

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

- October is National Co-op Month
- July heat leads to record use
- Watch out for those vampires in your home

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 October to claim the \$25 electric bill credit.



If you have a 'smart' phone

Download a QR (Quick Response)
Reader app to capture our contact info.

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

- [Facebook.com/JasperCountyREMC](https://www.facebook.com/JasperCountyREMC)
- [Twitter.com/JasperCntyREMC](https://twitter.com/JasperCntyREMC)
- [Flickr.com/photos/jasperremc](https://www.flickr.com/photos/jasperremc)

CO-OP NEWS

Information from your electric cooperative

FROM THE CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

Cooperative spirit not just local

In this month's column, I want to talk about the coming year, which has been declared the "International Year of Cooperatives" by the United Nations. It takes many here at Jasper County REMC to make things work locally, but there is a segment of our national workforce that I want to speak specifically about. Many line workers affiliated with our national association also work to help those outside of our communities.

I've always loved a well-worn joke between our line workers. It goes, "If they sent a lineman to the moon, there wouldn't be a dark side."

Our line crews are known for their ability to maintain electric systems, extend distribution lines to growing communities, and fixing trouble spots during storms. Despite these accomplishments, few linemen have experienced the wonder of providing power to a family for the first time. But, as noted in this month's cover story, that's changing fast.

Electricity is something most of us grew up with. With all this talk about climate change, energy efficiency, and the impact congressional action might have on our monthly electric bills, we sometimes forget we're lucky to have power at all.

Currently, more than two billion people around the globe live without electricity. And, as electric co-ops across the country celebrate 75 years of providing safe, reliable, and affordable electric service for rural Americans, another story unfolds, echoing our success. Volunteer linemen from Indiana and across the nation are spreading rural electrification overseas, sharing light and hope with war-torn or forgotten communities.

These men and women are volunteering personal time to bring a sense of safety to folks in distant lands, sometimes simply by adding



Bryan Washburn
CEO/General Manager

street lights. They're delivering dreams as they wire classrooms for electricity. Medicine can finally be refrigerated. Micro-businesses are born. With every mile of line built, they make me proud to be part of the electric cooperative family.

All of these amazing efforts are coordinated by NRECA International Programs — a division of Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the service arm of the nation's 900-plus not-for-profit electric co-ops. Since its founding

in 1962, NRECA International Programs has brought lights and power to more than 100 million rural residents in other countries.

But the non-profit organization doesn't put up a few utility poles and leave. That's not the co-op way. Staff members, along with volunteers like line workers, teach locals how to build and maintain simple power grids and run their own utilities. They introduce the co-op business model and show what electric power can do for schools, health clinics, farms, and local economies.

Co-op volunteers from the United States are active in 12 countries today, ranging from Costa Rica to southern Sudan. You can help, too. To watch videos of linemen assisting overseas or to make a donation supporting these electrification efforts, visit NRECAFoundation.coop.

Sure, if they sent line workers to the moon there'd be no dark side. And with the support of electric cooperatives, volunteer linemen, and co-op consumers like you, there won't be a dark side of the Earth, either, in a few years.

As I close this column, remember that October is National Cooperative Month — the annual month set aside to honor what makes cooperatives special. We at Jasper County REMC are proud to be right here at home keeping the lights on for you.

Capital credits retired next month

What are capital credits?

A cooperative does not earn profits in the sense that other businesses do. Instead, any margins or revenues remaining after all expenses have been paid are returned to the members in proportion to their use of the co-op's services through capital credit allocations and retirements. Capital credits represent each member's share of the cooperative's margins and ownership of the co-op.

What happens to a member's capital credits if he/she dies?

Capital credits in the member's account belong to the member's estate. After the heirs fill out the appropriate "Agent's Appointment Card," the heirs are entitled to the capital credits retired by the co-op. Call us at 219-866-4601 to have the form mailed to you.

International Year of Cooperatives is in 2012

The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 2012 the International Year of Cooperatives. UN members and relevant stakeholders are encouraged to

promote cooperatives, raise public awareness of cooperative contributions and promote the formation and growth of co-ops during the year-long celebration, themed "Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World." Internationally, over 800 million people, including you, are cooperative members.

Jasper County REMC will be recognizing the beginning of this special year this month since October is "Co-op Month." The plan is to celebrate from October 2011 to October 2012 so our messages don't compete with elections at the end of 2012. With that said, you'll start seeing this logo on a lot of our materials as we continue our celebration of being a cooperative.

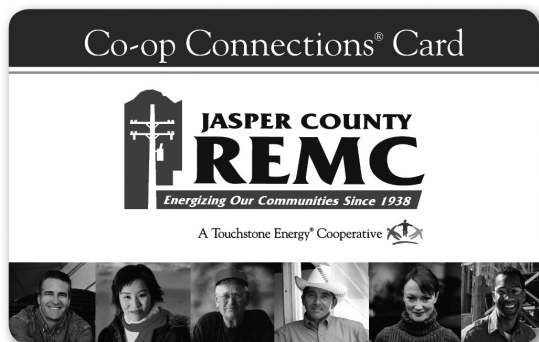


Co-op Connections Card: There's an 'app' for that!

The Co-op Connections Card app is available for the iPhone, iPod Touch, Droid and Blackberry hand-held devices. It has an alphabetized list of more than 100 national deals available using the card.

To download the app, go to your smartphone "app store" and search for the Co-op Connections Card.

The Co-op Connections Card program is just another benefit of being a cooperative member!



October is National Co-op Month

Electric distribution cooperatives, like Jasper County REMC, serve more than 35 million consumers across the nation, making rural electrification America's largest electric utility network

Why do we have electric cooperatives?

The Rural Electrification Administration (REA) was created in 1935 to provide electric service to every farm and home in rural America. Cooperatives were formed when the investor-owned utilities showed little interest in using REA loan funds to build electric lines into sparsely populated rural territory.

REA helped local leaders start electric cooperatives in order to electrify rural America. Currently, there are approximately 1,000 rural electric cooperatives operating in the United States. In Indiana, there are 39 distribution cooperatives and two generation and transmission cooperatives.

What is a cooperative?

A cooperative is an independent, locally owned business enterprise, incorporated under the laws of the state in which it operates. Consumers who

receive service are member-owners of the cooperative and share responsibility for its success or failure, along with the benefits they receive. The consumers served own the cooperative, with each member of the cooperative having one vote in the election of directors. An electric cooperative is a utility, operated on a not-for-profit basis by returning any net savings to the member-owners on the basis of patronage.

The three types of electric utility business models:

- Electric cooperatives, such as Jasper County REMC, are not-for-profit utilities owned and ran by their members.
- Investor-owned electric utilities, such as NIPSCO, generate profits to pay investors.
- Municipal-owned, not-for-profit electric utilities, such as the City of Rensselaer, are supported by their tax base within city limits.

The seven cooperative principles

Seven principles guide the overall cooperative structure. They include:

Voluntary and open membership

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination. Hidden account 3745-001

Democratic member control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

Members' economic participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. They usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their

transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Autonomy and independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

Education, training and information

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public – particularly young people and opinion leaders – about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

Cooperation among cooperatives

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

Concern for community

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



July heat produces record power peaks, little wind

As you read this in October, you may not remember the extreme July heat. In fact, this article is being written in between your phone calls asking why your July 15 to Aug. 15 bill was so high.

The following explanation from Wabash Valley Power Association, our power supplier, says it all. It wasn't just hot, it was record-setting hot, and your air conditioner ran and ran.

Both the Midwest ISO (MISO) and PJM Interconnection, the regional transmission organizations (RTOs) overseeing the transmission systems that include Wabash Valley Power's service territory, reported that electricity use in their areas hit record levels in late July.

The widespread heat wave that gripped much of the nation, and the resulting demand for air conditioning, increased PJM's total load to 158,450 MW at 5 p.m. on July 21, ahead of the previous peak of 158,258 MW that had been set on Aug. 2, 2006. The day before, MISO recorded a record peak of 103,975 MW, which also broke a 2006 record. (One megawatt of electricity is enough to power about 1,000 homes.)

On July 20, Wabash Valley Power set its own record, with the total load peak reaching 1,916 MW. The peak could have been higher on July 21, but some large users agreed to reduce consumption.

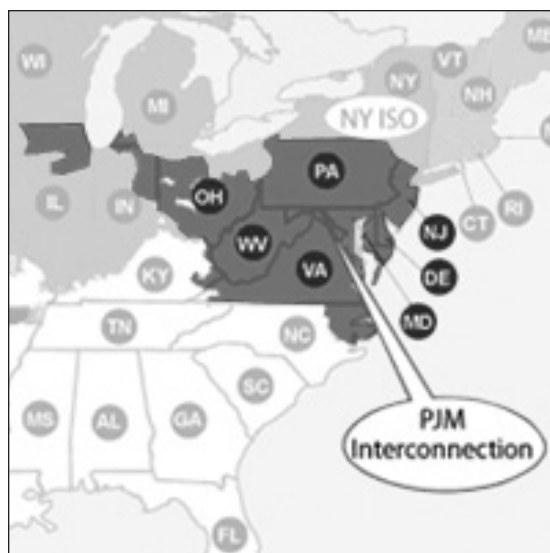
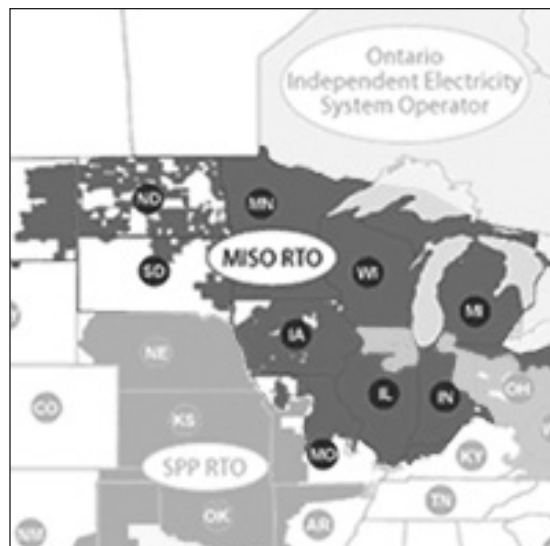
"The nation's power grid handled the demand without any problems," said Wabash Valley Power's Portfolio and Risk Manager Kari Wetter. "It appears that part of the reason for the new peaks is growth in the economy that has increased industrial energy use. You'll recall that last summer was also very hot, but the economy had many businesses operating at reduced levels."

The record peaks provided a sobering reminder that wind energy may not come to the rescue when it is needed most. During the height of MISO's peak, wind turbines within the system were producing no more than 840 MW out of a total capacity of just under 6,900 MW, or about 12 percent of the maximum. Wind produced a similar story in PJM's territory, where 3,672 MW of capacity saw actual generation of just under 346 MW (or about 9 percent). It's a reminder that what's popular isn't always dependable during high use.

Both the Midwest ISO (MISO) and PJM Interconnection, the organizations administering the power grids in Indiana, had electricity use in their areas hit record levels in late July.

Know the lingo

- RTO — Regional Transmission Organizations administer the transmission grid on a regional basis throughout North America (including Canada). There are seven operating in the United States, including MISO and PJM Interconnection in Indiana.
- MISO (Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator), based in Carmel, Ind., ensures reliable operation of and equal access to high-voltage power lines in 12 states and the Canadian province of Manitoba.
- PJM Interconnection, based in Norristown, Pa., coordinates the movement of wholesale electricity in all or parts of 13 states and the District of Columbia.



Graphics courtesy of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Above are maps showing the territories served by RTOs MISO and PJM Interconnection. They are two of seven regional transmission organizations who administer the United States' power grid.

Water heater switches save the co-op — and you — money

Jasper County REMC has revitalized the existing water heater load management switch program. These switches were installed over 25 years ago and contain one-way technology. These switches still work, but technology has improved in recent years so our cooperative can control peak loads to maintain energy costs.

Please call Jasper County REMC at 219-866-4601 if we can install a new load management switch on your water heater. The new switches will help the co-op keep costs low for everyone. Here's how the switch program works:

1. Power supplier sees the power supply getting stressed by unusually high energy use.
2. Power supplier activates load management switches for a short period of time to reduce energy use.
3. Member's water heater is turned off for a short period of time.
4. Power supplier sees grid recover and turns off switches.
5. Member's water heater is turned back on.
6. Whole membership avoids higher energy costs.

Consequences of not using load management switches:

1. Power supplier sees the power supply getting stressed by unusually high energy use.
2. Power supplier needs to purchase additional power unexpectedly to supply demand at member homes.
3. Cost of unexpected power purchase is significantly higher than the normal contract purchase.
4. Higher cost of unexpected power purchase is passed along to members.

Co-ops lead electric utilities in consumer satisfaction

Electric cooperative members are more satisfied with their energy provider than consumers who receive power from investor-owned or municipal-owned utilities, according to American Consumer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) data.

"These scores validate the unique co-op business model," said NRECA CEO Glenn English. "Owned by the people they serve, cooperatives put affordable electric bills above profits and dividends. At heart, electric co-ops are local consumer advocacy organizations."

For the first time, ACSI divided its annual coverage of customer satisfaction with electric utilities into three categories: consumer-owned cooperatives, investor-owned and municipal. Electric cooperatives scored the highest with 82 out of a possible 100 points; investor-owned utilities scored a 74 and municipals scored a 73.

"For electric service, the most critical component of customer satisfaction is power reliability — the ability to provide power without brownouts or outages on a regular basis, coupled with the ability to restore service quickly when outages do occur," said ACSI founder Claes Fornell.

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 **BEFORE** ordering your unit.

REMC Programs

REMC Heat Pump Rebates

- ◆ \$200 air-source heat pump rebate.
- ◆ \$500 rebate for geothermal heat pump.
- ◆ Call us for contractor list and fuel cost comparisons.

Operation Round Up

- ◆ 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.

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.
- ◆ **Our program is in transition. Call or visit our website to get program updates.**

Dusk-to-Dawn Pole Lights

- ◆ Installed, serviced, and maintained by the REMC.

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.

Find us on social media sites!

- ◆ [Facebook.com/JasperCountyREMC](https://www.facebook.com/JasperCountyREMC)
- ◆ [Twitter.com/JasperCntyREMC](https://twitter.com/JasperCntyREMC)
- ◆ [Flickr.com/photos/jasperremc](https://www.flickr.com/photos/jasperremc)



Watch out for those vampires!

You have numerous “vampires” in your house sucking energy and making your meter spin ... and you don't even know it!

These vampires contribute to what's called “phantom load.” Individually, phantom loads may seem harmless, but when grouped together can take a “bite” out of your energy bill and are an enormous waste of electricity.

Here is some “garlic” you can use to drive the vampires out of your house and decrease your phantom load:

- 1) The obvious ... unplug whatever you (and your children) are not using.
- 2) Get rid of old appliances that use a lot

more power than new ENERGY STAR-qualified models. If the refrigerator isn't good enough for your kitchen, it's not good enough for your garage either.

3) When you service your pool for the winter, buy a timer to use on your filter/pump next year. It doesn't need to run all the time.

4) Turn off that big TV at a power strip. Big televisions use a lot of power even when they're “off.”

5) Turn off your computer/printer/scanner at the power strip.

6) When you go on vacation, unplug as many vampires as you can. They don't go on vacation unless you unplug them, too.

Keep the lights on for trick or treaters!

On Halloween night, pedestrian fatalities among trick-or-treaters are about 4.5 times higher than on other nights. — University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute

Have a safe and happy Halloween from all of us at Jasper County REMC!



Farming around power lines

Nationwide, an average of 64 agricultural workers are electrocuted and hundreds more injured in farm electrical accidents each year. Farm workers can avoid tragic accidents by taking note of farm activities that take place around power lines.

“Equipment contacting overhead power lines is the leading cause of farm electrocution accidents in the Midwest,” said Bob Aherin, University of Illinois agricultural safety specialist. “Many of these accidents occur near grain bins, when augers make contact with power lines”

Many types of farm equipment can come in contact with overhead power lines, creating a direct path for electricity. Remember the 10 feet, 360 degree rule — keep equipment below, to the side and above power lines.

“It's also important for operators of farm equipment or vehicles to know what to do if the vehicle comes in contact with a power line,” said Molly Hall of Safe Electricity. “It's almost always best to stay in the cab and call for help. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the electric utility arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off.”

Once you get away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment. Many electrocutions happen when the operator dismounts and tries to get back on the equipment.

Pole guy wires are grounded to the neutral. But when one of the guy wires is broken, it can cause an electric current disruption and even become energized. This can make those neutral wires anything but harmless. If you hit a guy wire and break it, call the utility to fix it.



This harvest season, make sure you're practicing safe farming procedures. Remember the 10 feet, 360 degree rule — keep equipment below, to the side and above power lines.

Whole house generators

Please call our office if your home has a permanent “whole house” natural gas or propane generator. We'd like to add that information to your account for the safety of our linemen.