



Pitt and Greene

Electric Membership Corporation

“Where Customers Have A Choice”

Member Newsletter

April 2021

NOTICE: Effective May 1, 2021

Pitt and Greene EMC will reinstate all service fees on bills that are due after May 1, 2021. These include: Cutoff charges, Field Collection Charges, Reconnection Charges and Security Deposits, Disconnection Charges, Return check fee, Interest on Unpaid Balances.

Increase Energy Savings with Spring Home Projects

Adding a few items to your list of spring chores can help make your home more energy efficient and deliver electric bills that won't make you sweat when temperatures soar.

Start with your air conditioner. Spring and early summer are good times to make sure your cooling system is ready to work when you flip the switch.

- Get help from a professional who can inspect and service your unit.
- Give your air conditioner a do-it-yourself cleaning. Shut the unit off, and clear away leaves and yard debris outside.
- Inside your home, replace filters to keep air moving efficiently, and vacuum floor and ceiling registers to remove any dust buildup.
- When using window units, ensure that weather stripping is in place. Placement should be between the middle of the top window pane and the bottom pane.

Check out your roof. See how well your roof has weathered the winter. Roof leaks can damage the insulation in your attic, which can affect the comfort and efficiency of your home. A roofing professional can assess and repair things like loose or missing shingles and leaks.

Have a successful planting season rooted in safety

As farmers make plans to return to their fields for spring planting, Pitt & Greene EMC and the Safe Electricity program (www.safeelectricity.org) urge them to be particularly alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines. Operating large equipment near these lines is one of the often overlooked, yet potentially deadly, hazards of working on a farm.

Start by making sure everyone knows to maintain a 10-foot clearance minimum from power lines. Sometimes a power line is closer than it looks. Helpful safety steps include using a spotter and designating preplanned routes that avoid hazard areas.

Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds. Many tractors now have tall antennas extending from the cab that could make contact with power lines. Avoid raising the arms of planters or cultivators near power lines, and never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.

Simply working too close to a power line is dangerous as electricity can arc or “jump” to conducting objects, such as a ladder, pole or truck. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tires, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust and dirt contamination.

If your equipment does come into contact with power lines, stay in the cab and call Pitt & Greene EMC at 252-753-3128 for help. If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path to the ground. Even if a line has landed on the ground, there is still potential for the area to be energized. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until help arrives.

If exiting the cab is absolutely necessary because of fire, the proper action is to jump—not step—with both feet together, hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

For more tips and information on how to stay safe this planting season, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Manager's Message

By: Mark A. Suggs

Ensuring Reliability as Power Supply Tightens

You expect reliable and affordable electricity from your electric cooperative, so how does your co-op deliver on that promise?

A complex network of electricity generators and tens of thousands of miles of electrical lines work together to ensure that enough electricity is available on the coldest winter morning and during the dog days of summer.

What happens when the demand for power overwhelms the ability to provide it? That is a particularly vexing question given the transition taking place in how electricity is produced and shared across this network.

The key to meeting the energy needs so essential to your quality of life is balancing electricity supply with demand. While that may sound simple, there is a complex web of facilities and organizations that work together to make it happen each day.

Regional transmission organizations (RTO's) coordinate, control and monitor the electric grid across several states in a region. Think of them as energy traffic controllers on an interstate highway system, regulating the number of cars – in this case, electricity – and their destination.

Even so, on some days there is an imbalance in that system that leads to rolling power interruptions or blackouts—so-called “max-gen” events. In those cases, supply simply cannot keep up. In the Midcontinent region comprised of 15 states, there were six max-gen events from 2006-2016. Since 2016, there have been 15, including three last July and August alone.

Simply, that's because traditional power plants that generate electricity are being ordered closed by state legislation faster than new producers come online. In most cases, traditional large-scale power suppliers such as coal and nuclear plants are being closed and replaced by alternatives on a much smaller scale. And this gap is closing more quickly despite the development of new natural gas-fueled power plants. With the discontinuance of the Keystone Pipeline, the future of cheap power produced by abundant natural gas is in jeopardy.

As states pursue zero- or low-carbon initiatives by 2035 and beyond, this challenge will grow more complex. So, what is the answer?

Electric cooperatives and others in the energy sector will continue to develop renewable options and pursue new technologies. But absent new large-scale alternatives and advances in energy storage, the stalwarts of today's energy fleet—coal and nuclear energy facilities—must continue to operate. In some regions, they remain the most cost-effective options for producing electricity. Fossil fuel generation like coal and natural gas are needed to keep the lights on. It is simply a fact.

Thank A Lineworker!!
Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 12th.

Teachers can apply for Bright Ideas Education Grants

The Bright Ideas grant program is offered by all 26 of North Carolina's electric cooperatives and supports educators in need of funding to implement creative, hands-on learning projects in their classrooms.

Since 1994, North Carolina's electric co-ops have awarded more than \$12.9 million in Bright Ideas grants to teachers statewide. More than 12,300 classroom projects benefiting well over 2.5 million North Carolina students have been made possible because of these grants.

Pitt & Greene EMC is now accepting applications for Bright Ideas education grants for the 2021-2022 school year. Teachers in K-12 classrooms with innovative ideas for hands-on learning projects are encouraged to apply for a grant up to \$2,000.

Grant applications will be accepted April 1 through September 15, 2021. Applications submitted by August 15, 2021 will be entered into an early bird drawing.

Teachers at qualifying schools can apply individually or as a team, and grants are available for all subjects. To apply, or for more information about the Bright Ideas grant program, visit www.NCBrightIdeas.com.



Tamper Resistant Receptacles

They may look like standard outlets, but tamper resistant receptacles, or TRRs, are different. Their most distinguishable feature – a built-in shutter system that prevents foreign objects from being inserted – sets them apart. Only a plug that applies simultaneous, equal pressure to both slots will disengage the cover plates, allowing access to the contact points. Without this synchronized pressure, the cover plates remain closed.

While a child's curiosity knows no boundaries, it can sometimes put them in peril, especially when electricity is involved. Located in practically every room of the house, electrical outlets and receptacles are fixtures, but they also represent potential hazards for children.

In recent years, more homes have been equipping their electrical outlets with TRRs, but in many public facilities, like hospital pediatric wards, these safeguards have been required for more than 20 years. Their efficiency also prompted the National Electrical Code to make TRRs standard in all new home construction. Existing homes can be easily retrofitted with TRRs using the same installation guidelines that apply to standard receptacles. TRRs should only be installed by a licensed electrician and should carry a label from a nationally recognized, independent testing lab such as UL, ETL, or CSA.

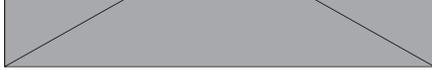
Each year 2,400 children suffer severe shock and burns resulting from inserting objects into the slots of electrical receptacles. That's nearly seven children a day. It is estimated that 6-12 child fatalities result from children tampering with electrical receptacles. Installing a TRR in a newly constructed home is only about 50 cents more than a traditional receptacle. Existing homes can be retrofitted with TRR for as little as \$2.00 per outlet.



***Pitt & Greene EMC
will be closed Monday,
May 31, 2021
in observance of
Memorial Day.***

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 8-1-1 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:



1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.

5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.



Source: call811.com

De lunes a viernes de 8:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m.
252-753-3128 / 1-800-622-1362 / 252-747-7600

CORTES DE SUMINISTRO ELÉCTRICO Y EMERGENCIAS:

Durante fines de semana, días festivos y después del horario de oficina
252-753-8778

Co-op Office Hours

Monday - Friday - 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
252-753-3128 / 1-800-622-1362 / 252-747-7600

POWER OUTAGES & EMERGENCIAS

During weekends, holidays and after office hours
252-753-8778