

Northeastern REMC
A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative

4901 East Park 30 Drive
Columbia City, IN 46725

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LightPost

January/February 2011

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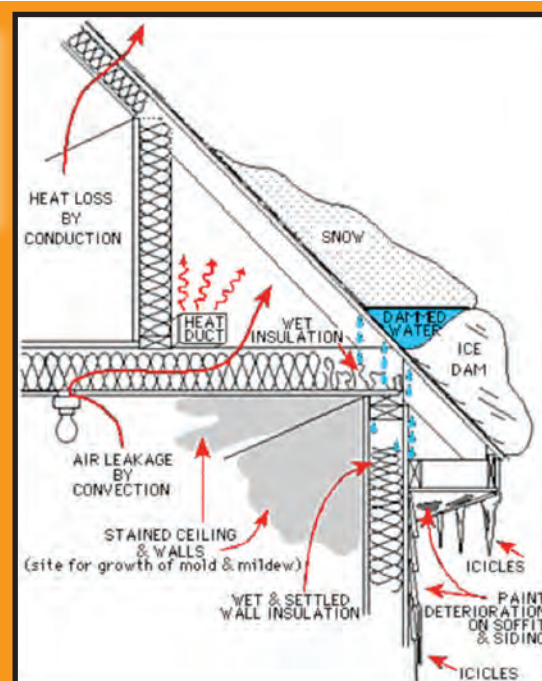
Tips from Energy Advisor, Doug Ferrell



Prevent damage-causing ice dams

Ice dams usually occur after a heavy snowfall and several days of freezing temperatures. Warm air inside your home leaks into the attic and will warm the underside of the roof causing snow and ice on the roof to melt. The melted water will drain along the roof, under the snow, until it reaches the cold overhang. The overhang tends to be at the same temperature as the outdoors and the melted water will refreeze and form an ice dam and icicles. The ice dam can cause damage to the roof, which will result in water leaks to the inside. Frequently the result will be a water spot on the ceiling under the roof damage.

- Don't get on your roof to solve this problem, it could be dangerous.
- Avoid standing on the ground and "chipping away" at the ice. Not only could this cause damage to your roof, but you can be seriously injured by falling ice, debris, or tools.
- Contacting a roofing contractor to fix your roof leak will not prevent future ice dams.
- You can stop the warm air leakage by sealing air leaks between the ceiling and attic and ducts leaks. Only after sealing leaks should you add additional insulation in your attic.
- Provide adequate attic ventilation so that the underside of the roof and outside air are at the same temperature. Check to make sure attic insulation is not blocking roof ventilation.
- Clean leaves and other debris from gutters before the first snow. This will help prevent ice build-up in gutters.
- Hire a contractor who is an energy specialist or specializes in air sealing to do an in-home evaluation. A good specialist will use diagnostic equipment to evaluate the performance of your home and generate a customized list of improvements – I can help you find one.



Northeastern REMC 1936 - 2011



Celebrating 75 years of providing
power in Whitley, Allen, Noble,
Kosciusko, Wabash and Huntington
counties!

- Details, page 2

Questions? E-mail customerservice@nremc.com

LightPost

4901 East Park 30 Drive
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-625-3700 • 244-6111

Office Hours:

Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

After office hours and on weekends or holidays, the telephone is answered by a Northeastern employee for trouble calls ONLY.

To Contact Us:

260-244-6111 (Columbia City) or 260-625-3700 (Fort Wayne).

FAX # 260-625-3407

www.nremc.com

Line Locating:

Please call 811 at least 2 full business days prior to digging.



PROVIDING DEPENDABLE ELECTRIC SERVICE FOR 75 YEARS!

Open houses planned -

Meet your directors, learn about your cooperative

Please join Northeastern REMC directors and staff for an informal Open House to learn what's happening at your electric cooperative. This is a unique opportunity to learn about the role of a director who represents the district's interests and is responsible for decisions affecting the entire membership.

Since this is our 75th anniversary year, we will highlight how your cooperative brought electricity to the "rural" areas and continues to provide safe, reliable power to nearly 28,000 residential, commercial, and industrial meters. We will inform you on current projects; upcoming system improvements; state and national issues affecting your electric costs; energy efficiency tips; and services available through your co-op.

Tours of the building will be available at 5:30 p.m. and after each program. Programs begin at 6:45 p.m. Light snacks will be served.

Watch your mail for your postcard invitation. Reservations are required. All three meetings will be held at Northeastern REMC.

Thursday, February 24



Tom Western
District 4



Bill Cummings
District 6



Ted Hurley
District 7

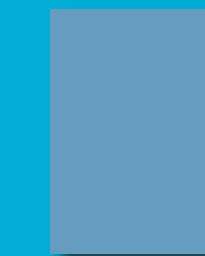
Tuesday, March 1



Doug Schrader
District 2



Marjorie Kennedy Babbitt
District 3



Vacant
District 8

Thursday, March 3



Bruce Heffelfinger
District 1



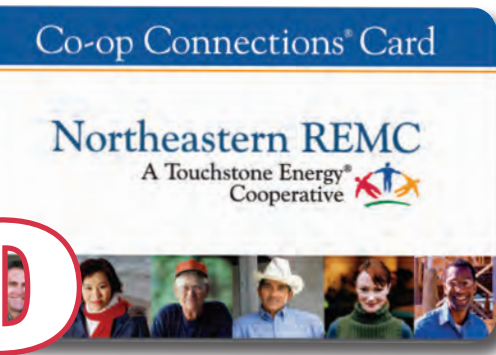
Don Dafforn
District 5



Jane Scott
District 9

To RSVP please contact Nancy Law at 244-6111 or 625-3700, ext. 425, or n_law@nremc.com, to indicate the number of adults planning to attend.

There is
VALUE
in this
CARD



Northeastern REMC members saved nearly \$16,000 in prescription costs in 2010 by simply using their Co-op Connections discount card! And that's in addition to saving even more by using it for discounts at hundreds of participating businesses in our area... and across the nation!

Have you been getting VALUE out of your card?

For a list of participating businesses and program details, visit nremc.com. For a replacement card, call 244-6111 or 625-3700, ext. 416.

Northeastern REMC:

Energizing homes and businesses for 75 years!

Most of us find it hard to imagine a life without computers, microwaves, dvds and flat screen TVs. We take for granted that every time we flip a switch, we'll have instant power. But it wasn't all that long ago that a lamp, a refrigerator or a pump out in the barn was only a dream for many living in our rural areas.

The birth of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) on May 11, 1935, granted the Federal Government the power to "initiate, formulate, administer and supervise a program of approved projects with respect to the generation, transmission and distribution of electric energy in rural areas".

In June, 1935, within a month of the national birth of the REA, Whitley County held its first organized meeting to begin forming a rural electric cooperative.

During this initial meeting, eight men formed a corporation known as the Whitley County Rural Electric Membership Corporation. The next day B.V. Widney, the county's progressive farm extension agent, secured an additional seven signatures. The pioneer incorporators of the Whitley County REMC were Harper K. Waugh, Ira W. Pontzius, Frank L. Goodrich, Ralph D. Wrigley, Mark V. Mowrey, A.P. Collier, George M. Gerdes, Walter Beers, Asa J. White, Merl Gump, Howard Kelsey, Fred Hoppas, Homer Ummel, Sylvester Rouch and Allen C. Crawford.

By January 1, 1936, 150 volunteers had canvassed the area and had secured nearly 1,000 applications for membership to this new energy organization. The membership fee

the first REMC – served consumer when its lines were energized on January 4, 1937.

But it was eight more months before electricity began flowing to regular consumer-members. On August 12, at 12:50 p.m., power lines began serving their intended purpose. Two months later, on October 22, the entire original system had electricity, with 1,203 consumers on 383 miles of line.

In January, 1939, a second REA loan for \$115,000 was granted to the REMC. On Feb. 22, a construction contract was signed to set about 55 miles of line to serve some 158 customers in Northwest Allen County. The number of members in both Whitley and western Allen County continued to grow steadily over the years that followed.

In 1986, with nearly 13,000 members across 1,386 miles of line, Whitley County REMC changed its name to Northeastern REMC to more accurately reflect its expanding system in Allen County.

As we begin our 75th year, Northeastern REMC now provides electric services to nearly 28,000 members, on 2,148 miles of line, in six northeast Indiana counties. As was the case in 1936, members can still expect their electric cooperative to do what ever is necessary to make electricity available where and when it is needed.

was \$5 – a sizable investment for many households in the 1930's.

Canvassing for members continued through the summer of 1936. On September 26, 1936, Whitley County REMC received its first loan approval from the REA. The loan amounted to \$416,000 – enough money to fund 383 miles of rural power lines to serve 1,203 members.

Once the loan was approved, things happened quickly. By early October bids were opened for power line construction. By early November the first poles were staked and within two months 400 poles had been set.

Jefferson Center School became



1936 - Our First Office, 117 W. Market Street (Second floor)



Northeastern REMC offering environmental grants

Turtles are just one of many species of animals and plants that can be found while exploring Eagle Marsh in Southwest Allen County. The Little Rivers Wetlands Project used EnviroWatts funds to obtain equipment and supplies to use in their nature education programs to further environmental awareness.

Northeastern REMC is taking steps to ensure a greener future for generations to come by awarding "EnviroWatts" grants to local not-for-profit organizations which provide educational opportunities or projects that further environmental awareness. Applications are being accepted through March 4, 2011, at 4:00 p.m..

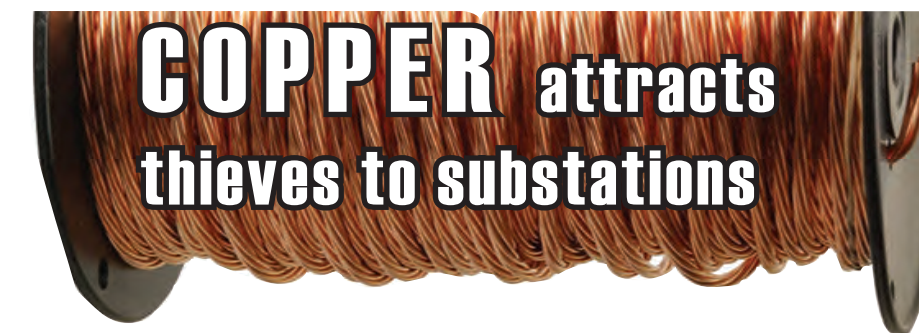
Through an agreement with its power supplier, Wabash Valley Power Association (WVPA), Northeastern has the ability to provide renewable energy as an energy option for its members. More commonly known as "green power", this energy is from biomass and wind sources. Biomass power is a renewable energy and is created by using gasses produced by landfill decay in locations throughout Indiana. Wind power is being purchased from wind farms in eastern Illinois and north central Iowa.

Northeastern members may choose to pay an additional amount monthly to have their energy purchase credited back to green sources. The monies collected will be offered to qualified organizations to support environmental programs. To be eligible for a grant, an organization must be not-for-profit and engage in environment education, projects, research or other activities involving the protection or enhancement of our environment. Preference will be given to qualified organizations located within the REMC's service territory in Allen, Huntington, Kosciusko, Noble, Wabash, and Whitley counties, or whose activities directly benefit the area served by the cooperative.

Organizations wanting more information or wishing to apply for funding should visit the "EnviroWatts" page at nremc.com or contact Gene Donaghy at Northeastern REMC, (260) 625-3700, x 403.



Homestead High School students helped develop areas adjacent to the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home into wildflower prairie lands and ecological learning areas. The Prairie Project was funded in part through an EnviroWatts grant from Northeastern.



COPPER attracts thieves to substations

If you were anywhere near an electric utility substation and saw a warning sign that read "DANGER -- KEEP OUT", what is your first inclination? Most people would think "safety first" and walk away.

However, some people are gambling with their lives by trespassing in substations in the pursuit of copper. Once an inexpensive metal, copper prices have skyrocketed in recent years. Thieves are cutting through substation fencing to take copper reels, and copper products have been stolen from utility trucks, transformers, work sites and storage facilities. The metal is then sold to scrap dealers for a considerable profit.

Complaints of copper thefts have dramatically increased, causing serious safety concerns. This is a growing problem across the country, as several substation intruders have been electrocuted, and others killed, while attempting to steal copper.

Northeastern REMC cares about the safety of our members. Here are a few things that will go a long way in securing your safety and the safety of others.

- If you see any unusual activity in or around substations, towers, utility poles, storage sites and other electric utility property, report it to Northeastern REMC immediately.
- No one should ever climb substation fences, utility poles or towers. People must also stay away from substations and transformers. Activity like this is hazardous and can result in severe injury and in some unfortunate cases, death.

Time to enter 2012 student art contest

Now that the 2011 calendar is here, it's time to start thinking about the art contest to illustrate the Indiana REMCs' 2012 statewide calendar!

The contest is open to students in grades K-12 whose school or family is in Northeastern REMC's service area. Students can win cash prizes and have their artwork published in this statewide calendar. See the school art teacher for details or for a complete set of rules and information please visit electricconsumer.com.



2011 Calendar Cover Art

Tracker increased

All Northeastern REMC electric bills with a due date of 2/21/11 and beyond will reflect the increased tracker charge of \$0.001455 per kWh approved by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission. This is a result of the change in Wabash Valley Power Association's wholesale rate charged to its member REMCs. Details can be found at nremc.com.

Free safety programs

If your school or organization would like to learn about electric safety, Louie the Lightning Bug or our Live Line program is available to you! We will do safety presentations for pre-school age through adults. Call us today to set up an appointment!

Quit wasting money

Our Energy Advisor will conduct a free energy audit of your home to determine your home's efficiency and share ideas with you on how you may be able to save money. Call Doug Ferrell, 244-6111 or 625-3700, ext. 436, to make your appointment.

Incentives available through 2011

You can still receive rebates when you replace your refrigerator, freezer or clothes washer, or when you install an air-to-air heat pump or geothermal unit in your home. See our website, nremc.com, for program details.

SALES EXTENDED		10% OFF on all CFL's and related lighting items displayed in our lobby. Thru February 28 Lobby Hours are Mon-Fri 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.		\$20 OFF Raywall or Dimplex space/garage heaters. Thru February 28 Heaters on display in our lobby.
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