


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
Web site:
www.newenterpriserec.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Leroy D. Walls, President
Harry Johnson, Vice President
John R. Dively, Secretary
Robert Guyer, Asst. Secretary
Dean Brant, Treasurer
David Bequeath
Timothy Newman
Ellis Sollenberger

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBER

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

FROM THE MANAGER/CEO

Interested in a seat on your board of directors?



Rick L. Eichelberger
General Manager & CEO

NEARLY 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. (REC), a not-for-profit business, was established by members to serve members.

The territory served by New Enterprise REC was divided into eight areas with one director representing each area. This system has remained in place over the years.

The eight-member board of directors acts as trustee on behalf of the cooperative's consumer-members. Directors ensure your cooperative is operating in the best interest for you, the consumer-member. 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 seeking profits. The cooperative's main concern is providing reliable electric service at the lowest cost possible.

As a consumer-member of the cooperative, you are eligible to run for director. The areas up for re-election this year are Areas 1, 2, and 5. Directors currently representing these areas are: John Dively in Area 1 since 1997, Robert Guyer in Area 2 since 1956, and David Bequeath in Area 5 since 2004.

AREA 1 can be described as portions of Bloomfield, Woodbury, and South Woodbury townships in Bedford County, including Bakers Summit, Lafayetteville, Rt. 867 to Muley Lane, and Middle Ridge Road.

AREA 2 can be described as portions of Bloomfield, Woodbury, and South Woodbury townships in Bedford County, including Hickory Bottom, Pulpit Road, Woodbury Pike, and Frosty Hollow.

AREA 5 can be described as mostly Hopewell Township in Bedford County, including Recreational Drive, Piper Hill Road, Plank Road to Tatesville, Brallier Station Road, and along Rt. 26 from Cottle's Corner area to Tatesville area.

If you live any of these three areas and are interested in becoming a director candidate, contact or stop by the cooperative office and speak to Rick L. Eichelberger, General Manager/CEO. Not sure of the 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 time frames throughout the procedure that must be followed. The board of directors will select a Nominating Committee in April. The Nominating Committee will prepare a list of nominations and post it at the cooperative office in May. Any 15 or more 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. ☀

Make safety a priority

BY BRAWNA L. SELL

WITH WARMER WEATHER near, many people are planning for construction of new homes, barns, and other structures. Don't forget one very important part of your building project — overhead electrical wires. One of the best ways to avoid an accident is to think ahead. As you plan your job, take a moment to identify any potential hazards. Are you working near overhead wires? Could there be cable buried nearby?



HOT STUFF: Eight of the truck tires were ruined by the electrical contact. This accident could have been much worse.

Remember, electricity travels at the speed of light, about 186,000 miles per second. At that speed, you don't get a warning. There is no time to react. This is why it is important to respect electricity each and every time you use it or work around it.

Overhead electrical wires can cause injury or death if not treated with care. Remember to always contact New Enterprise REC at least a week before starting any project close to overhead wire. Our crews can come to your property and make the area safe for a crane or boom truck to operate. If you are digging, you are required by law to contact Pennsylvania One Call. By calling them, all utilities in the area will locate and mark their underground facilities. Pennsylvania One Call's phone number is 1-800-242-1776.

Electricity always travels to the ground and will follow the path of least resistance to get there. If a conductor of electricity becomes available, the electricity will follow that path to ground. Tools, equipment, and your body (which is

approximately 70 percent water), are excellent conductors. Becoming part of the path to the ground can not only damage your equipment but, more importantly, it can cause personal injury or death.

Electric contacts aren't just dangerous for the operator of the equipment, but anyone standing near the energized equipment. The earth surrounding the energized equipment is also energized for a certain distance around the contact. If you are close to the energized area, you should move out of the area by shuffling your feet.

In September 2006 a boom operator was setting trusses at a local farm when the boom came in contact with our overhead lines. The operator pulled the boom lever back, which pulled the boom away from the lines. After pulling the lever, he jumped from the truck.

The landowner then asked us to cover the lines. At this point we didn't know there had been contact with our overhead wires. When Leslie Zimmerman, our outside operation manager, arrived, the boom was only inches away from the overhead wires. The truck was sitting on eight tires ruined by fire, which went out on its own. Thankfully, the operator wasn't injured and the tires were the only thing damaged.

Les then called our linemen to come



SHOCKING: Water should not be put out an electrical fire.

and make the site safe. Meanwhile, he used the appropriate equipment to hold the line back from the boom to prevent further accidents.

Once our crews arrived, they covered up the lines with rubber line guards that made the area safe to work in.

This situation could have been a very deadly accident in more ways than one. Fortunately, no one was touching the truck



SAFETY FIRST: Special cover-up material is used to cover energized lines to prevent an accident. This cover-up was placed on the wires once the cooperative was contacted.

when the boom came in contact with the lines and the operator knew to jump from the truck and not to climb down.

If an accident happens

If you are operating a crane, back hoe, or other vehicle that comes in contact with an energized power line, do the following: **Stay on equipment.** Don't touch equipment and ground at the same time. In fact, touching anything in contact with the ground can be fatal.

Keep others away. Warn everyone not to touch the equipment or its load. That means buckets, outriggers, load lines, and any other part of the machine.

Beware of time-delayed relays. Even after line damage trips breakers, relays may still try to restore power. They may reset automatically two or three times.

Call for help. Get someone to call New Enterprise REC. Stay on the equipment until we shut down the line and confirm that the power is off. Report every incident of power line contact so that we can check for damage that could cause the line to fall later. Call 911 if anyone is injured.

Jump clear. If an emergency such as fire forces you to leave the equipment, jump clear. If part of your body contacts the ground while another part touches the machine, current will travel through you. In cases of high-voltage contact, jump clear and shuffle away in small steps. With voltage degree of differences across the ground, one foot may be in a higher voltage area than the other. The difference could kill you.

Remember, don't risk your life or injury; call New Enterprise REC at least a week in advance when doing a project near our electrical lines. ⚡

Can we count on you?

BY RON HOUCK, TECHNICAL SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE

Residential consumer surveys will be randomly distributed to approximately 678 consumer-members in the upcoming weeks.

We would appreciate it if you take the time to complete the survey. The information is very valuable to the directors and employees of your cooperative.

The survey is a requirement of the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), a vital arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The survey is updated and distributed every five years.

The resulting information from the survey creates a profile of electric use and lifestyles across rural America. Some questions, for example, ask about methods of heating and cooling and even the use of media resources in your area.

Recipients of the survey will notice a cover letter from the cooperative encouraging consumer-members to participate by returning a separate postcard with their name and address to the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA) for a chance to receive a \$50 bill credit in appreciation for completing the survey.

During the 2002 and 1997 surveys, New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative consumer-members' response rates were at or near the top of Pennsylvania and New Jersey cooperatives.

Let us continue that tradition of member participation. We know that you are "Members We Can Count On!"

Disconnection to resume

DURING THE WINTER MONTHS, New Enterprise REC doesn't disconnect accounts that are past due. However, we do install service load limiters to control the amount of electricity used in a home. These limiters are installed on a meter base behind the meter. They have a circuit breaker that will open, turning off the electricity if the electric load in the house exceeds the allowable load. We use these limiters during the winter months because they will allow the furnace to run in a home.

Starting in April, disconnection will resume. Disconnect notices will be printed in March with an April disconnect date on them.

If you are unable to pay the full past-due balance, call Brawna at extension 224 immediately to set up an agreement. A signed written agreement must be in our office before the disconnect date. Therefore, don't wait until a few days before the disconnect date to call the office. It is best to call as soon as you get the billing statement or the disconnect notice. This gives us enough time to get the agreement to you and for you to return it to our office. Should the signed agreement not be in our office before the disconnect date, disconnect will occur. All names on the account must sign the agreement. Disconnection will not occur as long as you have a signed agreement and payments are made as stated.

The County Energy Assistance offices are scheduled to remain open until March 22, 2007. You may wish to contact your county office at the telephone numbers listed below:

Bedford County Energy Assistance
814/623-6127 or 800-542-8584

Fulton County Energy Assistance
717/485-3151 or 800-222-8563

Huntingdon County Energy Assistance
814/643-1170 or 800-237-7674

HELP NOW GIVE BLOOD

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

- ▶ March 16, 2007, at the Saxton Fire Hall, Saxton, from 1 to 7 p.m.
- ▶ March 19, 2007, at the Everett Grace Brethren Church, 14 West Main St., Everett, from 12 to 6 p.m.
- ▶ March 28, 2007, at the Bedford UPMC Memorial, 10455 Lincoln Highway, Everett, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



KIDZcorner

There are several important rules to follow while playing outside. See if you can unscramble these safety messages.

1. plugs, never, cords, with, play, switches,

_____ _____ _____ electrical
_____, wires, _____, or _____.

2. adult, away, lines, fallen, fallen, power, an, you, a, if

Stay _____ from _____
_____, Tell _____ _____
_____ see _____ _____ line.

3. bathtub, hairdryer, or, television, or, electrical, sink, a, an, or, a, never

_____ use _____ _____
play _____ _____ radio _____
_____ near _____ _____
_____.

4. stay, before, nearby, a, up, the, power, climb, or, look, away, tree, is, a

_____ you _____ _____
tree _____ _____ if _____
_____ line _____ _____
_____ touching, _____ _____
from _____ _____.

5. are, hands, never, runs, your, on, anything, electricity,

_____ touch _____ that _____
_____ when _____ _____
_____ wet.

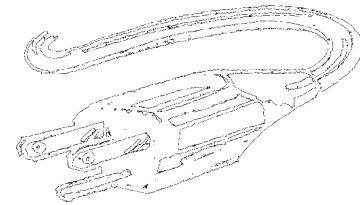
6. overhead, kites, open, in, never, park, model, and, a, electrical, wide, or

Fly _____ _____ _____
airplanes _____ _____ _____
_____ field _____ _____
_____ near _____ _____
wires.

Can you do number 7 without any help?

7. towers, utility, never, electrical, climb, poles, or

_____ _____ _____ _____
_____ _____ _____ _____



Answers:

1. Never play with electrical cords, wires, switches, or plugs.
2. Stay away from fallen power lines. Tell an adult if you see a fallen line.
3. Never use a hairdryer or play an electrical radio or television near a bathtub or sink.
4. Before you climb a tree, look up. If a power line is nearby or touching, stay away from the tree.
5. Never touch anything that runs on electricity when your hands are wet.
6. Fly kites and model airplanes in a wide open field or park—never near overhead electrical wires.
7. Never climb utility poles or electrical towers.