

WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC Powerlines

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Comments from your CEO



Boyd Huff, CEO

Facing Up To High Costs

How much are consumers willing to pay for renewable energy, energy efficiency and climate

change? That question is emerging in national discussions, particularly as Congress considers legislation aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

New technologies to reduce the greenhouse gases, specifically carbon dioxide, will cost billions of dollars, according to The Wall Street Journal. It is an "unpleasant and inescapable truth," noted The New York Times, "... that any serious effort to fight global warming will require everyone to pay more for energy."

Those in the electric utility industry agree. "I think power prices could go up 50 percent, maybe more," an investor-owned utility CEO warned in the Journal article.

That means a \$150 monthly electric bill could go up to \$225; a \$400 electric bill

could climb to \$600. And that does not include the predicted 10 percent per year increase many of us can expect to pay to finance new power plants needed to meet the increasing demand for electricity.

We are talking about significant increases in what we pay for electricity.

But the Times editorial called these increases beneficial. Energy is currently underpriced and therefore overconsumed, it said. "As long as today's energy is relatively cheap, there is little incentive for private firms to develop new fuels and technologies," the editorial stated. Higher prices will force consumers to use less electricity and make it profitable for others to invest in alternate, and higher-priced, resources.

These skyrocketing electric bills will be painful for thousands of electric co-op consumer-members. Your co-op knows this. That is why your representatives at the co-op question each proposal brought forward by Congress.

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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 and account number 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.

Questions for Boyd

My question or comment is:



Name: _____

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@wwwremc.com



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For up-to-date information, visit us on the web at www.wwvremc.com.

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Facing Up To High Costs

Changes in the electric industry are coming, but each change needs to have a real, measurable payoff. Additional dollars paid through rate increases need to fund programs that result in significant changes worthy of the sacrifice consumers will have to make.

We need more research in most areas to effect real, measurable change. More research is needed to find ways to improve the efficiency of renewable resources, such as wind and solar. We need to develop ways to store this intermittent energy so that it can become a more stable part of the system.

Nationally, electric co-ops are leading the push for more investments in research and development for carbon capture and storage, and clean-coal technology. At the same time, individual co-ops are working to find new, economically feasible projects that will move us toward changes in the industry.

Collectively, co-ops are looking at creating a national renewable energy co-op. Co-ops are doing a lot to help cut emissions, improve efficiency and meet the needs of their members. They strive to do it while remembering that electricity is a necessity, not a luxury.

As we balance what needs to be done with what it will cost and who will pay that cost, your electric co-op will be looking out for you. [the hidden account number is 944901] ●

This editorial was written by Mona Neeley, publisher/editor of the Colorado Rural Electric Association's Colorado Country Life magazine.

Indiana's Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.



Indiana's electric cooperatives are planning for the 2008 Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Participants will meet in Indianapolis on June 12 for

registration and orientation. The group will then leave for Washington, D.C. and return on June 19. 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.



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-owners of Whitewater Valley REMC.

Please contact Sandy Cason at Whitewater Valley REMC for all the details. Cut off date for applications is February 11. Please call for an application, if interested.

PURPOSE:

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is taken each year to provide young adults

with the opportunity to travel to our nation's capital to:

- experience first hand how our government functions,
- learn about the complexities of today's electric utility industry,
- discover the unique characteristics of cooperative business enterprise,
- meet and work with hundreds of their peers from throughout the United States,

THE TRIP:

The Youth Tour delegation will meet in Indianapolis on June 12, 2008 then depart for Washington on Friday, June 13. We will return to the headquarters of the Indiana Statewide Association of RECs, Inc. on June 19, 2008. All travel expenses from Indianapolis, meals, lodging and scheduled event fees will be borne by the sponsors of the Youth Tour. Travel to and from Indianapolis and incidental expenses incurred by the participants will not be covered.

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

To be eligible for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, the following provisions will govern the acceptance of applicants from the local cooperatives:

1. Applicants must have completed their junior year in high school, and be enrolled for their senior year.
2. Applications submitted by systems that are members of Indiana Statewide will be given first consideration. If there is room and they can be accommodated, applicants from non-member systems will be considered on a first come-first served basis.

JUDGING:

Judging and selection of applicants is the responsibility of the sponsoring cooperative(s). Please check with your local electric cooperative for more details. ●

Power Cost Tracker to Increase in January

By Mary Jo Thomas

Your monthly electric bill includes a power cost tracker from Hoosier Energy, the wholesale power supplier for Whitewater Valley REMC and 16 other Indiana electric cooperatives. The tracker is an additional charge for each kilowatt-hour that your co-op purchases from the power supplier and is increased or decreased based on variable costs such as fuel and market power. The tracker is adjusted quarterly and the January adjustment will be reflected on your February, March and April bills.

Hoosier Energy's tracker will increase in January to \$0.00122 per kilowatt-hour (kWh). For the past several months, the tracker charge from Hoosier Energy has been set to zero. However, Whitewater Valley REMC has applied a variable Wholesale Post Cost Adjustment tracker charge since April 2007. Hoosier Energy's tracker will be added to the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment figure on the member's electric bill.

With the Hoosier Energy tracker revision, the monthly bill for a customer using 1,000 kWh will be about \$1.22 higher.

Hoosier Energy uses the power cost tracker to equalize large swings in electricity

and fuel prices while recovering costs in today's volatile energy market. As well, the tracker recovers some costs incurred for environmental requirements and transmission or power delivery charges.

Factors in rising energy costs

There are many factors affecting energy costs in Indiana and across the country.

- **Rising demand:** Economic growth in the U.S. and overseas has increased the demand for energy.
- **Higher fuel cost:** Fuel used to generate electricity, including natural gas and coal, has risen sharply in price. Future forecasts suggest fuel costs will remain at high levels compared to the past.

“Rising demand: Economic growth in the U.S. and overseas has increased the demand for energy.”

- **Power grid and equipment investments:** Generating plants and much of the nation's electricity grid are aging. Investments are being made to increase generating and transmission capacity and reliability. Many Indiana electric co-ops are experiencing rapid growth and additional investment is required to support facilities to serve new consumers. The cost of materials, including transformers, poles, wire and other

necessities to provide electric service has experienced double digit increases in recent years.

“Utilities are faced with the cost of compliance with environmental regulations and other government requirements.”

- **Increasing environmental and other regulations:** Utilities are faced with the cost of compliance with environmental regulations and other government requirements. Compliance with already-approved or anticipated rules will add millions of dollars in costs for Hoosier Energy.
- **Volatile wholesale market:** Prices in the wholesale power market have increased substantially in recent years and continue to remain higher than a few years ago. Forecasts suggest continued market price increases in 2008 and 2009.

Electric cooperatives across the country are working together to increase electricity supply, improve reliability and efficiency and find new or alternative energy options that are cost-effective. As always, the objective of your electric cooperative and Hoosier Energy is to deliver reliable electricity at a reasonable cost.

For information and tips on managing your energy use and costs, see www.touchstoneenergysavers.com.

Exciting Changes For This Year's Annual Meeting

The date is set for Thursday, April 3, 2008 and preparations are underway for the cooperative's annual membership meeting. We have some new and exciting things planned this year. The program includes musical guests to entertain members during registration. We have also made some changes in the prize give away and are excited to have a John Deere riding lawn mower as the grand prize this year. Lots of cash prizes will also be given away during

the meeting including the traditional \$50 Early Bird Cash Prize to three members at the opening of the meeting. A \$10 bill credit will be given to each member registered at the meeting.

Reports from the CEO and Board Chairman and the election of directors are a few of the business requirements fulfilled throughout the meeting.

Look for more information about the annual meeting in the March issue of the *Powerlines*.

Looking forward to seeing you in April.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Check the insulation in your attic, ceilings, exterior and basement walls, floors, and crawl spaces to see if it meets the levels recommended for your area.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

For Your Information OUTAGES BY CAUSE

September - October - 2007



Cause	# Outages	%
Equipment	38	33.63
Unknown	24	21.24
Trees	20	17.70
Animals	18	15.93
Decay/Corrosion	17	15.04
Lighting	13	11.50
Construction	8	7.08
Member	7	6.19
Vehicles	5	4.42
Power Supplier	1	.088
Total	113	100

Statement of Non Discrimination

Whitewater Valley Rural Electric Membership Corporation is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Electrification Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, marital status, sex, or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Boyd Huff, President

and C.E.O. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that his 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 Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Electrification Administration, Washington, D.C., 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.



Find the Hidden Account Number!

No one has found the hidden account number from November. 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 and 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 at 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)

United Communities 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.

Get a Taste of Sweet Savings.



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