

Current REPORT

For members of Lynchess River Electric Cooperative

Rights of Way no place for ATVs

At first glance, Lynchess River Electric Cooperative's rights of way look like a great place to ride an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) for recreation. The area under power lines is cleared of underbrush creating paths running for miles through woodlands. These rights of way are sometimes used by hunters looking for easy access to hunting grounds.

Lynchess River's rights of way are maintained to prevent growth of trees into power lines and to allow our work crews to reach power lines during outage restoration.

While riding ATVs in Lynchess River's rights of way may seem harmless enough, think again. Any activity near live power lines is dangerous and should be avoided. Overhead distribution lines carry between 7,200 to 14,400 volts per wire. Some transmission lines carry as much as 500,000 volts per wire. Coming into contact with energized lines is often fatal.

The guy wires used to stabilize power poles present another risk. These wires angle down and away from the top of the pole then are secured in the ground several feet from the bottom of the pole. Hitting a guy wire while riding an ATV, may result in serious injury. Damage to poles or utility equipment by ATVs or other recreational vehicles may cause a power outage.

In addition to safety concerns, there is something else you should consider—you may be trespassing on private property. Lynchess River does not own the land on which our rights of way are located. We must obtain easements from landowners before building lines across their properties. If No Trespassing signs are posted, landowners have the right to press charges against anyone caught trespassing, including in co-op rights of way.

When riding ATVs always put safety first. Consider the unseen dangers of riding in co-op rights-of-way. And, if you see No Trespassing signs, respect the landowner's request.



Apply for WIRE Scholarship for Women

The WIRE Opportunity Scholarship is awarded to a woman who was not able to attend college after graduating from high school, but now wants to further her education. A \$2,500 one-time scholarship will be presented to two electric cooperative members in South Carolina based on financial need and personal goals. Applicants must: Be a member of a South Carolina electric cooperative; have graduated from high school or earned a GED at least 10 years ago; obtain acceptance into an accredited South Carolina college or university; and demonstrate financial need.

Women who have previously obtained a four-year college degree are not eligible for this scholarship; however,

applicants may have previously earned a two-year degree or some college credits.

Deadline for applications is June 1, 2009. Applications are available at Lynchess River or at www.lynchessriver.com / Community / WIRE. The winner will receive the scholarship for the Fall 2009 or Spring 2010 school semester. The scholarship will be paid jointly to the winner and the college of choice.

Please mail or fax your application by June 1, 2009, to Scholarship Co-Chair Christy Overstreet, Marlboro Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Drawer 1057, Bennettsville, SC 29512, fax (843) 479-8990.

Why Energy Efficiency is So Important

Lynches River Electric Cooperative and electric cooperatives across the country stand at a crossroads. At the moment, we are able to power our homes with the mere flip of a switch, as safe, reliable, and affordable electricity remains readily available.

But in recent years, several factors—increasing demand for electricity, rising fuel and construction costs, and decisions limiting what types of power plants we can build—place our energy future in limbo. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) predicts our need for electricity will climb by 30 percent between now and 2030. Unfortunately, the power available may not be able to keep up with this growth as construction of new generation capacity is being put on hold while Congress reworks national energy policy.

However, we do have a powerful resource to tap in the meantime: energy efficiency. With widespread energy efficiency measures in place, including those we've implemented here at the co-op as well as measures you can take at home, annual growth in electricity demand could drop by almost half of 1 percent, to 2.2 percent, according to the Arlington, Va.-based Cooperative Research Network (CRN).

In other words, saving electricity now will both reduce your current utility bills and soften the blow against future power supply shortcomings. And being energy efficient doesn't mean being flat-out stingy with energy use. It means doing things in your home you normally would, but in a smarter way. Compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) are a great example. By simply changing an old incandescent bulb to a swirled CFL equivalent, you can get the same light while using 75 percent less electricity.

Lynches River Electric Cooperative is on your side in this effort. We have a long history of helping members get the most out of the power coming down our lines. The vast majority of electric cooperatives across the nation—92 percent—join us in these efforts.

Please contact us if you would like to learn more about making your home more energy efficient. Or go online at www.energysavers.gov, a valuable Web site maintained by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Together we can save energy and reduce our electric bills in the meantime.



Viewpoint



Robert G. Wannamaker
Interim CEO

PRESIDENT AND CEO Robert G. Wannamaker

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Scott Croxton - District 5 *Chairman*

W. Gary Leaird - District 6
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Myrtle L. Faile - District 2

James R. "Jib" Taylor - District 3

Jimmy C. Freeman - District 4

Cecil E. McLain - District 7

Johnny A. West - District 8

REMOTE PAYMENT SITES *Chesterfield*

Piggly Wiggly Market of Chesterfield
33 West Boulevard
Chesterfield, SC 29709

Jefferson

The General Store
360 N. Harold Ingram Hwy.
Jefferson, SC 29718

Kershaw

Quality Appliance
407 South Hampton Street
Kershaw, SC 29067

Lancaster

The Energy Center, Inc.
667 Lancaster Bypass 9 E
Lancaster, SC 29720



Former CEO Derl Hinson Passes

The co-op family was saddened by the death of former CEO Derl Hinson. Hinson, 75, died Jan. 11 after a courageous battle with lung cancer.

Hinson was hired as interim manager of Lynch River Electric Cooperative in November 1994 and became president and CEO in 1995. He retired from Lynch River in January 2000. Hinson was a native of Loris where he lived with his wife, Angelyn, after his retirement.

Before coming to Lynch River, Hinson was general manager of Aiken Electric Cooperative in Aiken, S.C. While at Aiken he received the Governor's Award as South Carolina Ambassador for Economic Development. He began his career in rural electrification with Pee Dee Electric Cooperative in Darlington, S.C. after graduating from Clemson with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics.

His 40-year cooperative career included managing co-ops in Georgia, Indiana, Mississippi and North Carolina. During Hinson's tenure with the electric utility industry, he dealt with all phases of the business holding positions in member services, marketing and economic development, operations, engineering and administration.

Hinson believed four basic ingredients were responsible for making Lynch River a successful member-owned electric cooperative organization—excellent service at affordable rates, good communication with members, loyal support by member-owners, and teamwork of trustees and employees to serve member-consumers.

At the co-op Hinson was known as "Mr. H" by many employees. Employees remember him as always caring, courteous and considerate. He was also known as a smart dresser and always wore a smile. It was Hinson's idea to paint a smiley face eating watermelon on the Wal-Mart Distribution Center water tank located in the Lynch River Industrial Park just north of Pageland.

Hinson's knowledge and expertise of the cooperative program were unsurpassed. His commitment to co-op and community were always obvious. He will be missed by his co-op family and friends.

Electric Co-ops Provide the Power

Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 7037 on May 11, 1935 establishing the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). REA was established as an independent lending agency with the passage of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 paving the way for the eventual creation of electric cooperatives.

Roosevelt's original intent was to make loans available to investor-owned electric utilities as an incentive to extend power to rural areas and to relieve unemployment. The Roosevelt administration soon realized investor-owned electricity providers were not interested in serving sparsely populated areas. When that effort failed, REA began to concentrate on achieving its goal through electric cooperatives.

Farmers across the country were familiar with the cooperative concept having organized co-ops for purposes such as marketing, purchasing and irrigating. Building electric service, however, was entirely different. A large amount of capital and technical expertise were needed to provide electric service. The rural electric program was successful because REA was able to provide both of those key elements.

REA engineers designed a standardized system reducing construction and labor costs. Co-ops today still use a standardized system which makes restoring power more efficient. During a widespread outage crews from anywhere in the country can help restore power at



Co-op crews building electric service to farms became a familiar sight soon after the Roosevelt administration realized cooperatives were the best way to bring power to rural areas.

another cooperative because they are familiar with the construction and operations.

With REA assistance, electric cooperatives began to organize across the country. Five years after REA was created the percentage of farms with electric service jumped from 11 percent to 30.4 percent. Today, more than 99 percent of the nation's rural residents have electric service.

Sources: *Electric Cooperatives: On the Threshold of a New Era*; *The Farmer Takes A Hand: The Electric Power Revolution in Rural America*



Now that winter is almost over and warmer weather is right around the corner, you probably can't wait to get outside. If you plan to start those landscaping projects you had to put off because of the weather, there's an important phone call you should make before picking up that shovel.

Call 811, the national "Call Before You Dig" number. The 811 number was created to help protect you from unintentionally hitting underground utility lines while working on digging projects. Every digging project requires a call, even small projects like planting trees or shrubs.

If you hit an underground utility line while digging, you can harm yourself or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially be responsible for fines and repair costs.

Remember—call before you dig!



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www.lynchesriver.com



Levelized Billing—What is it and how does it work?

The timing couldn't have been worse. The cost of electricity went up and winter temperatures went down creating the perfect storm of higher bills.

While we can't control the weather or the increase costs of fuels used to generate electricity, we can offer this suggestion: sign up for Levelized Billing.

Levelized Billing is a free program offered to Lynch River Electric Cooperative members. On the Levelized Billing program your bills will remain fairly consistent making budgeting easier. You'll really appreciate the benefits of the program in winter and summer months when your electric bill is likely to be the highest.

If you look on your bill, you will see a graph charting your electricity use during the year. Your usage pattern will mirror monthly temperatures. When temperatures are extremely cold or hot your electricity use generally goes up. The increase during these cold and hot periods is usually caused by heating and air conditioning, which accounts for about 56 percent of energy use in the average home.

The Levelized Billing program takes the worry and surprise out of

opening your monthly electric bill. With this simple program, your monthly bill becomes a rolling average of the most recent 12 months. For example, this month's bill would be the average of the previous 11 months, plus the current month. Levelized Billing uses a "rolling average" so your bill will change only slightly from month to month; however, your bill will not be the exact same amount every month.

The only time you have to reconcile your account is when you leave the Lynch River system, when you decide you no longer want to participate in Levelized Billing or when you no longer qualify for the program.

Qualifications for the program are:

- You must have an acceptable credit history
- A zero balance on your account
- Have been a member of Lynch River for one consecutive year at the same location

Call or come by the Lynch River office and our helpful customer service representatives will be happy to sign you up for the Levelized Billing program.

Unplug and save

By reducing the amount of electricity you use, you reduce the amount of electricity generated saving you money while conserving natural resources.

- Unplug TVs – TVs consume electricity even when they're off. Although, 80 to 95 percent of your TV's energy use is consumed when the TV is on, eliminating the steady stream of electricity when off could save you between \$25 to \$60 per year depending on the type and size of your television.
- Unplug battery chargers – Battery chargers for cell phones, hand-held vacuums, power tools, personal care products and small household appliances use power even when not actively charging a product. A cell phone charger, for instance, can use up to 45 watts of power when not charging the phone.



Visit www.lynchesriver.com for more energy saving tips.