



TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

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Monday-Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

FEMA Rebuild Update

Twin Valley has begun the rebuilding of distribution lines in our southern territory from the December 2007 ice storm. Twin Valley will start putting an updated chart in the magazine each month informing the membership of the rebuild.

Summer Rate in Effect

We would like to remind our members that our summer rates go into effect on your July bill. These rates are in effect from June 1-Sept 30.

FROM THE MANAGER

SEO Announces Energy Efficiency Loan Program

Energy efficiency—the buzzword of the late 1970s and early '80s—has become a hot topic once again. Several programs included in the recently enacted economic stimulus legislation include funding for making energy efficiency improvements to your home, and there are numerous national groups dedicated to promoting the concept. A number of tax credits exist that will help with the installation of efficient appliances, insulation, insulated windows, etc.

We have met with the Kansas Corporation Commission's State Energy Office (SEO) representatives recently to learn more about a low-interest revolving loan program for energy-efficiency that they will be announcing this month.

The program will be funded with roughly \$35 million from the federal stimulus legislation. The intent of this program is to make zero or low-interest loans available for making individual homes more energy efficient. The homeowner or renter will have to undergo an energy audit which will provide a customized energy conservation proposal. The SEO would provide the funds to pay for the improvements needed and the payments for the loans would be financed through the savings in energy costs. The SEO believes this program will allow many residents to begin saving energy dollars and improving their homes without the need for a mortgage on their home.

They are designing the program so that it can be accessed either through banks willing to partner with the SEO or with utilities who offer How\$mart™-type programs. If Twin Valley is to offer the program, the SEO expects us to administer and operate the program with our own resources and with no reimbursement or financial assistance. We would have to schedule approved energy auditors and identify contractors to perform the work. We would also be expected to collect the payments for the loans and remit them to the SEO monthly. We are reviewing this program to determine how fully we can participate in it. If there is a great benefit to our members, we will do all we can to help you get the most out of each kilowatt-hour you consume. It's part of our commitment to providing you with reliable and affordable power in an environmentally responsible fashion.

Watch for additional information in this newsletter and on our web site at www.twinvalleyelectric.coop.



Ron Holsteen

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Altamont Methodist Preschool Visits Twin Valley

Altamont Methodist Preschool came last month to tour and learn about Twin Valley Electric. Ken Cole, Special Projects Superintendent, discussed the duties of line workers and electric safety.

The students were able to try on hard hats, rubber gloves and sit in a digger truck. We hope they had fun and learned a lot about electricity.



Ms. Wells class from Altamont Methodist Preschool visited the cooperative to learn about electricity with Ken Cole, Special Projects Superintendent (right).



Students wait their turn to try on lineman's gloves.



Ken Cole demonstrates how a lineman climbs a pole with hooks (the device strapped to his leg).

Make Sure to Pay Your Bill On-time



Over the past several months Twin Valley Electric has received calls from members explaining that they had paid their electric bill through their bank's bill-pay service, yet the cooperative had not received the payment in time to avoid a penalty being assessed or the account being disconnected for non-payment.

Please be aware that even though you have entered the payment into your bank's bill pay system, it takes two to three days for the bank to issue a check and mail it to us as directed. This means it can take up to seven

to 10 days before the cooperative receives the payment from your bank.

The cooperative is in no way trying to discourage the use of the bank's bill-pay service. We just want our customers to understand and plan for the time allowance between entering the transaction and when the payment is received at the cooperative.

If you would like a more immediate payment method, visit our web site at www.twinvalleyelectric.coop and make your payment, which will post to your account within five minutes.

May 8 Windstorm Leaves Destruction in Service Area



Many members were left without power after the windstorm due to fallen power lines.

A windstorm rolled through Twin Valley's service area on the morning of May 8, leaving much destruction in its path.

Over half of our members were without power for a time as our power supplier, Westar, lost some transmission line poles during the storm.

Twin Valley lost about 36 poles and had numerous line outages due to trees being uprooted and falling into our lines.

Crews from Lyon-Coffey Electric in Burlington, and Kaw Valley Electric in Topeka provided assistance. We had all of our substations and metering points reenergized on Friday, all line outages repaired on Saturday and all of our services were back on by Sunday evening.

We appreciate the assistance provided by the other electric cooperatives and owe a big "thank-you" to all of our employees who worked tirelessly during the weekend to restore power quickly to our members.



Twin Valley lost about 36 poles in the destruction, but all services were back on by Sunday evening.

Tips for Reducing Household Load Management

At any given time the amount of electricity your household and family members are consuming is known as "load." When we add up all of the electric consumption from all our member-owners at that given time, we determine the load for the whole system.

There comes a time, every day, when the system load reaches its peak. That's when all of us, all at once, are using the most electricity. And, of course, Twin Valley must have enough power to meet these needs. It's also the time when it costs the most to provide that power.

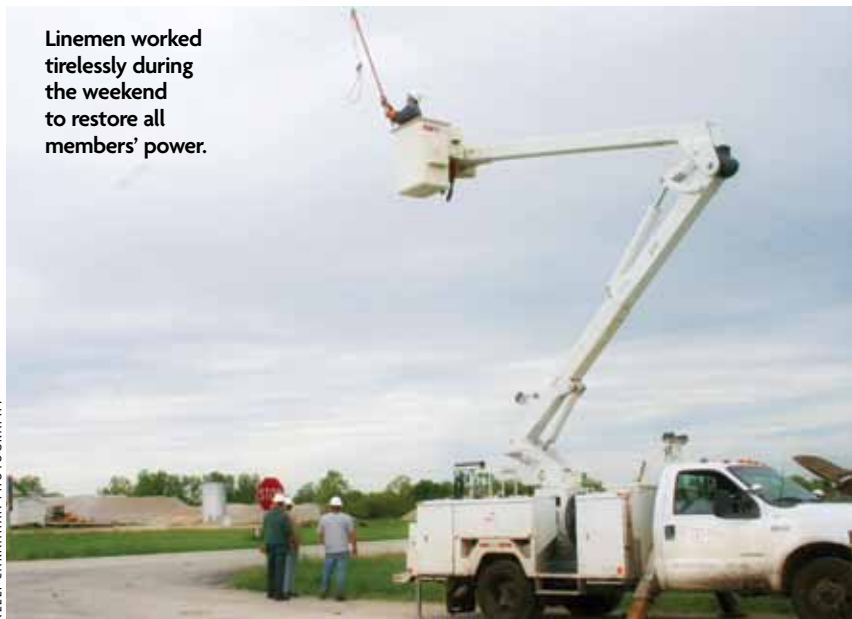
The best way to help keep your electric rates stable is to reduce this peak. It's what we call "load management". There are some things you can do at home that can help.

Since the late afternoon to early evening is the peak load time for us, you can help by using major appliances, such as the washer and dryer, in the morning or later on in the evening. When preparing dinner, remember that slow cookers, and other small appliances use less electricity than others.

Using energy wisely helps to reduce the need to invest in new power sources. You can help promote load management at home by using these tips.



Linemen worked tirelessly during the weekend to restore all members' power.



KELLI CARNAHAN PHOTOGRAPHY

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Energy Commandment No. 3

“Thou Shalt Invest in an Energy-Efficient Water Heater”

BY DOUG RYE

As we continue with the 10 Commandments of Energy Efficiency, we will keep our focus on making wise investments. This month, I am encouraging you to invest in a specific item that will make a world of difference in your utility bill.

Have you ever thought much about your water heater? Are you aware that about 20 percent of your utility bill goes toward the

in the Astrodome in Houston. It takes several days to see everything in that show, which is sponsored by the National Association of Homebuilders. I actually did an energy presentation there and had about four extra hours to look around. I was practically running through the aisles looking at every display as fast as possible. At one point, I looked to my left and saw

some strange looking objects that were shaped like a 44-caliber pistol bullet only they were about five feet tall.

I hollered over to the fellow and asked, “What are these?” And he

said, “Water heaters.” I said, “commercial?” and he said, “No, mostly residential.”

I turned and walked his way and asked, “What is so special about these water heaters?”

And he said they are guaranteed to never leak or rust and are 91 to 95 percent energy efficient. I didn’t necessarily believe him but I knew that if it were true, a lot of my listeners would want to have one.

Later, when I got proof that it was true, I started telling about the Marathon water heater in my seminars and on my radio show. Folks just like you started asking where

they could get a Marathon.

I know for a fact that hundreds of you have already purchased one. If you understand the facts, the rest of you will do the same. The facts are simple.

It is the last water heater that you will ever need at a particular location. It won’t rust or leak because the tank has no metal. And the Marathon is so well insulated with “envirofoam,” that it has practically zero standby loss regardless of the location. It does not warm your cold garage in the winter and it does not heat your house in the summer.

Now, consider this: The average gas water heater is less than 58 percent efficient, which means that about 40 percent of the natural gas you buy goes up the flue into the sky. On the other hand, the all-electric Marathons average 91-plus percent efficiency. That’s a no-brainer in my book. So, my advice to you is this: When you need a water heater for your new or existing house, contact your local electric co-op and ask about the Marathon water heater.

Remember – your co-op values you, the member, and it cares. That’s why your co-op is doing all it can to help you save money on your electric bill.

Doug Rye, is a licensed architect and the popular host of the “Home Remedies” radio show. You can contact Doug at 1-888-Doug-Rye. Source: Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Corporation.



“...the all-electric Marathons average 91-plus percent efficiency. That’s a no-brainer in my book.”

heating of water? Have you ever had to replace your water heater? Nearly every one of you said “yes”. Now, why did you replace it? Was it the wrong color? Well, of course not. You replaced it because it quit working or had started leaking. At some point, we all need to replace a water heater. Now wouldn’t it be great if we could install a replacement guaranteed to never leak or rust? And wouldn’t it be great if the new water heater was super energy efficient? Well, such a product is available and I will tell you how I learned about it.

About 10 years ago, I was attending a really big home show