

**Sullivan County
Rural Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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Kathy Robbins
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OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

FROM THE CEO

Speeding on the grid



by **Craig A. Harting**
CEO

ELECTRICITY is a unique product. As a consumer product, it is not found in nature and has to be made. More importantly, it effectively cannot be stored (at the present time). So it has to be made as you use it. How does this work?

Power plants and the grid are like a 10-person bicycle. While there may be 10 people on the bike, some

only pedal when they come to a hill. Their feet are moving with the pedals but they only push when they're needed. As we use more electricity, power plants must work harder and sometimes more plants need to be added to the grid.

How we measure

Electricity is measured two ways — just like your car. Your car has an odometer and a speedometer. The odometer measures how far you went and the speedometer measures how fast you are going at a particular time. Electricity is measured in a similar fashion.

Your kilowatt-hour (kWh) meter measures how much electricity you used, which is similar to the odometer on your car. But you don't have an electric speedometer to measure how fast you went. We call this a demand meter. A demand meter measures the maximum you drew at a particular time.

Commercial accounts do have a demand meter since they use a larger amount of electricity. Sometime in the future, residential consumers may also be billed for demand on the system. Smart meters being installed by utilities have this capability, but rate structures

would have to change along with our thinking on electrical use before employing such technology.


Summer peaks

In Pennsylvania, summer demands on the electric system are much larger than winter peaks. Air conditioning, fans and refrigeration contribute to a large share of these peaks. Can we do anything to shave these peaks? We control hot water heaters year round and have saved over a \$1 million in power costs during the last 25 years.

We are looking at other ways of addressing summer demands as it appears summer peaks will dominate our grid for the foreseeable future. Should we look at controlling air conditioners? Should we send signals for you to voluntarily control your use? These are possibilities, but we need to find solutions that work for you and also produce a savings for the cooperative.

Speeding on the grid

So, at times we are speeding on the grid. How can we reduce our demand on the system during these times and reduce our power costs? This is a question we have to answer locally as well as a nation. We need to reduce our peak use but also have power plants that can run when we need them.

For now we will continue to control water heaters. We are looking at expanding our control activities by using additional controls or notifying you of peak times. In the meantime, please limit your use as much as possible on those very hot afternoons between 3 and 6 p.m. You will be helping to control your speed on the grid. 

Despite the heat, members turn out for annual meeting

BY JOHN ZELEWICZ
Penn Lines Writer

ON ONE of the hottest days in June, 165 voting members of Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) braved the heat to attend this year's annual meeting held on Thursday, June 9, at the Sullivan County High School. While the school has no air conditioning, plenty of refreshments were on hand and bottles of water flowed like...well, water!

Dave Aumen, chairman of Sullivan County REC Board of Directors, called this year's meeting to order. Pastor Scott Magann of Living Hope Fellowship provided the invocation.

Connie Albertson had the rare opportunity of introducing two Youth Tour students, one from this year's tour and one from the 2010 Youth Tour.

"Normally, I don't have the opportunity to introduce Youth Tour students because they're usually in Washington, D.C., at the time of our annual meeting," Albertson stated. "But this year, I'm happy to be able to introduce one of this year's Youth Tour



students, Meredith Lambert."

Lambert attends Sullivan County High School and is the daughter of James and Melanie Lambert.

A special treat for members was the opportunity to hear from 2010 Youth Tour student Riley Wentzler. Wentzler, the son of Clarence and Kathy Wentzler, attends Hughesville High School.

He describes Youth Tour: "It was the most memorable week of my life. With my disability, it makes me the odd man out in most cases. That wasn't so with the Youth Tour. ... I was very pleasantly surprised. I had the opportunity to meet people who were as passionate about their studies as I am. I want to thank everyone here at Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative for the opportunity to learn more about history and cooperatives. ... Like I said, this was the best week of my whole life."

Sallade updates members on power supply

Todd Sallade, vice president, power supply & engineering for PREA/Allegheny Electric Cooperative, enlightened members

BOARD REPORT: Board Chair Dave Aumen reviews the recent office construction project and discusses the Co-op Connections card members will receive in August. Members can use the card for discounts at participating businesses.

on various aspects of the power provided by the cooperative. He reviewed the sources of the cooperative's power supply, which are mostly nuclear and hydro. About one-third of the power supply is purchased on the market. Sallade noted that the cooperative's power supply cost is among the lowest in the state. He also encouraged members to participate in the load management program.

U.S. Rep. Tom Marino (R-10th) was on hand to speak to co-op members about issues affecting Congress and the country in general.

"I've learned that the less federal government involvement there is in my life, the better," Marino stated. "I feel if we could utilize the resources in our own country, we would no longer need to be dependent on foreign oil. Washington is too big. We need to downsize, cut spend-



PREA/ALLEGHENY GUEST SPEAKER: Todd Sallade, PREA/Allegheny vice president - power supply & engineering, explains that members own two-thirds of their power supply, which helps produce the least expensive generation rates in the state.

ing, keep taxes low so we can put the money back in our pockets.”

Marino also touched upon how Congress is stepping up to cut spending.

“We need to be man and woman enough to stand up in Congress and say enough is enough,” he stated. “In this Congress, we have cut more spending in three months than any Congress in history and it’s just the tip of the iceberg. ... We will continue the cutting. I am fighting tooth and nail for you.”

State Sen. Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming) was also on hand and noted that he had attended the open house held at the co-op office on May 27. He urged members to visit the new facility.

Yaw also touched upon a “hot” topic affecting local communities — Marcellus Shale drilling. He commented that 85 percent of his efforts are related in some way to this issue, whether it is with landowners or environmental issues. He related that he hopes Pennsylvania can help our country break free of its dependence on foreign oil with this natural gas from Marcellus Shale.

Chairman Dave Aumen spoke briefly about the additions and renovations recently made to the co-op office in Forksville. The co-op originally rented office space from 1937 - 1947. It wasn’t until 1948 that the cooperative office was built, and one addition was added in 1961. He explained that with the new additions, this facility will last us for many, many years to come. And while \$1.3 million is a lot of money, it was actually much cheaper



BIG CROWD: Despite the heat, 165 voting members showed up for this year’s annual meeting held at Sullivan County High School in Laporte.

than the architect had thought it would be, Aumen explained.

Co-op joins Touchstone Energy

Aumen also noted that Sullivan County REC recently joined Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, which provides 53 services and programs that can be offered by participating co-ops — like Sullivan — to their members. The first program the cooperative will offer is the Co-op Connections card, which offers discounts from retailers and pharmacies. In the future, the cooperative hopes to add additional local retailers who accept the Co-op Connections card.

CEO Craig Harting touched upon four main topics: retail rates, deregulation, load management and Marcellus Shale. Members have wondered if they are facing a rate increase.

“Half of your bill goes for power costs,” he explained. “The last increase we had was June 2008. Most of that increase went toward distribution costs. The next increase may be in 2012. That increase would mostly go toward power costs. At this point, we do not see any increases for 2011.”

Harting went on to explain savings obtained through the cooperative’s load management system.

“Since we started the program in 1987, we’ve saved over \$1 million right here in Sullivan, Lycoming and Bradford counties by simply turning off your hot water heater during peak demand times,” he stated. “When peak demand times are over, we turn the water heaters back on

and you still have hot water. Members who have a load management device get a \$2 per month credit. To be eligible to get a load management device and discount, you need to have an electric water heater and to have it on year round.”



MUSIC FOR EVERYONE: Cries for “one more song” demonstrate how the audience enjoys the music of Greenwood Valley Boys.

The following three co-op board directors were re-elected to their current positions:

Ann Henderson: Fox Township, Sullivan County; McNett Township, Lycoming County; and Canton Township, Bradford County.

Kathy Robbins: Shrewsbury and Davidson townships, Sullivan County; and Penn, Franklin and Jordan townships, Lycoming County.

Curtin Rakestraw II: Upper Fairfield Township, Lycoming County.

This year’s entertainment was provided by a bluegrass group, Greenwood Valley Boys. 🎵



MEMORABLE WEEK, MEMORABLE REPORT: 2010 Youth Tour student Riley Wentzler shares his Youth Tour experience. For Wentzler it was one of the most memorable weeks in his life.

Transformer travels for repairs

BY JOHN ZELEWICZ

A FEW months ago, I wrote that nothing lasts forever. Electrical lines and equipment wear out and need to be repaired or replaced. On June 7, one of the two transformers in the Laporte Substation needed to be removed and sent away for repairs. According to Dave King, manager of operations for Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (REC), even though the transformer wasn't that old, it was experiencing problems.

"This transformer was about three years old, but apparently it was building gas in the oil so it had to be removed and



GETTING READY FOR THE MOVE: Linemen Chad Phillips, left, and Todd Molyneux prepare the Laporte transformer for its move.

shipped away for repairs," King reports.

Moving something that weighs 27,300 pounds (13.7 tons) isn't like moving a sofa from one side of the living room to another (unless of course your sofa weighs 27,300 pounds). The first step was to contact a company with a crane large enough to handle that much weight and then hire a trucking company able to haul that large of an item. The final and most important step was deciding when to move it.

"We contracted with Allison Crane and RPTS Express Inc. to haul it," King reports. "When setting up something like this, you try to pick a date about two weeks away and hope it all works out. Once everything is set up, you have to go ahead. It doesn't matter if the weather cooperates or not."

One of the problems associated with moving the transformer was that wires and connectors had to be removed first.

"It was more complicated to remove the transformer than it was to put it in place," King notes. "This was due to the fact that when the transformer was first installed, there were no structures or wires in place."

Date of return is uncertain

The transformer was transported to MTC Transformers in Louisville, Ohio, for repairs, which will be overseen by S.D. Myers. It is not known when the transformer will be returned.

"They'll take the transformer apart, remove the oil and clean it and make whatever repairs are necessary," King explains. "At this point, we're not sure what the exact problem is."

Members who are supplied power from the Laporte Substation only experienced two brief power interruptions during the transformer removal process as electricity was "backfed" from the Mill Creek Substation.

Fortunately everything went smoothly and no unforeseen complications arose.

"Thankfully it all went very well," King reports. "You can't be exactly sure how long something like this is going to take. All it takes is something to go wrong and it could take you an additional couple of hours to get it done." 🌀



NO EASY TASK: Moving a 27,300-pound transformer requires special equipment.

Save energy in the summer

Summer is finally here and though it seems to go so quickly, it sure is HOT while it's here. Saving energy may be one of the last things on your mind this summer, but here are some simple ways to save energy (and money) while you're soaking up some rays:

- ▶ Use the microwave instead of your conventional stove or oven to help reduce your cooling costs. Better yet, cook out on the grill! You waited all winter to cook on the grill, so throw on some hamburgers and hot dogs and enjoy a taste of summer.
 - ▶ Since you generate a lot of laundry in the summer with swimsuits, towels, etc., be sure to only wash full loads and hang your laundry outdoors to air dry.
 - ▶ Most people spend more time outdoors in the summer, so turn off lights, televisions, computers and other electronics when you won't be using them.
 - ▶ If you have an air conditioner, be sure to replace the filter monthly. Dirty filters can restrict the airflow causing the system to run longer than normal resulting in more energy used.
 - ▶ Keeping the sun out during the day will keep the house cooler. How do you keep the sun out? It can be very easy and inexpensive; simply pull down the shades or close the curtains. Another way to keep the sun out is to install awnings and solar window screens. You can even plant trees and shrubs strategically to shade your home from the sun.
 - ▶ Make sure your attic is properly insulated and install more insulation if needed. This is a great energy saver not only in the summer, but in the winter as well.
 - ▶ Turn up the thermostat when nobody is home. You can save energy and still keep the house comfortable by turning the thermostat up a few degrees when no one is home.
- You may not save enough energy by following these tips to afford a trip to an all-inclusive resort. But you'll help reduce your energy use and save money...maybe enough to buy a nice dinner and a few of those drinks with the umbrellas in them.