

The Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

"Owned By Those We Serve"



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From the Manager...Year in Review

It's hard to believe that 2007 is almost over and we are already busy preparing for 2008.

Your board of directors has approved a new four-year construction work plan for the cooperative. We are still growing and project that growth will continue for another year or two.

The addition of the new services means that your cooperative will need to upgrade key components of the infrastructure over the next four years in order to continue to provide reliable service to you, our members. This growth also means that we will need additional power supply resources to meet the demands of our members in the

future.

Our wholesale power supplier, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo), has negotiated a new long-term wholesale power contract with Westar to meet our power requirements above and beyond the capacity of our ownership in the Wolf Creek nuclear plant, the hydropower resources from the Power Marketing Associations, contracts with Kansas City Power and Light and Sunflower, plus our share of the Iatan II, which is under construction north of Kansas City.

The KEPCo members have an excellent blend of power resources with about half of our power requirements being met by non-greenhouse gas emitting sources. The new wholesale contract is undergoing the necessary regulatory approval processes and once approved will provide us with reasonably-priced power for many years.

However, the future cost of electricity is first on our minds because of the ongoing debate over fossil fuels, renewable energy and climate change. There are several bills in Congress aimed at con-

fronting climate change. Some politicians and environmental groups feel that the way to fight global warming is to price energy very high. Their logic is that such a mandate would be certain to shock consumers into conserving energy. One such proposal being considered would impose a double-digit tax on the coal used to generate electricity. Where would those tax dollars go and how would they reduce climate change?

As the debate on climate change intensifies, we will provide you with straight talk. There is a price to pay to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and it will be expensive. Electric cooperatives have long promoted increased federal investment in research and development of technology to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance energy efficiency. We have a responsibility to protect our members with our very best efforts, and we will continue to look out for our members by providing you with safe, reliable electricity at the lowest possible cost.



Ron Holsteen

Office Closings

In observance of the holiday season, we will be closed on December 24-25.

Our offices will also be closed on January 1 to celebrate the new year.

May the warmth, joy, and peace of this holiday season be with you and yours now and throughout the year.

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**

Please stop by our office on Fridays this month and enjoy warm spiced apple cider and cookies. Compliments of Twin Valley Electric Cooperative.

Save Money with Energy Efficient Christmas Lights

Light displays are part of the winter holiday season for many southeast Kansas families. Choosing the most efficient holiday lights and lighting controls can help make this holiday season “green” as well as bright — and save you money.

Conventional incandescent, screw socket lights add to holiday expenses. Durability is often poor and frequent bulb replacement is required.

This type of lighting also draws a surprising amount of power. One analysis of energy use for holiday lighting showed an average load increase of 400 watts in the early evening throughout parts of December and January. It was also found that many households leave their holiday lights on all night and even during parts of the day.

Outdoors, most of the energy used for lighting is actually wasted as heat. Indoors, the heat from conventional lighting can be dangerous. Five strings of lights on a Christmas tree generate as much heat as a small baseboard heater, creating a fire hazard on a dry tree.

For cheaper and more efficient holiday lights, here are some options to consider:

- Seasonal light emitting diodes (LED) lights, incandescent mini lights, rope lighting, or fiber optic cabling all use less energy than conventional incandescent lights.

- The most efficient option is seasonal LED

strings, which are superior to standard incandescent light strings in a number of ways: they use about 90 percent less energy than conventional lights; they are more durable, lasting up to 20 times longer; and they produce very little heat, which reduces the risk of fire.

When purchasing seasonal LED lighting, remember to look for a product that includes a minimum two-year warranty.

- The incandescent mini-lights that currently dominate the holiday lighting market also use a fraction of the energy that conventional incandescent lights use and generate considerably less heat than the larger bulbs.

- If you still prefer the look of conventional lights, using 5W bulbs rather than 7W bulbs will reduce your operating costs by 30 percent.

- Timers and photocells can also save energy and money by automatically turning lights on at dusk and turning them off at a scheduled time; such as 11 p.m. Be sure that the timer is designed for the required amount of wattage.

- Even energy-efficient holiday lights are bright enough to light up your yard, so remember to turn off your regular porch or yard lighting over the holiday season to save additional energy.

By following these energy savings tips you can enjoy the beauty of holiday lighting without having a significant impact on your electric bill.



Statement of Non-Discrimination

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The person responsible for coordinating this organization’s nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Ronald Holsteen, General Manager. Any individual or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination, may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Stop 1510, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, 20250-1510; or the Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410; or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.