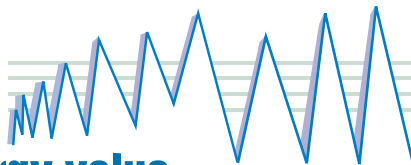


# WHITewater VALLEY REMC Powerlines

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITewater VALLEY REMC

**Comments from your CEO**

## Prices will increase, but electricity remains an energy value (continued from December)



The year 2005 will be remembered as a turbulent year in the energy business. Prices for gasoline, diesel fuel, coal and natural gas rose to unprecedented levels. Costs for energy have been dramatically affected by global conflict, rising worldwide demand, increasing environmental regulations, weather disasters, such as hurricanes and other factors. Many observers are comparing the current situation to the 1970's – a time when energy prices were also volatile and on the rise.



**Boyd Huff, CEO**

Consumers nationwide have been warned about substantially higher costs for heating this winter. The Energy Information Administration (EIA) forecasts that homes heated by natural gas may pay 50 percent more this winter for heat. Those using heating oil and propane may pay about 30 percent more, according to the EIA. The EIA forecasts also indicate increases for homes heated by electricity, but those increases are substantially less than other fuels.

Whitewater Valley REMC and Hoosier Energy, our co-op owned power supplier, are experiencing the cost pressures facing all energy providers. Beginning in April, Hoosier Energy will increase wholesale power charges to Whitewater Valley REMC through an increase in the power cost “tracker,” which is an additional

charge for each kilowatt-hour that we purchase from Hoosier Energy. Whitewater Valley REMC must recover those higher wholesale power costs from our members and you will see them on bills you receive in April. From that point, the tracker will change quarterly with either increases or decreases, in July and October. The tracker rate is located in the top right hand portion of the power bill and is included in the total energy charge. We'll communicate the amount of the increase as soon as possible to help members plan for higher electric costs in the coming year.

It's never desirable for a cooperative to raise rates. We're in business to provide reliable

*Continued on page 2*

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**IN THIS ISSUE**

**Annual Meeting** ..... p2  
**Youth Tour Approaches** ..... p3  
**Wild Blue Update** ..... p3  
**Camp offers 'High-Voltage' Fun** ..... p4  
**Winter Weather** ..... p4



**Liberty Office Hours:**

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday  
 Closed Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays

**To Report an Outage or Emergency:**

- Call 765.458.5171 or 1.800.529.5557  
 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

**Be ready to provide the following information:**

- The name under which your electric service is listed
- Map location number
- Your phone number—needed to call back or confirm power restoration
- The type of problem you are experiencing –flickering lights, complete power outage, etc.

*We appreciate your call and will work promptly to assist you.*



**WHITewater VALLEY**  
 RURAL ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION  
 101 Brownsville Avenue  
 P.O. Box 349  
 Liberty, IN 47353  
 Phone: 765.458.5171  
 1.800.529.5557  
 E-mail: info@wwvremc.com

**Questions for Boyd**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

My question or comment is:

Account No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

*If you have any questions for Boyd, please call 1.800.529.5557 or 765.458.5171. You may also e-mail Boyd Huff at bhuff@wwvremc.com*

**For up-to-date information, visit us on the web at [www.wwvremc.com](http://www.wwvremc.com).**

President & CEO - Boyd Huff  
 Powerlines Editor - Sandy Cason

*(Continued from cover)*

power at a reasonable cost, not to make profits. However, with the price increases of other fuels, it's clear that electricity has never been a better value. Electricity has always been a clean, safe and economical choice as a home heating and water heating source. Now, it's even more attractive.

Over the last few months, we have attempted to help you understand the reasons behind rising costs in the energy industry. Let's review a few of the factors influencing those higher costs.

- Worldwide demand for energy is increasing in a global economy. Developing nations (such as China and India) are using more energy than in the past and suppliers have been pressed to keep up with demand.

- The price of natural gas is now a major component of the price of electricity. Although more than half of U.S. power production is still fueled by coal, almost all of the generation capacity added in recent years is fueled by natural gas, which has risen as much as 600 percent over the past five years. Higher-priced natural gas power drives the wholesale electric power market.
- Coal remains the most economical method of power production, but demand has also driven the price of Indiana coal up by 50 percent to 90 percent during the last five years.
- Utilities face increasing environmental regulations. The costs for new equipment to reduce emissions and operating costs are passed on to consumers. As well,

the cost of emission allowances has skyrocketed and contributes to higher power market prices.


- The country's electricity infrastructure – power plants and the transmission grid – is aging and requires additional investments for maintenance, upgrades and replacements.

Whitewater Valley REMC and Hoosier Energy remain in a position to provide consumers with reliable power at a competitive cost. Hoosier Energy has favorable coal contracts for its coal-fired power stations and operates two efficient gas-fired peaking power plants that provide market flexibility. Process improvements and added investments are planned to improve power plant and power delivery reliability. As well, a risk management plan is in place to reduce uncertainty and help manage volatile energy costs.

It's too early to tell if 2006 will be a less turbulent year than 2005 for the energy industry. While cost pressures are likely to continue, we anticipate that electricity will remain a great value in the energy marketplace. Your electric cooperative will continue to represent the interests of consumers and keep you informed about energy issues. •

*This is the Tracker Rate located on your bill. Look for it this month.*

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**WHITewater VALLEY R.E.M.C.**  
P.O. BOX 349 ■ LIBERTY IN 47353  
"OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE"

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

101 BROWNSVILLE AVENUE ■ LIBERTY, INDIANA 47353  
LOCAL (765) 458-5171 ■ TOLL FREE 1-800-529-5557

Payments must be received (not postmarked) prior to the specified date to avoid either a late payment charge or disconnection of electrical service for nonpayment.

Failure to receive bill does not exempt you from monthly payment, late charges, or disconnection.

If your bill states "BALANCE FORWARD SUBJECT TO DISCONNECT"; that balance needs to be paid immediately to avoid disconnection.

Account is considered paid when payment is received, we are not responsible for the mail service. You should allow 4-5 days for delivery.

Depository available for after-hour payments.

WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU, PLEASE CALL US IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

Bill Type:	Rate Schedule:
Service Address:	Power Cost Tracker Per kWh: 0.0036300

After Hours, Weekends, & Holidays 1-800-529-5557      Office Hours: 7:30 am To 4:30 pm Monday -- Friday

Account#:	Reading Dates:	From	To	Days	Used Last Year	Avg Cost/Day
Meter Number	Cycle	Previous Reading	Present Reading	Multiplier	KWH Usage	\$Amount
ACTIVITY SINCE LAST BILL						
BALANCE TOTAL PAYMENTS OTHER ADJUSTMENTS						
BALANCE FORWARD						

Map Location:      Mailing Date:      Due Date Applies to Current Bill Only      After Due Date Pay:      Amount Due Now:

**RETURN THIS PORTION WITH PAYMENT**      **STATEMENT IS PAYABLE UPON RECEIPT**

Account Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Account#      Cycle  
Amount Due \_\_\_\_\_  
Due Date      After Due Date  
Amount After Due Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Enter Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_

WHITewater VALLEY R.E.M.C.  
PO BOX 3199  
MARTINSVILLE IN 46151-3168

1000041800070001652400015500

# Annual Meeting

Make sure to mark your calendar for the Whitewater Valley REMC Annual Meeting to be held April 13.

Watch for details in Powerlines.

# Youth Tour Approaches

Indiana's electric cooperatives are planning for the 2006 Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. The participants will meet in Indianapolis on June 8 for registration and orientation. The group will then leave for Washington, D.C., and return on June 15. Students will tour national monuments, dine at local restaurants, and visit Capital Hill. There is also a program to educate students about cooperative business characteristics, as well as some specifics about electric cooperatives.

## Who can participate?

Youth Tour applicants must be completing their junior year of high school in a satisfactory manner, with plans to attend their senior year. Their parents/guardians must be member-customers of Whitewater Valley REMC.

Please contact Mary Jo Thomas at Whitewater Valley REMC for all the details. Cut off date for applications is Feb. 11, so time is short. Please call for an application, if interested.

## Purpose

The Rural Electric Youth Tour is taken each year to provide young adults with the opportunity to travel to our nation's capital; to experience firsthand how our government functions; to learn about the complexities of today's electric utility industry; to discover the unique characteristics of cooperative business enterprise; to meet and work with hundreds of their peers from throughout the United States.

## The trip

The Youth Tour will begin on Thursday, June 8, and end on Thursday, June 15. All travel expenses from Indianapolis – meals, lodging and scheduled event fees will be borne by the sponsors of the Youth Tour. Travel to Indianapolis and incidental expenses incurred by the participants will not be covered.

## Rules and regulations

To be eligible for the Rural Electric Youth Tour, the following provisions will govern

the acceptance of applications from Whitewater Valley REMC:



1. Applicants must have completed their junior year in high school, and be enrolled for their senior year.
2. Applicants must be a son, daughter or legal ward of a Whitewater Valley REMC member-owner, employee or director.
3. Must complete and submit the application by Feb. 11.

## Judging

Judging and selection of applications is the responsibility of the board of directors of Whitewater Valley REMC or its designees.

## WildBlue Update

On November 4, 2005, Whitewater Valley REMC received notification from WildBlue that satellite spot beams 27 and 28 have reached 80 percent of the current maximum capacity. These beams are signal paths from the satellite to the member homes. In addition, we are required to suspend installation of WildBlue service when a beam has reached 99 percent of capacity. Therefore, installations of WildBlue services were suspended in beam 28 on Nov. 18, 2005 and in beam 27 on Dec. 2, 2005. We cannot accommodate any additional WildBlue subscribers who are within these two beams.

There is still capacity in beam 36. That means that our members located in the southern part of our territory would be able to get WildBlue service.

Contact the Cooperative and give us your zip code to determine whether Wild Blue is available in your area.

This beam capacity issue does not affect any of our current WildBlue subscribers.

I just talked to GRANDMA

Calling family and friends across the United States has never saved mommy and daddy so much money. Switch to Whitewater Valley REMC's long distance program today!

As low as:  
Long Distance  
**4.5¢\***  
per minute

Dial-up Internet  
**\$12.95\***

\*With an Ebill bundled plan and a one-year term

**1-877-808-5000**

 **Whitewater Valley REMC**  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

\*Services provided by TransWorld Network, Inc. Taxes and other regulatory charges not included. Receive a 4.5¢ per minute rate when you also sign up for dial-up Internet. Domestic rates apply within the contiguous 48 states. Certain restrictions and early termination fees may apply. Please call for details.

# Camp offers 'High-Voltage' Fun



Sixth graders can jump start their summer this coming June by signing up for "high-voltage fun" at the Indiana Touchstone Energy® Camp.

The second Touchstone Energy Camp will blend traditional camp activities—like archery, arts and crafts, and canoeing—with educational sessions about electrification, electrical safety and understanding the cooperative business principles, and the environment.

The three-and-a-half-day long camp, June 7-10, 2006, will be held at Camp Tecumseh YMCA Outdoor Center just north of Lafayette in Brookston. The center, located on Richard G. Marsh Lake, offers a range of recreational activities including rock-climbing, riflery, swimming

and canoeing. It also includes team building exercises that challenge students and enhance communication skills. The camp will have room for about 120 students.

Any current Indiana sixth grader is eligible to apply for a camp sponsorship. The sponsorship will cover all costs for the camp. (Campers may be responsible for transportation to and from Camp Tecumseh).

Sixth graders in the Whitewater Valley REMC service territory can pick up an application and return it to the co-op by Feb. 13 or contact Sandy Cason at 765-458-5171 or 1-800-529-5557 for more information. Selections will be made by this spring.

This camp is sponsored by: Indiana Statewide Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, the service association of Indiana's REMCs and RECs; participating Indiana's Touchstone Energy cooperatives; and cooperative power suppliers Hoosier Energy REC and Wabash Valley Power Association. (The hidden account number will be 981302.) ●

## Winter Weather

*Are you prepared for a storm?*

Preparing for winter weather is essential and something most people wait to do until too late. Take a few minutes to check out what you need to be prepared.

### Basic Necessities

1. A plan. You want to have a plan that outlines how you and your family will handle a storm.

#### *Answer such questions as:*

Do you have another place to stay if the power is out in your neighborhood for an extended period?

What will your family do if home alone?

What precautions need to be taken if the power goes out?

Emergency contacts should be listed with phone number and address.

2. Supplies you may need:

Blankets

Warm clothes

Food – canned and easily made without electricity

Water – at least 2 gallons per family member on hand



### During and outage

1. Look for source of power and shut off, if possible.
2. Call Whitewater Valley REMC.
  - Report any unusual sounds or sights.
  - Have your account number, phone number, address and directions to your home accessible.
  - If you have more than one account, then please make sure you are calling in the correct information.
  - The call response center is now automated and will give you a message if you are reporting an outage that we know of.
  - Turn on your battery operated radio. Tune into local radio stations to receive local updates.
  - Turn off all electrical appliances and lights to avoid a power surge when power is restored. You might leave a porch light on so our crews can see that your power has been restored.



### Find the Hidden Account Number!

No one has found the hidden account number from December. Keep reading your *Powerlines* each month or browsing our website—the next hidden account number could be yours!

### January Due Dates

During January the due dates for payment of your electric bills are January 3, 10, 19, 26.

Remember, we recommend that you allow three to five business days for the mail to reach the payment processing center. That way, you'll never run the risk of being late.

### Payment Options

**US Mail:** Send your payment to:  
Whitewater Valley REMC  
P.O. Box 3199  
Martinsville, IN 46151-3168

**Internet:** log-on to [www.wvremc.com](http://www.wvremc.com)

**Liberty Office:** In person or in the drop box

**Automatic Withdrawal:** Simply request a form and submit it to our office

**FCN or Franklin County**

**National Bank:**

In person or in the drop box  
(Please bring your payment stub with you)

**Union County National Bank**

**Richmond Branch:** In person or in the drop box  
(Please bring your payment stub with you)

If you would like more information about payment options, call 765-458-5171 or 1-800-529-5557.