



CURRENT REPORT

Published for Members of Lynches River Electric Cooperative

The United Nations has designated 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives. The theme is “Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World.”

Support National and Local Co-ops

“Co-ops have a more than 200 year history. In the United States, the first known co-op dates back to an insurance cooperative formed by Benjamin Franklin. And co-ops continue today to provide a tremendous service to people throughout the world. Cooperatives are a model of self-reliance and an example of people working together to improve their quality of life.”

Quote: Glenn English, CEO National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)

Lynches River Electric Cooperative is one of more than 900 electric cooperatives in America. But we’re just one type of cooperative—more than 29,200 operate in our country, including a large segment of the agriculture industry. From dairy to oranges, and almonds to cotton, our nation’s farmers know the value of the cooperative business model.

The next time you’re at the grocery store, see how many items you can purchase that were produced by a co-op.

Starting in the produce section, pick up some Ocean Spray cranberries or Sunkist oranges, tangerines, grapes, or grapefruit.

Cruise on over to the refrigerated cases and take a look at the eggs—95 percent of America’s eggs are produced and marketed by co-ops. Then pick up some Florida Natural orange juice, Land

O’Lakes butter, Cabot or Tillamook Cheese, and Organic Valley milk. Need a warm drink? Try Equal Exchange coffee, tea, and hot chocolate.

Finally, drop some Blue Diamond almonds in your cart—a perfect pick-me-up for that 3 p.m. slump.

Now that you’ve finished your grocery shopping, make your way to Ace Hardware or True Value to get supplies for your weekend projects. Or go to a regional shopping mall to replace your old, falling-apart blue jeans with a new pair from GAP, Banana Republic, or Guess—all three get their cotton from Plains Cotton Growers Cooperative’s Denimatrix. But before you do that, head to your credit union—another cooperative—to make a deposit to cover all your purchases.

The cooperative business model promotes self-sustainment and local economic growth. Support our nation’s cooperatives, and local co-ops such as Sandhill Rural Telephone Cooperative, Founders Federal Credit Union and Farm Bureau Insurance, as we work together to build a better world.

Find a co-op near you at www.go.coop.



Co-op Power: Reliable, Affordable, and Environmentally Responsible

At Lynch River Electric Cooperative, we have three top priorities: provide you safe, reliable access to electric power; offer that service as affordably as possible; and do both of those things in a fiscally and environmentally responsible fashion.



Because Lynch River Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit enterprise—which means your money stays local; we don't have to worry about distant shareholders—we are well-positioned to make any necessary investments for ensuring safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. However, fulfilling our commitment to environmental stewardship in a fiscally responsible manner has become more challenging.

Today, many environmental laws that were adopted by Congress decades ago are being used by federal agencies and the courts to address issues for which they were never intended.

For example, the federal Clean Air Act is now 40 years old and was last amended in 1990—more than two decades ago. Much has changed in the intervening years, including technology, our understanding of the environment, and the electric utility industry.

Today, officials with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency—often under court order—are trying to modify the Clean Air Act to fit new circumstances. Without a doubt, new EPA rules being issued will wind up back in the courts—and lengthy litigation will ensue.

Reasonable people can and will disagree over how to find a balance between protecting the environment, guaranteeing a reliable supply of power, and keeping electric bills affordable. Under the right circumstances, Congress eventually will have to revisit the Clean Air Act and update it to fit the needs of the 21st century. In the meantime, we will keep you updated on our efforts to encourage lawmakers and regulators to strike the proper balance on these concerns.

David Q. Altman

PRESIDENT AND CEO

David Altman

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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

Lynch 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

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Outdoor Lighting Has Many Benefits



Among the many advantages electricity offers, outdoor lighting adds value for homeowners or businesses in three ways:

Safety: Outdoor lighting helps prevent personal injury when working after dark, and damage to property when moving cars or machinery around buildings. Accidents can be prevented by

illuminating uneven walkways or items left in the yard or driveway.

Security: Outdoor lighting also helps deter vandalism by discouraging prowlers.

Productivity: Lighting extends the workday beyond sundown. It also allows tasks to be completed more quickly after dark, and adds convenience in opening doors or checking around property.

The following recommendations apply to not only homes, but also to farms and rural businesses, such as warehouses, self-storage facilities and greenhouses:

Large areas: Don't try to illuminate multiple areas with just one light. Large areas around buildings or parking lots may require several lights.

Motion-sensor lights: Light entrance doors, gates or other locked areas with motion-sensor lights. These motion-activated fixtures have two advantages. The first is security. The "instant-on" feature startles trespassers, which can greatly reduce vandalism and theft. Secondly, the brighter, more concentrated light level helps in finding locks and maneuvering oversized equipment through gates. The "automatic-off" feature also saves energy.

Decorative lights: Decorative yard lights, mounted atop poles about six feet high, are good for walkways from the home to a garage or outbuilding. These fixtures also enhance the home's appearance after dark. Using compact fluorescent bulbs, suitable for outdoor temperatures, save energy and reduces the number of bulb change-outs.

Contact Lynch River Electric Cooperative for help with your outdoor lighting needs.

Own a Small Business?

We are looking for small businesses to feature in future issues of Current Report. Only businesses that receive power from Lynch River Electric Cooperative are eligible.

Submit the following information to leigh.smith@lynchesriver.com.

- Business name
- Name of owner or operator
- Address
- Phone number
- Description of business
- How long in business
- Please include a few remarks about the service Lynch River provides to your business.
- Include a photo of your business if you like. Digital photos must be a minimum of 300 dpi in jpeg format. Hardcopy photos are also acceptable, but must be of good quality.

Call Leigh Smith at 675-3213 or 1-800-922-3486 ext. 213 if you have questions or need more information.

News From the Board

Greetings fellow members,

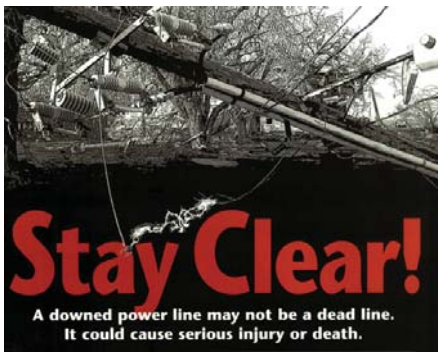
In December the board received the first walk-thru of the new building. The roof is on and the walls are up in the main building. The new building will fill the current needs of the cooperative and will allow room for future expansion should the need arise.

We hope this building will not only be functional but will be a source of pride for members and employees for years to come. We currently have some of the best service and reliability in the industry, and shortly we will

have some of the best facilities.

We plan to hold our Annual Meeting at the new facility this October and we are currently planning that as well as working on ways to reduce the registration lines. We are also discussing ways to have members view the new facilities once they are open. We will keep you informed.

**Lynch River Electric Cooperative
Board of Trustees**



Recognize and Report Hazards

All Lynch River Electric Cooperative employees, be they lineworkers or office staff, are trained to recognize hazards on the co-op's electric distribution system.

Co-op members can also report potential hazards such as:

- Low-hanging service lines
- Broken or damaged poles
- Trees growing into power lines
- Service connections on a building that have been pulled loose by high winds, storms or other damage
- Downed power lines

If you notice any of these hazards, call Lynch River Electric Cooperative at 672-6111 or toll free at 1-800-922-3486. We appreciate your help.

Visit Us
On the Web

Research payment
options, view your bill or
make a payment at

lynchesriver.com



Why Electric Bills Go Up in the Winter

Even those of us who do not have electric heat in our homes and businesses can see an increase in our electric bills in the winter.

Sometimes it's hard to pin down the reasons for increase in the bills for our electric service, but usually we can backtrack and think about our use and many factors come to mind.

Here are a few items that might contribute to higher bills this time of year:

- ✧ Using more lights because of shorter days.
- ✧ Most heating systems require electricity in some way, and they may run constantly in extremely cold weather.
- ✧ Some members use electric space heaters in spare rooms, garages or workshops. Space heaters or heat bulbs used in the pump house, pet quarters or for pipe protection will increase the electric energy use.
- ✧ Electric blankets and heating pads keep us cozy, but add a little extra cost to operate.
- ✧ We tend to use clothes dryers more in the winter.
- ✧ We watch more TV and use more electronic entertainment equipment in the winter.
- ✧ Families eat more hot meals during colder winter months.
- ✧ Water coming into the home is colder so your water heater must work harder. More hot water is used to reach the desired temperature for bathing, washing dishes, etc.
- ✧ Outdoor recreational activities and daylight are limited so we spend more time indoors.
- ✧ When electric heating is used, it accounts for a large portion of the total electric use and thermostat settings play an important role in the heating costs.

WIRE to Meet March 20

Ladies are you looking for an opportunity to spend time with community-minded women like yourself? Well then, look no further than your cooperative's Women Involved in Rural Electrification (WIRE) organization.

WIRE is a Lynch River Electric Cooperative affiliated community service organization of dedicated, compassionate women whose mission is to foster understanding of the rural electric program and to improve the quality of life in rural areas.

Join us at the next meeting Tuesday, March 20 at 6 p.m. in the cooperative's training room behind the main office at 1104 West McGregor Street in Pageland.

For more information about WIRE, call Lynch River at 672-6111 or 1-800-922-3486 toll free.

