Vol.3 Issue 3

Lynches River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

June 2011

CURRENT REPORT

Published for Members of Lynches River Electric Cooperative

Restoring Power Step by Step

Our goal is to safely restore power to the greatest number of customers in the shortest time possible

We've all seen the images of destruction caused by the outbreak of severe storms and tornadoes this spring. Dangerous weather can happen anytime and anywhere, even in the most unlikely places.

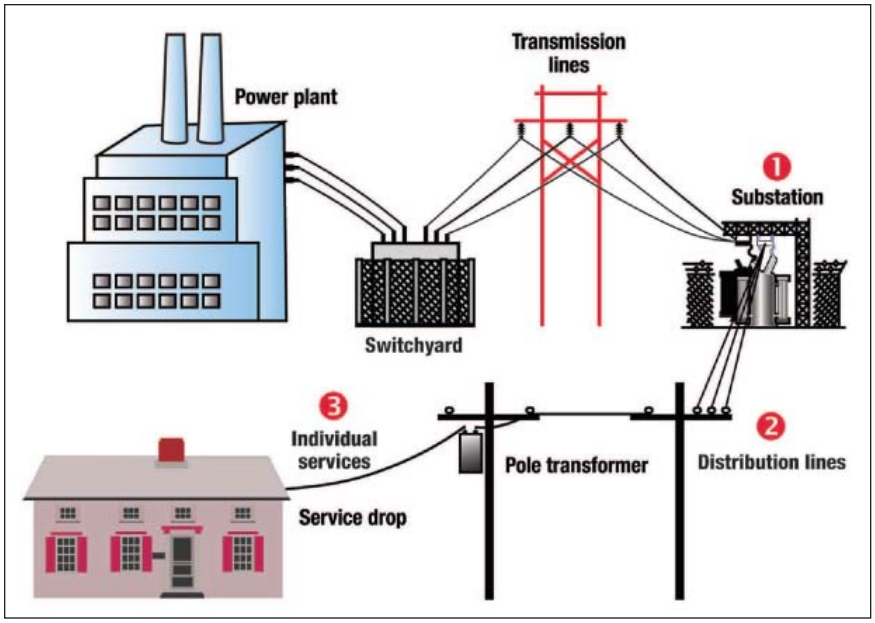
For this reason, members should be on alert when a severe storm warning is issued.

With the beginning of summer comes the start of hurricane season. Summer also brings the chance of thunderstorms with dangerous lightning. Power outages may occur as a result.

A handful of outages in a confined area may take just a few hours to restore. Widespread outages affecting most of our system may take days or weeks to repair.

While we realize how frustrating this may be to members, it's important for you to understand why restoring power generally takes longer after a severe weather event.

The chart at right along with the numbered explanations below it illustrate the methodical steps Lynches River Electric Cooperative takes to restore power to members if a major power outage occurs.



Damage to power plants, switchyards or transmission lines must be repaired by our power provider before we can restore your service.

1 - Substations are repaired first. A co-op may have several local distribution substations, each serving thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, the local distribution substations are checked first. If the problem can be corrected at the substation level, power may be restored to a large number of people.

2 - Distribution lines are repaired. Main distribution supply lines are checked next, if the problem cannot be isolated at the substation. These supply lines carry electricity away from the substation to a group of customers, such as a subdivision. When power is restored at this stage, all consumers served by this supply line could see the lights come on, as long as there is no problem further down the line.

3 - Individual services are restored. The final supply lines, called service lines, carry power from the transformer on utility poles or underground transformers outside houses or other buildings. Line crews fix the remaining outages based on restoring service to the greatest number of consumers.

Sometimes, damage will occur on the services line between your house and the transformer on the nearby pole. This may explain why you have no power when your neighbor does. Let us know you have an outage here so we can repair it.


Report an Outage
1-866-675-5732



Our Marching Orders: Affordable Power

After a visit to Washington, D.C., last month, I was impressed by the long-range planning and precision of our nation's military. But no matter how prepared they might be, the military can't make a move without marching orders from the top.

It reminds me of the bind electric cooperatives are in right now. We excel at long-range planning—most of the power you use today was designed three or four decades ago. We stand at the ready with plans for new infrastructure, power plants, and innovative technologies to provide electricity for the next 30 years. But there's a problem—we're waiting on marching orders from our nation's leaders.

I was proud to join thousands of electric co-op representatives in our nation's capital this spring. We told our elected officials that now more than ever we have to plan for a safe, reliable, and affordable energy future. To get there, we need to know the rules for power generation—and we need to know now. Rolling blackouts in Texas earlier this year reminded all of us that electricity must be used as quickly as it's produced; we don't have the technology yet to store large amounts of power to fall back on when resources like wind turbines don't work.

For our children and grandchildren's sake, we need to make some tough decisions soon—and we need to get them right.

With a flurry of proposed regulations being discussed for power plants (and more to come), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been following their own set of marching orders and deadlines set by the courts. However, what the final regulations will look like remains unclear. Co-ops need to know the rules—our marching orders—for power generation. Until the government provides more certainty, we can't enact our plans for the next three decades. As our appetite for electricity grows and threatens to outstrip our nation's generation capacity, we need to build more power plants. But what type of facilities should they be that will make the most sense financially?

Lynches River Electric Cooperative's mission was set by you, our members, over 70 years ago. You charged us to provide safe, reliable, and affordable power. Where this power comes from impacts a sizable portion of your electric bill—about 60 percent of each dollar you pay us goes to buying wholesale power. Bucket trucks, poles and wire, right-of-way trimming, payroll, and other operating expenses are covered by the rest.

Although expensive, power plants and expanded transmission systems are an investment in a better future for all of us. We'll keep our ultimate mission at the forefront of our efforts as we work with Congress to get our marching orders and keep the lights on for the next 30 years. It's one more way we're looking out for you.

David C. Altman

Viewpoint

VISIT US ONLINE
lynchesriver.com

REMOTE PAYMENT SITES

Chesterfield
Piggly Wiggly Market of Chesterfield
1303 West Boulevard
843-623-6590

Kershaw
Quality Appliance
407 South Hampton Street
803-475-2302

Lancaster
The Energy Center, Inc.
667 Lancaster Bypass 9 E
803-283-6148

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Lynches River Electric Cooperative is a member owned electric cooperative committed to delivering reliable electric energy and related services at a competitive price, which will improve the quality of life of its members and communities.

CURRENT REPORT EDITOR
Leigh C. Smith
Email: leigh.smith@lynchesriver.com

News From the Board

Greetings fellow members,

We would like to thank the members who came out to the Town Hall Meetings the second week of April. The discussions were informative and helpful to us as Board Members. We represent the members of Lynches River and we appreciate your input.

At the April Board Meeting we agreed to the bid for grading and clearing to begin on the new headquarters. You should see some activity at the site, which began the second week of May. We also agreed to draw down the amount needed to build the new building from an existing line of credit. The draw-down was taken now to insure a lower interest rate.

The Board welcomed Donald Sellers of Chesterfield to fill the term of the late Jimmy Freeman, also from Chesterfield.

See you next month.

Lynches River Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees

Board Grants $14,300 at March Meeting

The Lynches River Electric Trust Board met March 14 and approved $11,802.23 in assistance to 17 applicants.

The Trust Board also approved $2,506.62 in emergency assistance to four applicants.

The Lynches River Electric Trust Board meets six times a year in January, March, May, July, September and November.

Assistance areas include, medical needs, shelter, food and clothing.

For more information, please call 672-6111 or 1-800-922-3486 or visit lynchesriver.com.

Consider a Cooling/heating Window Unit

By Bow Burch, Energy Expert

Summer is coming and we're all trying to find ways to save money.

I've received so many calls from members with central air/heat units wanting to close off ducts to unused rooms to save money. I have been guilty of this myself.

In all the training classes I have attended, and what most heating and cooling experts say is it's a waste of time and decreases the unit's cooling and heating efficiency.

The HVAC unit and duct system are designed for the whole house. Closing supply ducts can create problems, like slowing air flow across A/C coils causing freeze ups.

Closing air vents can also put your house in a vacuum. The return air duct pulls air from all the ducts. If registers are closed, the return air duct must now try to pull air from unconditioned areas, like damp crawlspaces, hot attics, or through cracks and crevices from outdoors.

A new high efficiency window unit might be the answer for some folks depending on life style. Turn your central unit off and just cool or heat the rooms you use. These window units have come down in price, but before buying one make sure it's a heat pump and not an air conditioner with electric resistance heat.

While on the subject, change your filters. They are cheap and increase comfort and the life of the unit.

I'm available to answer your energy-efficiency questions. You can reach me at 675-3211 or 1-800-3486 ext. 211, or email your questions to bow.burch@lynchesriver.com.

Introducing Your 2011 Youth Tour Delegates

Victor Beherrell, 16, attends Chesterfield High School. He writes, "I believe I would be an ideal representative for Lynches River Electric Cooperative because I am a very dedicated and responsible person. I also strongly believe in the principles of honesty and integrity, and seek to apply them in any and all situations I face. "

Clayton Boone, 17, attends Burford High School. He writes, "I would like to go to Washington, D.C. as a represenative for Lynches River Electric Cooperative on the Youth Tour because I would represent Lynches River very proudly, as I do in the marching band and on the student council at my school. I strive for my best and always put my best foot forward.

We believe Victor and Clayton will make great Youth Tour delegates.

Visit Us On the Web

Find back issues of Current Report at

lynchesriver.com

Electrical Safety Vacation Checklist

Summer vacations are hard to pull off these days, so it's important trip-takers have peace of mind while away. Fires can start when lightning storms strike electronics or small appliances.

The electrical safety checklist below will help you decrease the risk of problems occurring while on vacation:

1. Turn off all electrical appliances, including toaster ovens, stoves, and curling irons.
2. Unplug television sets and computers—these items are especially susceptible to lightning and power surges.
3. Use a timer on indoor lights. Look for one that can be set to a random pattern rather than regular times throughout the day.
4. Install motion-detecting lights outdoors.
5. Set the thermostat to 80 degrees in the summer and 55 degrees in the winter if you plan to leave for an extended period of time.
6. Give your house key to a neighbor and make sure he or she has a phone number where you can be reached.

Source: National Sheriffs' Association and Christine Smith, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association