

LIVE WIRE



280 East Wood Road
P.O. Box 129
Rensselaer, IN 47978

PHONE NUMBERS AND HOURS

To contact your REMC

Business telephone: 866-4601

Long distance please use:

1-888-866-REMC (7362)

Emergency phone number: 866-5911

Anytime day or night to report
an outage or emergency.

E-mail address: jasperremc@jasperremc.com

Website: www.jasperremc.com

Office hours:

8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday

WATTS INSIDE

- Review of electric rates concludes
- Programs benefit area youth
- Barton receives prestigious honor

HIDDEN ACCOUNT NUMBER

There is a hidden account number within these four pages of *Live Wire*. Be sure to look them over. Maybe you'll spot **your** account number. If you do, just call our office before the last working day in January to claim the \$25 electric bill credit.

Visit our new on-line rate calculator



When you visit www.jasperremc.com you will see new rate calculators for our Residential (Home and Farm) rate, General Service Single-Phase rate and General Service Three-

Phase rate on our home page. You can input your average kilowatt-hour use per month and see how our new rates will affect your bill.

The new rates may encourage energy efficiency in your home. Please refer to the Energy Advisor section of our website under the "Products and Services" tab or call our office to learn more about energy efficiency.

CO-opNews Information from your electric cooperative

FROM THE CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

Continuing the rate discussion

This month, I would like to continue the conversation I began in last month's column regarding the rate adjustment. The change in rate structure is important so we can continue to maintain a viable cooperative and promote energy efficiency.

It is hard to support energy efficiency efforts with rates that give you a break for buying large numbers of kilowatt-hours. Energy efficiency will become more important as energy becomes more costly.

You've probably seen our articles, advertisements and brochures suggesting ways to use less electricity and wondered why we would recommend such a thing. After all, the more electricity we sell, the more money we make, right? Actually, that's not the case. There are two reasons why co-ops, like ours, believe using less electricity is a good thing.

First, using more electricity isn't helpful to the cooperative from a financial standpoint. You see, our cooperative doesn't generate all of the electricity our members use. We partner with other electric co-ops to obtain the best energy prices and most reliable supplies from what's known as the wholesale power market.

We estimate how much electricity our members will need and enter into agreements to buy that much electricity. But, if we get into a situation where our members need more electricity than we predicted — such as an unexpected heat wave in the fall — we may have to buy more from the wholesale market. Since other electric companies also need more electricity at those times, the increased demand drives the cost of wholesale power upward. The end result of the unexpected use is higher costs that are passed along to our members.

Americans are also using more and more electricity with each passing year. Just look around your house and you'll see all sorts of conveniences that didn't exist 20 years



Bryan Washburn
CEO/General Manager

ago — nearly all of them powered by electricity. Since the supply of electricity isn't growing as quickly as America's appetite for it, any shortages also drive energy costs higher.

The second reason we encourage members to reduce their use of electricity is just as important. We're not in business to earn a profit. Our electric co-op is a non-profit membership organization that exists to serve the needs of our members.

Unlike investor-owned utilities, we don't have to worry about making profits for shareholders.

Therefore, there's no reason for us to encourage members to use more electricity. Instead, we work to help our members make the most of their energy dollars while improving the comfort of their homes. This philosophy improves the quality of our members' lives and lets them keep more of their hard-earned money. Improving our members' lives is why our cooperative is in business today and why this business model is incorporated into every decision we make on your behalf.

By helping co-op members make wiser and more efficient uses of electricity, we can reduce the amount we need to buy and keep our costs under control. In addition, we know that using and generating less electricity is better for the environment, which is also important to our nation and the communities we serve.

If you'd like to learn more about how you can make your home or business more energy efficient, contact our energy advisor for recommendations. Your cooperative has staff available to help you learn about saving your energy dollars and improving the envelope of your home to make your dollars go farther.

That's one more way your electric co-op provides free advice when you want it and help when you need it. I look forward to connecting with you again next month. Until then, we will keep working hard to keep the lights on for you.

Dusk-to-dawn light fees to change in February

As we mentioned in previous articles, we have a separate rate class for our dusk-to-dawn lighting program. This rate class was also evaluated during the rate study and the results showed that this class will also need a rate change. The comparison is listed below.

	2010 rate	Rate after Feb. 15
100-watt	\$6 per month	\$6 per month (no change)
175-watt MV	\$7.10 per month	\$7.90 per month
400-watt HPS	\$14.20 per month	\$16.50 per month
Transformer charge	\$2.60 per month	\$2.70 per month

Review of the electric rates concludes

Over the past few months, Jasper County REMC's board of directors has been working with consultants to review the co-op's electric rates. The rates are reviewed every three years to make sure our not-for-profit cooperative continues to cover the costs of providing electric service to our members. This review is also performed to ensure there is equal treatment to all rate classes, including dusk-to-dawn lighting.

We have passed through changes in market energy prices from our power supplier by using the energy tracker and we changed our base rates and facility charge slightly in 2008. These numbers have been evaluated again to determine if our base rate charges and operating costs are still being covered. Hidden account 21568-002

The report indicates we will be making changes our energy rates in February (see chart below), in addition to a change in our facility charge,

which is the money it takes to run the company and maintain the system.

Watch for further articles in *Electric Consumer*, messages on your bill, and a bill stuffer with more details as they are available.

As your local not-for-profit electric cooperative, we take great pride in providing you reliable electric service and will be able to continue to do so with this modest rate change.

New rates start in February

Before Feb. 15

Farm & Home (R-1)

Facility Charge: \$15/month

Energy Charges:

First 400 kWh: \$0.105/kWh

Next 400 kWh: \$0.073/kWh

Excess kWh: \$0.055/kWh

Energy Tracker:

\$0.021725/kWh

Farm and home example: 1,000 kWh/month with energy tracker and taxes

\$127.26

General Service (C-1)

Facility Charges:

Single-phase: \$20/month

Three-phase: \$45/month

Excess kVa minimum: \$1.10/kVa

Energy Charges:

First 1,000 kWh: \$0.09500/kWh

Next 2,000 kWh: \$0.07500/kWh

Excess kWh: \$0.05250/kWh

Energy Tracker:

\$0.021725/kWh

Large Power Service (LP-1)

Facility Charge: \$50/month

Excess kVa minimum: \$1.10/kVa

Demand Charge: \$6/kW

Energy Charges:

First 150 kWh/kw: \$0.05500/kWh

Next 150 kWh/kw: \$0.05000/kWh

Excess kWh: \$0.04500/kWh

Energy Tracker:

\$0.021725/kWh

Large power rate change begins with Feb. 23 kWh use.

*Energy tracker subject to change on all rates.

Starting Feb. 15

Farm & Home (R-1)

Facility Charge: \$25/month

Energy Charges:

All kWh: \$0.095/kWh

Energy Tracker:

\$0.00*/kWh

\$128.40

General Service (C-1)

Facility Charges:

Single-phase: \$30/month

Three-phase: \$60/month

Excess kVa minimum: \$1.10/kVa

Energy Charges:

All kWh: \$0.09050/kWh

Energy Tracker:

\$0.00*/kWh

Large Power Service (LP-1)

Facility Charge: \$100/month

Excess kVa minimum: \$1.10/kVa

Demand Charge: \$7.80/kW

Energy Charges:

All kWh/kw: \$0.06600/kWh

Energy Tracker:

\$0.00*/kWh

Programs benefit area youth

The application process is now underway for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, Touchstone Energy® Camp, and Nesius Memorial Scholarships. All applications can be downloaded at www.jasperremc.com under the "Education" tab.

Electric Cooperative Youth Tour

This June, students can have the experience of joining nearly 1,500 students from other states to learn more about our nation's history and electric cooperatives through the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Jasper County REMC, along with Indiana Statewide Association of RECs, Inc., continues to sponsor this traditional, all-expense paid trip for area youth. To enhance the students' learning experience, sites will be visited such as the Gettysburg National Park, Arlington National Cemetery, the national museums, and other general sightseeing excursions. The only criteria is the students' parents or legal guardians are Jasper County REMC members and the students must have satisfactorily completed their junior year of high school, with intentions to return for their senior year. The trip will take place June 9-16. **Deadline to turn in applications to REMC for the Youth Tour is Feb. 11.**

Statement of nondiscrimination

Jasper County Rural Electric Membership Corporation is the recipient of financial loans from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compli-

Touchstone Energy Camp

Touchstone Energy Camp will be held June 8-11 at YMCA Camp Tecumeseh, located in Brookston. The camp is designed to educate boys and girls about cooperatives, electrification and electric safety. Camp accommodations, chaperones, food, and expenses will be provided by Jasper County REMC. The student's parents or guardians must be Jasper County REMC members and the child must be between sixth and seventh grade this summer. **Deadline to sign up for this educational and fun experience is Feb. 11.**

Nesius Memorial Scholarships

The Nesius Memorial Scholarship is an opportunity for area high school seniors graduating in 2011. One \$500 academic scholarship will be awarded to a successful candidate from KVHS, RCHS and one from all other high schools in Jasper County REMC's service territory. Candidates must be a son, daughter or legal ward of a Jasper County REMC member. **Deadline to return applications for the Nesius Memorial Scholarship is April 9.**

For more information about these student programs, please contact Jasper County REMC during office hours.

ance efforts is Bryan Washburn, CEO/general manager. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected him/her to discrimination, may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Stop 1510, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-1510; or the Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410; or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

Learn about 4-H Electric program at fair

Come and visit the REMC booth at the 4-H Project Fair on Jan. 9 from 1-3 p.m. at the Jasper County Fairgrounds.

During the fair, we'll have samples of the 4-H

Electric kits and final projects so you can see how much fun electricity can be.

Sign up for 4-H at the Jasper County Extension Office by Jan. 14.

Stay in the car!

Downed power lines can carry an electric current strong enough to cause serious injury or, perhaps, death. Assume any downed line is an energized power line. Dial 911 immediately. — esfi.org

REMC member benefits

Besides low cost, reliable, electric service you can enjoy these benefits:

REMC/Wabash Valley Power Association Programs Refrigerator/Freezer Recycling Program

- ◆ \$35 reward.
- ◆ Call 877-395-5535 for pick up date and time.

Washing Machine Rebate

- ◆ \$50 bill credit.
- ◆ Must have electric water heater.
- ◆ Washer must be Energy Star® qualified.

WVPA Residential Heat Pump Rebates

- ◆ ASHP \$125/ton up to 10 tons.
- ◆ Geothermal \$150/ton up to 10 tons.
- ◆ For replacement of electric heat.
- ◆ Call us for the detailed requirements to qualify for this program **BEFORE** ordering your unit.

REMC Programs

Air-Source Heat Pump Rebate

- ◆ Install an air source heat pump and get a \$200 bill credit from the REMC. Credits are not given for replacement heat pump units.
- ◆ Call us for contractor list and fuel cost comparisons.

Geothermal Rebate

- ◆ Install a new geothermal heating and cooling system and get a \$500 cash rebate from the REMC. Rebates are not given for replacement geothermal units.
- ◆ Call us for contractor list and fuel cost comparisons.

Operation Round Up

- ◆ Thank you to our members who let us "round up" their bills to help the community.
- ◆ Round Up funds are **not granted to pay utility bills.**
- ◆ **Grant periods are March, June, September, and December.**

Free Energy Audit

- ◆ Call us to set up a free energy evaluation of your home.
- ◆ It's never too late, or too early, to have us perform an energy audit. Call us before you build, add on, or remodel.

REMC Payment Options

- ◆ On-line payment through www.jasperremc.com.
- ◆ Drive-up window and lobby open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays.
- ◆ Night deposit box open 24 hours, 7 days a week.
- ◆ Drop off to DeMotte State Bank and branches. No late or partial payments accepted at DSB.
- ◆ Credit or debit card accepted.
- ◆ Credit card auto draft available.
- ◆ Invisible Check drafted from your checking or savings account.
- ◆ Budget billing that starts in July after 12 months of electric use.

Long-distance Phone Service As Low As 4.9¢! — Available to members and nonmembers.

- ◆ Call toll free 866-241-0392 to sign up.

FREE Water Heater Program

- ◆ Free 40- or 50-gallon electric water heater. Discount price on 80-gallon heaters.
- ◆ Free maintenance on member's electric water heater during business hours.
- ◆ Up to \$50 rebate for electrical materials to convert from gas heater to electric.

Dusk-to-Dawn Pole Lights

- ◆ A dusk-to-dawn pole light can be installed, serviced, and maintained by the REMC.
- ◆ Ask us about the monthly cost of a dusk-to-dawn light.

Critical Account Recognition

- ◆ REMC members who depend on electricity for mandatory medical equipment can be placed on our critical account list with a doctor's request.

Presentations—Available to members and nonmembers.

- ◆ Call us to present our safety or energy efficiency demonstration at your next meeting.

Barton receives prestigious statewide honor

Jasper County REMC Operations Manager Neal Barton received the prestigious Ernest G. Shearer Award, presented by the state's electric cooperative Superintendents and Engineers Section at its meeting in November. The award, given since 1981, recognizes a superintendent or engineer's extraordinary service, devotion, loyalty, hard work and individual achievement.

"As you look around our Indiana cooperatives, there are many who are deserving of this award," Jasper County REMC CEO Bryan Washburn noted. "But none are more deserving than Neal Barton for his hard work and devotion to the members and employees of Jasper County REMC over the past 43 years."

Barton's many accomplishments throughout the years revolved around his participation in safety and operations efforts. He helped develop the Statewide Compliance Committee and department, he was the president of the Superintendents and Engineering Statewide Section, and

sits on the Statewide Safety Committee and the Rural Electric Apprenticeship Program (REAP) committee for lineman training.

"If you asked Neal what his crowning achievement was over the past 43 years, he'd tell you, 'Raising a thriving, happy, successful family,'" Washburn continued. "Neal is the consummate family man who always strived to take great care of his family and our membership."

Barton commented, "After these many years with the co-op, I'm looking forward to retirement this February. I hope there are as many great memories and exciting times in my retirement as there have been with the co-op."

The Superintendents and Engineers Section represents all of Indiana's electric cooperatives. The award honors Shearer, former safety department director at the Indiana Statewide Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, the Indianapolis-based service association for the state's 39 electric cooperatives.



Gayvin Strantz, manager of job training, safety, and loss control for the Indiana Statewide Association of RECs, left, presents the Ernest G. Shearer Award to Jasper County REMC Operations Manager Neal Barton.

REMC employees receive industry recognition

Many of Jasper County REMC's employees received training throughout 2010 to improve their leadership, management, and job skills.

REMC CEO Bryan Washburn said, "Continuing education and training for our employees is imperative so they can make sound and safe decisions throughout their careers."

The training opportunities for the employees were offered by the Indiana Statewide Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives.

Tim Phegley, line foreman, completed his final year of the Rural Electric Leaders-In-Training Exchange (RELITE). This nationally-recognized leadership development program includes participants from electric cooperative systems throughout Indiana.



Tim Phegley

The two-year program focuses on leadership skills, team building, facilitation skills, public speaking, interpersonal communications, personal mission, and accountability to create committed and effective leaders in their co-op and their communities.

In the last year of the program, Phegley and the other second-year participants acted as program planners and facilitators so they could apply their recently acquired leadership skills.

Phegley is the sixth Jasper County REMC employee to complete the RELITE program.

Kari Kolp, billing assistant, and Jovita Courtney, customer service representative, completed a 13-week series of Development Dimensions International (DDI) People Skills and Leadership Skills development courses. This nationally recognized leadership development program includes participants from electric cooperative systems throughout Indiana.

Kolp and Courtney completed the core skills course and six additional courses focusing on principles that create a productive work climate and help managers develop professionally. A large part of the training is spent on learning to coach, encourage, and inspire others on the team.

Washburn added, "When your employees are confident and challenged, the members benefit from the resulting educated decisions and improved job performance."

They join five other REMC DDI graduates.



Kari Kolp, left, and Jovita Courtney, right, display their DDI certificates.

Josh Peeples, apprentice lineman, has completed his second year of line school which included an emphasis on working with live lines and installation of transformers. He has two more years of education to become a journeyman lineman with full line-work responsibilities.

Congratulations to our employees on their achievements!



Josh Peeples

Welcome our new employee

Jasper County REMC welcomes Chad Witherington to the line department. Witherington started in November 2010 and will begin his four years of formal training in January to become a journeyman lineman.

Welcome aboard, Chad!



Chad Witherington