

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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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

Celebrate your co-op during National Cooperative Month



Rick L. Eichelberger
General Manager & CEO

COOPERATIVES like New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) have a special place in history. October is National Cooperative Month, a perfect time to celebrate that history.

So what is a cooperative? Cooperatives are businesses, but they have some unique qualities that set them apart. They are owned by their members — those

who receive their services or buy their products. Co-op consumer-members don't just buy services or products, they are actual owners. They are governed by a board of directors, which is elected by those members. Co-ops' goals are different than those of for-profit businesses. For-profit businesses are concerned about making money for their stockholders. Cooperatives are in business to supply people with a reliable service or product at the lowest probable cost.

New Enterprise REC is one of 860 rural electric cooperatives in the United States that provide electricity to nearly 40 million people in 47 states. But electric co-ops are not the only co-ops. Co-ops exist in agriculture, healthcare, insurance and every other industry, providing services worldwide to 730 million members. In fact, several Fortune 500 companies, like ACE Hardware, are co-ops.

Early in the 1900's, the U.S. Congress

confirmed cooperatives' role in the mainstream of American business. Today, cooperative businesses play an important part in our economy. As we look around, we can see many examples of how different cooperatives have given to their communities.

Co-ops generally form when the marketplace cannot provide needed services or goods at reasonable prices. Electric co-ops came about in this way. Investor-owned utilities didn't want to provide rural areas with electricity because it wasn't profitable. New Enterprise REC brought power to its first consumer-members in 1938.

Some people still remember the days when New Enterprise REC brought power to them. You may not remember those days. It's very likely that you have never known life without power. But it doesn't matter if you know what it is like to live without electricity or have had the convenience of electricity all your life, you still have reason to celebrate because you are a consumer-member of a rural electric cooperative that prides itself on the service it provides, not the profit it makes.

Business trends go up and down. Fads and fashions come and go, but rural electric cooperatives are here for the long haul. We have served Bedford, Fulton and Huntingdon counties for 69 years and plan on serving these same areas far into the future. ☀



Winterize now for savings, safety

ENERGY DOLLARS can pour out of homes through drafty doors and windows and un-insulated attics, walls, floors, and basements. Take this opportunity to improve your home's efficiency and safety at the same time.

Many winterizing steps can pay for themselves relatively fast with heating bill savings. Weather stripping and caulking are inexpensive ways to boost efficiency and cut energy costs. Don't overlook simple steps, like making sure furnace filters are changed monthly. If you have indoor pets, you may need to change filters more often. Furnaces run longer and work harder to move air through dirty filters. A clean furnace filter can mean double-digit savings on the heating bill.

Along with reducing your heating costs, you can also eliminate electrical fire and shock risks as you winterize your home. As you are looking around for air leaks, look for overloaded outlets and cover plates that are warm to the touch.

Below are some tips to help you reduce costs and improve home safety:

- ▶ Find air leaks both inside and around the exterior of the home. Just wet your fingertips and run them around the door or window frame to feel a draft — or hold up a tissue and see if it waves. Check around fixtures that penetrate walls, such as exhaust fans and electrical outlets. Look for unfilled gaps and cracks near dryer vents, chimneys and faucet pipes.
- ▶ Seal leaks between moving parts such as doors with weather stripping. Fill leaks between non-moving parts like window frames or walls with caulking.
- ▶ Replace screens with storm windows and doors. Double-paned glass plays an important role in reducing heat loss. Double-paned windows can reduce heating bills by 34 percent in cold climates compared to uncoated, single-

pane windows. If you have older or leaky windows that you can't replace, consider temporary fixes, such as plastic film kits that create the effect of an interior storm window.

- ▶ Make sure attics and flooring above unheated spaces, such as crawl space and garage, are appropriately insulated.
- ▶ Have your furnace checked by a professional to make sure it's operating safely and at its highest efficiency. Consider replacing your furnace if it's more than 30 years old. Furnaces over 30 years old are usually less than 50 percent energy efficient.

Electrical safety checklist:

- ▶ Check outlets and extension cords to make sure they aren't overloaded.
- ▶ Examine electrical cords to make sure they aren't frayed, damaged or placed under rugs or carpets.
- ▶ Make sure that the proper wattage lightbulbs are being used in light fixtures. Screw bulbs in securely. Loose bulbs may overheat and burn shades, drapes or nearby furniture.
- ▶ Look for these signs of electrical problems: switch plates, outlet covers, cords and plugs that are warm to the touch; cut, broken or cracked insulation on electric wiring; or frequently blown fuses or tipped circuit breakers. If these signs are present, you need a safety inspection by a licensed professional.
- ▶ Make sure outlets in wet locations such as bathrooms, kitchen, laundry and outdoors have ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Test them and reset them monthly. If these outlets don't have GFCIs, have them professionally installed.
- ▶ Test your smoke detector batteries. 🔋



Thanks for doing the Electric Shift

BY BY RON HOUCK
Technical Services Representative

YOU PROBABLY HEARD TV and radio ads or read billing insert and articles in *Penn Lines* describing our “Electric Shift” initiative this summer. Our Web site, www.newenterpriserec.com, also showed a scrolling alert on days where high regional electrical demand was anticipated.

Thank you for participating in the Electric Shift. Your efforts helped reduce our future wholesale power costs. Your cooperative’s electrical load at our three substations was recorded during weekdays where heavy electrical demand occurred within our regional transmission grid. Generally, extended hot, humid weather in the Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, New Jersey and New York City areas, in addition to our own areas, trigger the “Electric Shift” ads.

We ask consumer-members to participate in doing the “Electric Shift” due to the way our wholesale power bill is calculated. The five hours of highest weekday electrical demand during the period of June 1 to Sept. 30 are used to determine our average demand contribution to the regional transmission grid. Saturdays and Sundays are not part of the equation. The lower we keep our demand over these anticipated five hours, the lower a specific portion of your cooperative’s power bill will be the following year. While we are not rewarded with discounted power for reducing demand, we do keep from being penalized.

Remember, the Electric Shift will return next year, so be prepared to take note of hot and humid summertime weather patterns. Please call Extension 227 at our office if you have any questions about doing the Electric Shift.

Preparing for winter storms

Winter storms may seem far off, but it is never too early to get prepared. Below is a list of helpful items to have in case of an outage. Most of these items can be used whether it is cold or hot out.

Light – Secure flashlights, battery-powered lanterns and extra batteries. Avoid light sources that require a flame or fire.

Water – If you depend on a well, you’ll need to fill bathtubs or other large containers for household use, like flushing toilets. Fill clean pitchers or jugs for drinking water. If you have livestock or poultry, secure a stand-by generator to run the well.

Food – Nonperishable foods that don’t need cooking are ideal, like canned fruit, powdered milk, peanut butter, bread and crackers. Don’t forget a manual can opener!

If there’s room, fill plastic containers (e.g. rinsed-out milk jugs) with water beforehand and put inside your refrigerator and freezer. The jugs take the space of air that warms quickly, and also provide cooling.

Heat – Have blankets, sleeping bags and extra clothes, including hats. If you have a fireplace, make sure there’s kindling and a good supply of wood. Be extremely careful when using alternate heating sources. Some are not approved for indoor use and could be a fire or carbon monoxide hazard. Make sure your fire extinguisher is charged and working.

Information – Get a portable AM/FM radio with extra batteries for local information and an NOAA Weather Radio for weather warnings. A wind-up or battery-powered alarm clock might come in handy, too. Cordless phones don’t work without power, so have at least one wired phone available. Remember to charge your cell phone in case phone lines go out.

Medical – Have a contingency plan in place for patients who have a medical necessity for electricity. This includes backup power, extra medical supplies or an alternate location until the outage is over. Make sure supplies of prescription drugs are adequate and have a first-aid kit.

Co-op notes

- ▶ This month’s due date will be Oct. 23, not the 28th as normal. We are converting computer systems and need this extra time to ensure all records are correct. The due date will go back to the 28th in November.
- ▶ All accounts with a disconnection notice must have the total past due balance in the office before the 23rd to avoid disconnection. Should you not be able to pay the entire past due amount, call to set up arrangements with Brawna at extension 224. Be sure to call far enough in advance so the necessary paperwork can be mailed to you and returned to the co-op before the 23rd.
- ▶ Would you like to help families who are having trouble paying their electric bill? Why not sign up for our Family in Need Fund. The form is included in this *Penn Lines*.

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.

KIDZCORNER CHRISTMAS CARD CONTEST

Once again, we are looking for young artists. This year we will be doing something similar to last year, but this time we would like to have Christmas cards designed. We will pick five different designs and have our cards printed from these. These Christmas cards will be sent to other cooperatives and to companies we purchase supplies from.

The contest is open to anyone under 18 years old. Please send your designs to:

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, c/o Brawna L. Sell, P.O. Box 75, New Enterprise, PA 16664-0075.

On the back of the card, please write the following information:

-  First name only
-  Your age
-  Parents' names
-  Phone number
-  Mailing Address

When the cards are printed, the only information printed on the back of the card will be your first name and age. We will not print any personal information. This information is for our use only.

All designs must be in New Enterprise REC's office on or before Nov. 16, 2007. Prizes will be given to each person whose card is chosen.

If you have any questions, please call Brawna at extension 224.

Sign up for the FAMILY IN NEED FUND

The FAMILY IN NEED FUND is a program that helps families in need of hardship assistance. The Center for Community Action determines eligibility for services from the FAMILY IN NEED FUND. Your contribution to this worthy program assists ONLY New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative consumer-members. Consumer-members volunteering for this round-up program agree to have their monthly bill rounded up to the nearest dollar, with the extra few cents going to the FAMILY IN NEED FUND. This tax-deductible donation will amount to less than \$1 a month. The billing statement you receive in January will have the total amount of contributions for the previous year. This can be used when filing your income tax return.

To join the FAMILY IN NEED FUND just complete and send in the coupon below and mark the appropriate box.

Should you not want to have your monthly bill rounded up to the nearest dollar, but would like to contribute a lump sum amount, complete all the areas listed below EXCEPT the Account Number(s) area. Also mark the appropriate box.

Please do not return the coupon if you do not wish to participate.

FAMILY IN NEED FUND NEW ENTERPRISE RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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YES, I wish to participate in the "round-up" program for New Enterprise REC's **FAMILY IN NEED FUND**. I understand my monthly electric bill will be rounded up to the nearest dollar with the extra cents going to the **FAMILY IN NEED FUND**. This will be effective with the next billing.

No, I do not wish to have my monthly electric bills rounded up, but enclosed is a lump sum donation of \$ _____. This is a one-time donation. When making a lump sum donation, please mark **FAMILY IN NEED FUND** on the check.

Account Name: _____ **Account Number(s):** _____
(as printed on bill) (list all accounts that you wish to be rounded up)

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ **Date:** _____

Make checks payable to: NEW ENTERPRISE REC