



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1511 14,000 Rd, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330

866-784-5500

www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

**TWIN VALLEY
ELECTRIC CO-OP**

NEWS

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Board of Trustees

Bryan Coover
President

Larry Hubbell
Vice President

Dareld Nelson
Treasurer

Bryan Hucce
Secretary

Rodney Baker
Trustee

Tom Ellison
Trustee

Diane McCartney
Trustee

Jared Nash
Trustee

Jason Zwahlen
Trustee

Staff

Angie Erickson
CEO

Office Hours

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

Contact Us

1511 14,000 Rd.
P.O. Box 368
Altamont, KS 67330
866-784-5500
www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

FROM THE MANAGER

Avoiding Blackouts as Power Supply Tightens



Angie Erickson

The key to meeting the energy needs so essential to your quality of life is balancing electricity supply with demand.

While that may sound simple,

there is a complex web of facilities and organizations that work together to make it happen each day.

A network of coal, nuclear and natural gas power plants, along with wind and solar facilities, and tens of thousands of miles of electrical lines work together to ensure that enough electricity is available on the coldest winter morning and during the dog days of summer.

Regional transmission organizations coordinate, control and monitor the electric grid across several states in a region. For Kansas, that entity is the Southwest Power Pool (SPP). Think of them as energy traffic managers on an interstate highway system, regulating the number of cars — in this case, electricity — and their destination.

Even so, on some days there is an imbalance in that system that leads to rolling power interruptions or blackouts

— so-called “max-gen” events. In those cases, supply simply can’t keep up. In the Midcontinent region comprised of 15 states, there were six max-gen events from 2006-2016. Since 2016, there have been 15, including three last July and August alone.

Simply, that’s because power plants that generate electricity are being closed faster than new producers come online. In most cases, traditional large-scale power suppliers such as coal and nuclear plants are being closed and replaced by renewable alternatives on a much smaller scale. And this gap is closing more quickly despite the development of new natural gas-fueled power plants.

As electric utilities work to meet zero- or low-carbon mandates by 2035 and beyond, this challenge will grow more complex. So, what’s the answer?

Electric cooperatives and others in the energy sector will continue to develop renewable options and pursue new technologies. But absent new large-scale alternatives and advances in energy storage, the stalwarts of today’s energy fleet — coal and nuclear energy facilities — must continue to operate in many regions. In many, they remain the most cost-effective options for producing electricity.

Interested in Serving on the Board of Trustees?

Twin Valley's director election is coming up. Board members represent the interests of the members in directing the business and affairs of the cooperative. They establish the strategic direction for the cooperative based on their members' interests, needs and desires.

If you are interested in serving the cooperative on the board, please contact aerickson@twinvalleyelectric.com or call our office at 866-784-5500 for information.



Join Us for **YOUR** Annual Meeting

July 2021

| S | M | T | W | Th | 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 | 31 |

Mark Your Calendars for **July 13, 2021**

The Twin Valley Electric Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 13, 2021. More details will follow in next month's issue of *Kansas Country Living*.

Thank a Lineworker on April 12

If you were asked to associate an image or a person with Twin Valley Electric, most members would picture a lineworker. One of the most visible employees of the co-op, lineworkers work tirelessly to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power 24/7.

"Lineworker" is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. This is understandable as they perform detailed tasks near high-voltage power lines. Regardless of the time of day, having to brave stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers must climb 40 feet in the air, often carrying heavy equipment to get the job done.

Being a lineworker is not a glamorous or easy profession. It takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication, and equally important, a sense of service and commitment. How else can you explain the willingness to leave the comfort of your home to tackle a challenging job in difficult conditions, when most are sheltering comfortably at home? This dedication and sense of service to the community is truly what sets them apart. That's why we set aside the second Monday in April to celebrate and recognize the men and women who work around the clock to keep the lights on.

While lineworkers may be the most visible employees at Twin Valley, it's important to note that there is a team

LINEWORKERS BRING THE LIGHT.



Lineworker Appreciation Day

On April 12, remember to
#ThankALineworker

of highly skilled professionals working behind the scenes. Engineers provide ongoing expertise and guidance on the operations side of the co-op. Member service representatives are always standing by to take your calls and questions. Lots of folks work together to ensure we can deliver the service and reliability you expect and deserve. Without them, our lineworkers wouldn't be able to "bring the light" to our community.

Our dedicated and beloved lineworkers are proud to represent Twin Valley Electric, and they deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way on Lineworker Appreciation Day.

On April 12, and any time you see a lineworker, join us in thanking them for their exceptional service. We also hope you'll remember that you have a dedicated team of professionals working behind the scenes at the co-op whose commitment to service runs just as deep.

KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON

What Does an Electric Lineworker Do?

While it takes each employee across all departments to keep operations running smoothly at Twin Valley Electric, one of the more visible jobs is that of a lineworker. You may see one of ours working 35 feet (or more) overhead or maintaining lines at ground level.

We entrust your safety to our lineworkers, so they hold a very important job. We also rely on their expertise to power our world.

On any given day or night, and in all kinds of weather conditions, these specialized workers construct and maintain overhead and underground electrical systems. Components of these systems include power lines, transformers, fuses, insulators and other related equipment.

Safety Comes First

Lineworkers must commit to safety above all else. They spend numerous hours in safety training each year and must understand and apply crucial safety regulations.

Electrical lineworkers are specially trained to:

- ▶ Climb poles to service power lines in areas inaccessible by trucks.
- ▶ Stand in an elevated bucket to assess and repair overhead lines.
- ▶ Install poles, overhead lines and other equipment.
- ▶ Work on both energized and de-energized lines.
- ▶ Install and service underground lines.

Along with their specialized training and knowledge of safety, lineworkers are required to wear protective clothing to shield themselves as they work around high voltages. Collectively, gear components can weigh up to 45 pounds, the equivalent of carrying around a 5-year-old.

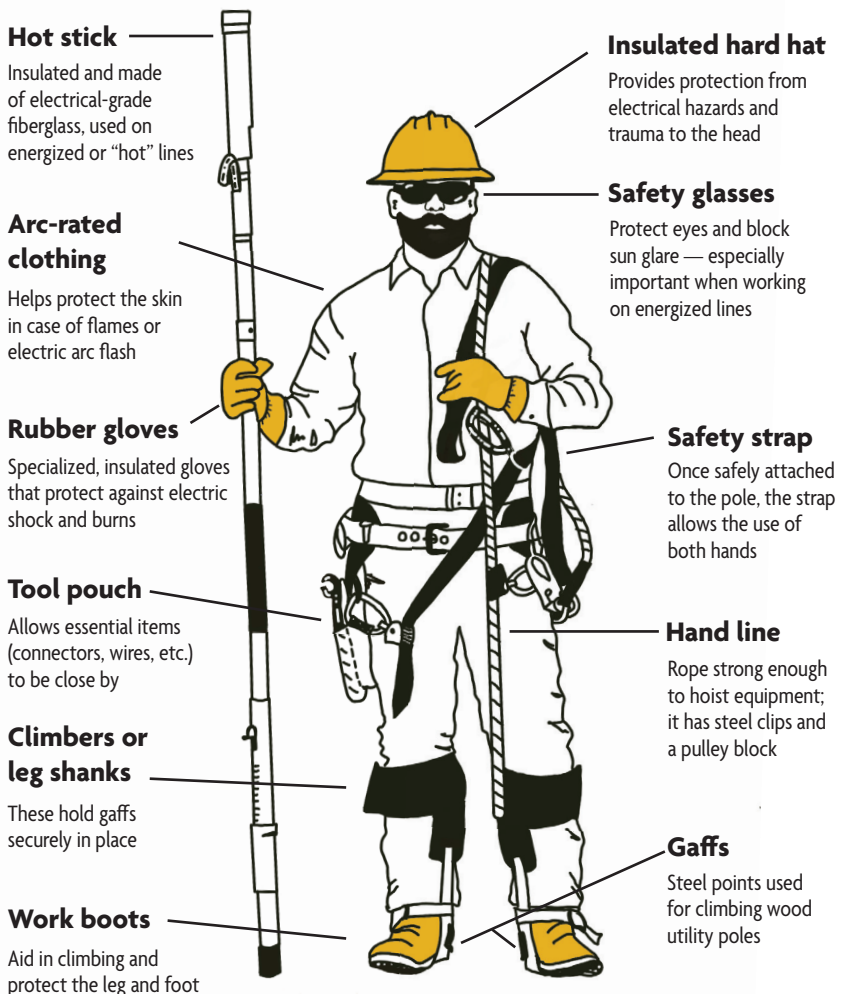
ELECTRICAL LINeworkERS

Lineworkers install and maintain overhead and underground electrical systems. We rely on their expertise to power our world.

They must commit to safety above all else for the benefit of those they serve (you!), fellow crew members and themselves.

WHAT THEY WEAR

Protective clothing is required to shield lineworkers since they work around high voltages. Gear can vary depending on pole structure (wood or steel) and weighs up to 45 pounds.



NOTICE to Twin Valley Members

As part of our ongoing efforts to reduce the number of tree-related outages, we have contracted with Poor Boy Tree Service to **APPLY HERBICIDE TO VEGETATION/BRUSH ALONG OUR ELECTRIC RIGHT-OF-WAY**. This work is scheduled to take place during **APRIL AND MAY**.

Please be aware that they will be working in the area in trucks and UTV's that will be marked with Twin Valley Electric's logo. The product that will be applied is safe to humans, pets, livestock and regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Dept. of Agriculture. We will not spray in any yards or gardens, and will take precautions around crop fields.



If you have any of the following: bee hives, organic gardens/crops or vineyards, please let us know if you prefer us to NOT spray on your property. In addition, in order to be on a universal list that is consulted by other utilities, please register at one of the following registration sites: **DRIFTWATCH.ORG** or **FIELDWATCH.COM**, to be on a list to avoid any possible unwanted herbicide treatment.

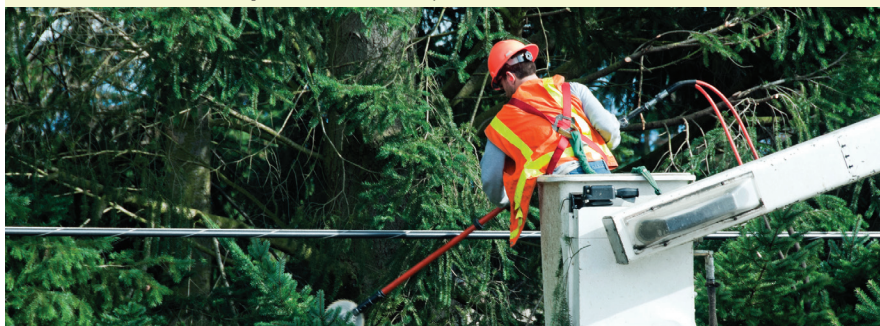
Why Do We Trim Trees?

Trees add beauty to our landscape, provide oxygen and can help conserve energy.

When they grow too close to power lines, however, they can cause service disruptions or even outages. That is why branches and limbs that grow into or near lines need to be trimmed and sometimes even removed.

If you notice your trees start to crowd power lines, do not trim them yourself. Contact your electric utility to determine the next recommended step. Only professionals certified for line clearance should prune and trim trees near power lines.

Trees and other vegetation are the leading cause of service interruptions in many areas.



5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 811 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:



1. NOTIFY

Call 811 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project. Contact a private line marking service to mark private lines.

2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark underground lines owned by the utility.

2-3



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 811 call center notified. Note 811 does not mark privately owned utility lines, invisible fences or sprinkler systems. **Call a private utility locator for these.**

4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 24 inches on all sides according to Kansas law), consider moving your project location.



Source: call811.com