gap
Hopewell
East Freedom
Orbisonia
Woodbury
Martinsburg
Hustontown
Saxton
Roaring Spring
Saxton
New Enterprise
Woodbury

PA Sales Tax



WE ARE REQUIRED to have a sales tax exemption certificate from all meters that aren't taxable. So how do you know if you are exempt? Here are a few reasons for being exempt.

- ▶ Primary residence
- ▶ Vacation home
- ▶ A vacant rental property that you do not plan on renting again.
- ▶ The property will be directly used by you in your: manufacturing, mining, farming, dairying, or ship-building operations, which are performed as a business.
- ▶ The property will be used for an organization or institutional activities by purchaser, which is a: religious organization, volunteer firemen's organization, non-profit educational organization, or a charitable organization holding a charitable exemption number.
- ▶ The property will be directly used by purchaser in the

production, delivery, or rendition of public utility service and/or construction, alteration or maintenance of public utility facilities other than buildings. Purchaser presently has on file with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission the following Tariff of Rates (Enter full designation of latest Tariff of Rates): _____

PA P.U.C. No. _____
Supplement _____

- ▶ Other purpose (Example: personal garage, shed, etc.)

These certificates are sent out approximately every three years. So it is time once again to send these certificates. Within the next few months, you will be receiving your certificate(s). Do not delay completing the certificate and getting it back to our office. If we don't receive your certificate back by the date listed in the letter, your account will be charged sales tax.

It is very important for you to return this certificate. If you have more than one meter, you will need to complete a certificate for each meter. Please call our office with any questions you may have.

Reading Your Electric Meter

AT A FLICK OF A SWITCH, we have the wonder of electricity. However, each time that switch is turned on, the meter at your home or business spins. That's why reading your meter on a monthly basis is a smart idea.

It's easy to read your meter. No mat-



ter what your meter looks like, you read it the same—left to right. Some meters have four digits, some five. Be sure to include all the numbers displayed when reporting your meter reading.

Many accounts have their electric use

estimated each month because we don't receive a meter reading. Meter readings can be estimated for two consecutive months. If a reading doesn't come in the third month, we will read the meter and charge \$20 per meter. At times the computer has underestimated for two months and this third month's bill is very large.

To prevent fluctuations in your billing, pick a day and read your meter on that day each month. This will give you a more consistent billing period. You can read your meter any day throughout the month as long as the reading is submitted before the billing due date. Some people like to read their meter when the billing statement comes in the mail. This is a good reminder. You can read your meter at the beginning of the month and pay the bill later if you wish. Others mark their reading date on their calendar for the year.

There are a number of ways to submit your reading to us.

- ▶ Write it on your billing statement in the areas provided in the upper right hand corner.
- ▶ Call our office at 814/766-3221 or 1-800-270-3177, 24 hours, 7 days a week. Press option 1 for the meter reading mailbox. Leave your account name, meter reading, date read and a daytime phone number. If you have multiple

meters, we need all meter numbers.

- ▶ Go to our Web site: www.newenterpriserec.com
- ▶ Fax the reading to 814/766-3319
- ▶ Stop by the office and hand deliver it.

Another important reason to read your meter monthly is: if you have an appliance that is not working properly, you can find out quicker. As an example, should an element in your hot water heater burn out, you would want to know as soon as possible. The sooner you find the problem, the more money you will save. As your reading is entered into our computer system, an alert is given for high or low use. When the computer alerts us, we can try to get in touch with you to double check the reading. If the reading is correct, we can give you suggestions on where to begin looking for the problem.

It is especially important for new consumer-members to read their meter. If no readings come in for a new account, the computer doesn't have any history to get an estimate from. Therefore, the use is estimated at zero. Then, when the third month rolls around, the electric use is normally very high.

If you have any questions concerning your meter readings, please call our office. ☎

New Office Addition Open

The new office addition is now open for business. When coming to our office, you will now use the entrance on the side of the building facing New Enterprise.

Now that we are moved into the new section, remodeling will be done in the old office area.



HELP NOW GIVE BLOOD

You can help your family, friends and neighbors by giving the gift of life at the following locations:

- ▶ Feb. 22, 2007, at the Loysburg Lions Club, Loysburg, from 12 to 6 p.m.
- ▶ Feb. 28, 2007, at the Northern Bedford County High School, 152 NBC Drive, Loysburg, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

KIDZCORNER



Smile! It's Dental Health Month!

Your smile is one of the first things people notice about you so you should do your best to take care of it! Taking care of your teeth is easy! Good oral hygiene can prevent cavities and gum disease, plus it keeps your mouth and teeth looking, feeling, and smelling their best.

Here are a few simple rules to follow:

- ➡ Brush twice a day for at least five minutes.
- ➡ Use a soft brush and replace it promptly when it's worn out.
- ➡ Floss every day.
- ➡ See your dentist for a cleaning at least twice a year.

The shell of an egg is similar to the outer layer of enamel on your teeth. With the help of an adult, make some hard-boiled eggs and you can use them to see how some foods and drinks can stain teeth. Soak each egg overnight in beverages such as red fruit punch, grape juice, orange pop, cola, or tea. The next day, remove the eggs and see if the shells have been stained by the beverages. Try gently brushing the eggs with a toothbrush and toothpaste. Can you remove the stains?



What is Plaque?

Plaque is a soft, sticky coating on the teeth made of bacteria and food particles. Some of the bacteria in the plaque make acids, which decay your teeth and cause cavities. The best way to remove the plaque is to brush and floss.

Chewing sugarless gum can also help eliminate small pieces of food stuck in your teeth. It also helps prevent plaque build-up.