

REA Energy Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey



Chad Garrick
President & CEO

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- Erin Bauer**
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- Shane Cribbs**
Network & Systems Manager
- Dave Daugherty**
Safety & Right of Way Manager
- Jeff Dishong**
Ebensburg Operations Supervisor
- Lisa Gardill**
Accounting & Finance Supervisor
- Stacy Patterson-Hilliard, CCC**
Communications & Marketing Supervisor
- Local Pages Editor**
Chris Masterson
Reliability Supervisor
- Patrick McAndrew**
Manager of Engineering
- Bryon Roland**
Purchasing & Facilities Supervisor
- Brendan Short**
Right-of-Way/Forestry Supervisor
- Renee Spalla**
Supervisor of Consumer Services
- Chris Weller**
Load Management Supervisor
- Outages & Emergencies**
1-800-332-7273
724-463-7273
- Office Hours**
Indiana Office: 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Ebensburg Office:
7 - 11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday

Guest Column



Clearing the way for safe, reliable power

By David Daugherty, *Manager of Safety and Right of Way*

THERE ARE many ways that REA Energy Cooperative (REA) provides you with safe, reliable electric service. One of the most common — and crucial — ways is referred to as right-of-way clearing (or vegetation management).

A right of way (ROW) refers to a strip of land underneath or around power lines that your electric cooperative has the right and responsibility to maintain and clear. Trees must grow at a distance far enough from conductors that they will not cause harm to individuals or disruption to electrical service. Specifications can vary, but a general guideline of maintaining a safe ROW is a minimum of a 15-foot clear zone from any primary conductors with no overhanging limbs above the primary conductors extending into the ROW.


Clearing the ROW is critical to keeping the lights on for our members. An average of 15 percent of power interruptions occur when trees, shrubs or bushes grow too close to power lines.

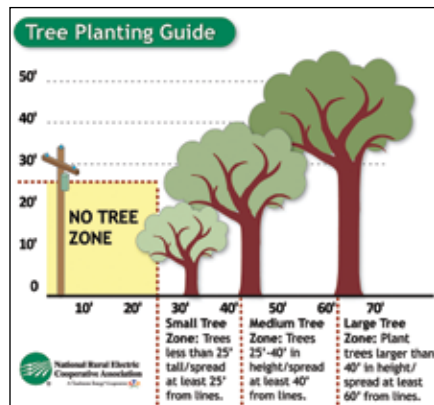
If a tree encroaches on this safe distance, our vegetation management team will trim back branches and brush using chainsaws, bucket trucks, tree climbers, brush chippers, and mowers. Chemical control methods can also be used as a way to support the growth of low-growing plant species that will outcompete the tall trees growing beneath power lines.

ROW clearing also keeps your family safe by ensuring that a tree does not become energized due to the branches contacting the power lines. Power lines can carry up to 46,000 volts, and an energized tree branch is incredibly dangerous — even deadly. Be mindful when around trees that are close to power lines, and make sure your children know climbing trees near power lines is extremely dangerous.

ROW clearing is also critical to ensuring that we provide members with affordable electricity. Staying ahead of the game keeps us from having to come out after a storm to restore power due to fallen trees.

Remember to contact REA if you identify trees that are in contact with or near any power service or line, and we will have the trees trimmed or removed by trained personnel. Never trim a tree in the right-of-way zone on your own.

ROW clearing just makes sense. Visit www.reaenergy.com to find out more about our vegetation management program and to receive information about how to keep the ROW in your service territory clear. 



Summer storms can cause power outages

SUMMER storms can cause power outages. These storms can contain lightning with the potential to knock out electrical power. REA Energy offers different options for members to report a loss of power to your residence. In order to ensure accurate reporting of your outage, there are several steps to follow:

- ▶ Call REA Energy's outage reporting system at 724-463-7273 or 800-332-7273 from a working telephone number. Our outage reporting system recognizes the first two contact numbers listed with your account. If you have recently changed your telephone number or want to change your contact numbers, please contact the cooperative.
 - ▶ There is an option to leave a message if you are unable to call from either of the two contact numbers we have on file. After leaving a message, if you do not receive a call back from an REA representative within 15 minutes, please call the outage telephone number again. Please note that when the cooperative calls back, the caller ID may show up as "Unknown."
 - ▶ If your power is restored and goes back off, please call and report an outage again. We may think the problem was fixed the first time and not be aware that you have another loss of power.
 - ▶ If you notice your neighbors do not have power, please still call in and report your outage. The more members that call in their outage, the better our Outage Management System (OMS) predicts the location of outage problems. This enables us to get our crews to the location more accurately to restore power faster.
- REA Energy also offers the option to have outage information and updates sent to your cellular device via text message (*message and data rates may apply*). To sign up and receive the texts, you must already have provided your cell number to the cooperative. If you would like to provide the coopera-

tive with your cell number and join the program, please call 724-349-4800 or 800-211-5667. If we already have your cellular number on file, you can visit REA Energy's website to sign up.

Recently, REA Energy added an outage viewer to our website, www.reaenergy.com. Members can access the link to the outage viewer by clicking the icon on the homepage.

Once you reach the outage viewer, members will be able to see: the total number of outages (the viewer will update every five minutes), the number of members affected by outages and outage totals per county. Members can also click on a specific outage and see how many members are affected, along with the cause of the outage if known.

In the event of larger outages, updates will be posted on the cooperative's Facebook page. To join, visit www.facebook.com, search for REA Energy Cooperative, Inc. and "Like" the page.

Please note that REA Energy's Facebook page is not monitored 24 hours a day. Please DO NOT report a power outage via Facebook. Use one of the other options listed above.

How power is restored

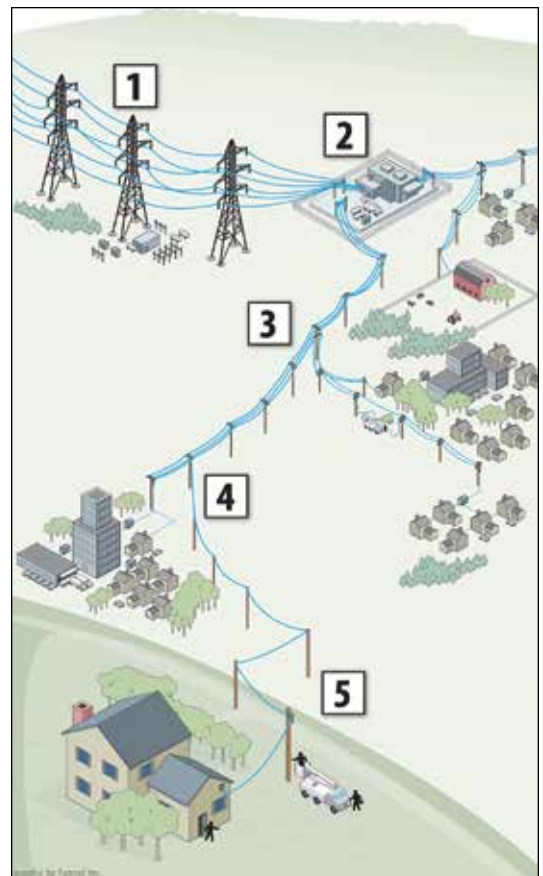
There is a certain order that must be followed when restoring electric power. Electricity comes from the substation, and then the first line feeds into the second, the second into the third, and so forth until the end of the line is reached. The same order must be followed for repairs. Transmission lines (1) rarely fail, but in the event they do, they must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

Sometimes power is lost to the substations (2). If the lines are the co-op's property, we can fix them; if not, we have to wait until another utility company repairs them.

Three-phase main distribution lines (3) are next on the repair list. They are the main "artery" in transmitting power.

Some members will receive power when the substation or three-phase lines are re-energized. Sometimes, however, the damage is more extensive, and major work will need to be done to a single-phase distribution (4) or tap line (5). A tap line comes off the main line. Tap lines with the most consumers on them will be repaired first. Lastly, individual services will be repaired.

As the restoration process continues, REA Energy appreciates your patience as an affected consumer during an outage. We recognize the inconvenience experienced by all affected members. REA Energy, with its dedicated employees, works 24 hours a day to restore and maintain power to all consumers. ☀



REA hires new employees

REA Energy recently hired two new employees to work out of the Indiana office.

Kim Winters started in the position of technical support specialist at the Indiana office on March 20, 2017. Some of Kim's duties will include: providing support for PC hardware, operating systems, printers and application issues.

Kim has a Bachelor of Science degree in computer studies and also served in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Zachary Rusnak started in the position of journeyman lineman at the Indiana office on April 3, 2017.

Some of Zach's duties will include: construction and maintenance of electrical power lines. Zach has an Associate of Applied Science degree in industrial technology and is a certified welder.

In his spare time, Zach enjoys trucks, motorcycles, hunting and snowboarding.



Kim Winters, Technical Support Specialist



Zachary Rusnak, Journeyman Lineman

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For details, visit our website at:

www.reaservices.com

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REA Energy offices will be closed Tuesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. Power outages can be reported by calling 724-463-7273 or 800-332-7273.

Right-of-way management/facility construction news

REA Energy contractors will be completing tree-trimming work in the following areas in June:

- ▶ Contractor crews from Asplundh Tree Expert Co. will be trimming the rights of way of the Strongstown Substations areas, in addition to emergency maintenance areas. Crews from Penn Line Service will be trimming the right of way of the St. Augustine Substation area.

Notification of work will be made to members in the areas affected. Contractors will perform all right-of-way work per REA Energy specifications. All crews will carry cards and have magnets on their vehicles identifying them as REA Energy contractors.

If you have any questions, call 724-349-4800, or you can view the specifications online at: www.reaenergy.com.

Director Jack Rising retires after 22 years of service

DISTRICT 7 Director Jack Rising recently announced his retirement from the REA Energy Cooperative Board of Directors after 22 years of service.

Jack was elected to the board in 1995. During his tenure, Jack served as secretary/treasurer for several years. He received his Credentialed Cooperative Director certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) in 1999 and the NRECA Board Leadership Certificate in 2010.



Jack Rising

Jack and his late wife, Evelyn, lived in Indiana and are the parents of two sons, Dr. Donald Rising and Dr. David Rising. He attended Indiana High School, Brigs-Myers Business Management, and many U.S. Army schools. He is a retired salesman and owned an auto parts business for 10 years.

Jack joined the U.S. Army in March 5, 1943. He went to the European Theater of Operations in 1943 as a

member of Headquarters Company 359th Regiment 90th Infantry Division, serving under U.S. Gen. George Patton. He entered France on D-Day, and received an honorable discharge on Nov. 11, 1945. He received the following honors for his military service: Presidential Unit Citation, Purple Heart and the European African Middle Eastern Service Medal with five Bronze Stars.

Very active in the community, Jack served on the Indiana County Fair Association and Curry Run Cemetery Association, was a board member for the Indiana County YMCA, and was an adviser for the Indiana County Vo-Tech School and the Lenape Vo-Tech School, Ford City. He was also the state secretary for United Commercial Travelers and the international secretary/treasurer for United Commercial Travelers, for which he received the Distinguished Service Award in 1993-1994.

Thank you, Jack, for your service and dedication to REA Energy Cooperative, Inc. and its members. ☀

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