




A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
 501 S. Huston Ave, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330
 866-784-5500
 www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

**TWIN VALLEY
 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**
NEWS

**Twin Valley Electric
 Cooperative, Inc.**

Ron Holsteen General Manager

Board of Trustees

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 President

Bryan Coover
 Vice President

Ronald McNickle
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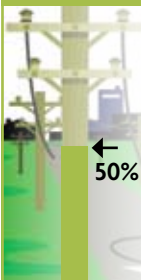
Wayne Revell
 Trustee

Robert Webster, Jr.
 Trustee

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

Contact Us
 501 S. Huston Ave., P.O. Box 368
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FEMA Rebuild Update



As of February 15, we have completed 50% of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) rebuild work.

FROM THE MANAGER

2011 Twin Valley Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 21, at Labette County High School in Altamont

We are busy preparing for your Annual Meeting on April 21. Plan to join us at the Labette County High School Cafeteria for delicious food and great conversation, plus some grand door prizes.

By receiving electric service from Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., you are a member-owner of this non-profit electric cooperative. Every year we continue to put you, our members, first. We're locally owned and controlled by you. That's why this business meeting every year is so important.

The annual meeting is your chance to vote on the direction you want your cooperative to take by electing fellow members to the Board of Directors to represent your best interest.

We will feature speakers from, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative,

Inc. (KEPCo), the power supplier to Twin Valley and our statewide association, Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC).

We will have last year's Youth Tour representatives share some of the highlights from their trips to Washington, D.C., and Steamboat Springs, Colorado. There will also be exhibits featuring energy efficient products and information.

The election of Directors will be held, the presentation of reports from prior year and fantastic door prizes will be given away.

The annual meeting is an excellent opportunity for you to meet your cooperative Directors and employees, as well as join us for an excellent evening meal. We hope that you will accept this invitation to participate and be involved in your cooperative.



Ron Holsteen

“Every year we continue to put you, our members, first.”

Mark Your Calendars!

We hope to see you at the Twin Valley Electric Annual Meeting April 21, 2011, at the Labette High School Auditorium in Altamont.

We hope to see you there!

April						
S	M	T	W	U	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

NOTES FROM OPERATIONS

Property Access is Important to Speedy Restoration



William Worthy

As the sun sets on my first winter in Kansas, I look forward to spring and the warmer weather it brings. However, the spring also brings storms that can give the lineman of your cooperative heartburn.

With storms comes the possibility of outages and other problems with your electric system. Our linemen will be out making necessary repairs at all hours of the day and night and will need access to the properties we serve. An issue we have dealt with in the past and continue to deal with is access to member's property.

When you became a member of Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, you signed an application for membership to the cooperative. By signing the application, you agreed to follow the cooperative's Bylaws and Rules and Regulations.

In Twin Valley Electric Cooperative's Rules and Regulations, Section 6—Member's Service Obligations, Subsection B—Access to Member's Premises: *The member shall give the duly authorized agents and employees of the Cooperative full and free access to the premises of the Member for the purpose of constructing, installing, inspecting, adjusting, repairing, maintaining, replacing, or removing any of the Cooperative's facilities on the premises of the Member, reading meters or for any purpose incidental to the electric service supplied by the Cooperative.*

Some of you have locks on your property gates that were installed or given to you by Twin Valley. We are going to be in the process of removing those locks and replacing with new locks in an attempt to provide you with more security. The locks are labeled with the words Twin Valley and numbered. The keys issued to Twin Valley employees are numbered as well. Our employees will be held to a high standard for responsibility of the key issued. The keys are made from a special blank that cannot be duplicated.

Some members are reluctant to allow access to their property and we understand your concerns. This is why we are changing our locks. We would like to install our lock on your chain on the opposite side from the lock you normally use. This way we'll avoid the potential

lock out situation.

Keep in mind that we could potentially need access to your property at anytime, day or night. Some members have requested, "call me, I'll come let you in" this would be okay in a planned situation, but if we need to get into your property during a storm at 3 a.m. it might not be feasible for you. If a line goes across your property, feeding electricity to other members, they might not be as patient in waiting on you to come let us in.

In the event of us not having access to a property and we determine the fault of an outage is on your property; we will isolate your line to the best of our ability and leave you off until we can gain access. This might cause you an inconvenience, but understand we have the rest of the membership to think about as well.

Remember, your Twin Valley linemen and other employees are hard working family people and property owners as well. We strive to respect and protect the property of members that we have to access for any reason. Thank you for your understanding as we make these changes that will benefit the entire Twin Valley Electric Cooperative family.



Your lock may soon be replaced with a lock like this one to provide you with more security. The locks are labeled with the words Twin Valley and numbered. The keys are made from a special blank that cannot be duplicated.

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Nominating Committee Meets

A meeting of the Nominating Committee of Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., was held on March 8, 2011.

Committee members present were: Larry Gregory, Diane McCartney, Willard Ross, Diane McCartney, Pam Baker, Ben Hinkle, William Billman and Kim Geren. The committee elected William Billman as chairman. Director of Finance, Rebecca Hanigan and Administrative Assistant, Jennifer Winters were also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by Administrative Assistant Winters who explained briefly the purpose of the Nominating Committee and read the “qualifications” section of the cooperative by-laws. The following individuals were nominated:

► **District 1—WAYNE REVELL**

► **District 2—TOM ELLISON**

► **District 3—MIKE ALLISON**

Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 21, 2011.

Better Rules for Broken Bulbs

CFL Cleanup Guidance Updated by EPA

As energy-savvy consumers know, equipping five of a home’s most frequently used light fixtures with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) can save a family \$70 a year in lighting costs. But what should you do when a CFL breaks?

CFLs are made of glass tubing containing about four milligrams of mercury. Although this isn’t much—classic thermometers contain 500 milligrams of mercury—consumers should still take precautions if a CFL breaks, since mercury vapors may pose health risks. In December the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) updated the guidelines for cleaning a broken CFL.

“We want to provide consumers with the most important information they need to know on how to clean up a bulb without overwhelming them with detail,” said Richard Yost, an EPA spokesperson.

The revised guidelines break the process into three steps: what to do before cleanup, during cleanup, and after cleanup. More in-depth guidelines are available at www.epa.gov/cflcleanup.

“We’ve split the detailed guidance into sections for clean up on hard surfaces and on carpeting,” notes Yost. “This will aid consumers who

only want the cleanup steps that address their particular situation.”

The amount of time EPA recommends waiting before cleaning a broken bulb has been cut from 15 minutes to five to 10 minutes.

“The results from a 2008 study on mercury exposure from broken bulbs showed mercury release peaks within the first five minutes of the bulb breaking,” Yost said. “Five to 10 minutes is sufficient time to clear the room, ventilate, and to gather the materials needed to clean up the broken bulb.”

EPA also removed recommendations on how to handle clothing, bedding, or other soft materials exposed to a broken CFL.

“We want to keep the focus on the clean up steps for the CFL,” Yost said. “Each broken bulb situation is unique. If a consumer has a particular concern they can contact EPA or their local/state environmental agency for assistance.”

The updated guidelines feature a brochure on proper handling of CFLs, cleanup procedures, and recycling tips. The brochure, available in both English and Spanish, may be downloaded at www.epa.gov/cflcleanup. To learn more about CFLs, visit www.epa.gov/cfl.

How to Clean Up a Broken Compact Fluorescent Lightbulb (CFL)



A CFL’s glass tubing contains about 4 milligrams of mercury. While this isn’t much (classic thermometers contained 500 milligrams) consumers should still take precautions if a CFL breaks.

-  **1** Ventilate the room, then wait 5 to 10 minutes.
-  **2** Scoop up powder and glass fragments using stiff paper or cardboard. Seal in a plastic bag.
- 3** Use duct tape to pick up any fragments or powder.
-  **4** Immediately place all materials used to clean up and the plastic bag in an outdoor trash container. Remember to wash your hands.
- 5** Not all recycling centers accept broken CFLs. Check with your local and/or state waste authority for disposal requirements, or visit Earth911.com.

To learn more visit epa.gov/cflcleanup.



Source: Electrical Safety Foundation, Environmental Protection Agency

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Mound Valley Grocery Offers Variety to Small Town

Mound Valley Grocery, owned and operated by cooperative members **RON AND THERESA ROBINSON**, is a wonderful asset to the small town and community of Mound Valley.

They purchased the store July 1, 2002. In the beginning, they started with just the grocery store and fuel station, but as time has passed they have added a variety of items.

Mound Valley Grocery offers a little bit of everything. A few of their items include fuel, groceries, dining, bait shop, gift shop, balloon bouquets, DVD rentals and beverages.

Their newest endeavor is Hillbilly Jim's restaurant, which is located in their store. Hillbilly Jim's is open Friday and Saturday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. They serve breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Big Hill Bait Shop is within the store also and carries live bait such as: minnows, worms, goldfish, shad, liver and a full line of fishing tackle.

Ron and Theresa enjoy visiting with people within the community and meeting new visitors who are just passing through. They have seen children in the area grow up to be young adults and have also watched gas prices go from \$1.30 per gallon when they purchased the store to the current price of \$3.42 per gallon.

You can shop Mound Valley Grocery located at First and Hickory, Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sundays 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Twin Valley members who show their Co-op Connections Card will receive a free 20 oz. drink with the purchase of \$30 or more in gas.



Theresa Robinson and her husband, Ron, began Mound Valley Grocery in 2002.



Big Hill Bait Shop is within the store also and carries live bait such as: minnows, worms, goldfish, liver and a full line of fishing tackle.



Groceries, fishing lures, bait, automotive and so much more can be found at Mound Valley Grocery.