

# REA Energy Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



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**Chad Carrick**  
President and CEO

#### STAFF

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Indiana Operations Manager

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Employee Services

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Network & Systems Manager

**Dave Daugherty**  
Safety & Right of Way Manager

**Steve Malesky**  
Ebensburg Operations Supervisor

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Director of Finance &  
Accounting Services

**Nick Hartman**  
Manager of Engineering

**Stacy Hilliard, CCC, CKAE**  
Communications & Marketing Manager  
Local Pages Editor

**Chris Weller**  
Load Management Supervisor

**OUTAGES & EMERGENCIES**  
844-920-3395

**OFFICE HOURS**  
Indiana Office: 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Ebensburg Office: 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
Closed Tuesday and Thursday

## Keeping Power Reliable Amid Rising Costs



**STACY HILLIARD**

**AT REA ENERGY, OUR MISSION** is to provide our members with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. While we work every day to fulfill that commitment, the electric industry continues to face significant challenges that affect the cost of providing service.

In recent years, the electric industry has endured rising prices for goods and services, supply chain disruptions, evolving regulations, and increasing concerns about grid resiliency and security. While REA Energy can control some costs, the majority of increases are for things we cannot control.

### Rising costs to maintain the electric system

Over the past several years, REA Energy has seen substantial increases in the cost of materials and equipment that are required to maintain and improve our electric infrastructure. Since 2019, average price increases include:

- ▶ Poles and crossarms: 92%
- ▶ Wire: 60%
- ▶ Pole line hardware: 99%
- ▶ Distribution transformers: 118%
- ▶ Protective equipment: 61%
- ▶ Molded fiberglass: 78%
- ▶ Utility trucks: 42%
- ▶ Fuel costs: 68%

These items are essential to maintaining safe and reliable electric service for our members and they have been subject to tremendous cost increases.

### Generation and transmission costs drive most increases

The largest factor affecting electric costs is the continued rise in generation and transmission expenses. While Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny) supplies approximately 69% of REA Energy's power, the remaining 31% must be purchased on the open market. These open-market power prices have increased significantly, with recent forecasts projecting wholesale power cost increases of up to 800% in the coming years. Since 2019, wholesale generation and transmission costs have increased 40.29%.

### Rising costs on the PJM grid

The PJM Interconnection electric grid is the nation's largest and is also the main grid used to deliver your cooperative's wholesale power. These power costs have been steadily rising over the last several years. After the 2026-2027 PJM capacity auction last year, prices increased more than 22% when compared with 2024 levels.

These increases are driven mainly by growing electricity demand and the retirement of power plants, which reduces available capacity. As supply tightens and demand rises, higher wholesale costs become unavoidable.

### What this means for members

Due to these ongoing increases, it became necessary for REA Energy to raise the wholesale generation and transmission kilowatt-hour (kWh) rate by approximately 13% earlier this year. This cost is strictly a direct pass-through expense that REA Energy cannot control.

To lessen the impact on members, REA Energy absorbed \$1.7 million in costs. Also, for now, REA Energy has no plans to increase its distribution kWh rate or monthly access fee.

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# Petitions for Director Candidates Due by June 24

STACY HILLIARD, CCC, CKAЕ, COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING MANAGER

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** for REA Energy Cooperative, Inc. is comprised of nine cooperative members who are elected to four-year terms on a rotating basis.

In 2026, Districts 7, 8 and 9 are up for re-election.

District 7 covers White Township, Indiana County. District 8 includes the following Cambria County municipalities: Barr, Blacklick, Clearfield, Dean, East Carroll, West Carroll, and White townships, and Chest Springs Borough; and Beccaria Township, Clearfield County. District 9 includes the following townships in Indiana County: Armstrong, Brush Valley, Buffington, and Center.

## Qualifications

To be eligible for director candidacy, individuals must meet the following criteria and all other guidelines listed in the cooperative's bylaws:

- ▶ Must be at least 18 years old;
- ▶ Must have signed and submitted an application for service at their primary residence;
- ▶ Must have received electric service at their primary residence continuously for the past year;
- ▶ Must not be employed by, or financially interested in, any business in competition with REA;
- ▶ Must have never been an employee of REA Energy Cooperative or any electric cooperative or association;

- ▶ Must not be a close relative of a director or employee of REA;
- ▶ Must have paid all balances due to REA within 90 days of billing during the previous one-year period;
- ▶ Must not have been convicted of theft of services from REA; and
- ▶ Must not have been convicted of, or pled guilty to, a felony or crime of moral turpitude.

Complete director qualifications are detailed in the cooperative's bylaws in Article III, Section 2(a). Packets containing all the necessary information and forms are available at REA Energy's offices or by emailing [reaenergy@reaenergy.com](mailto:reaenergy@reaenergy.com).

## Important dates to remember

This year, the first day that members can submit petitions to run for director is May 11. To register as a candidate, your primary residence must be in District 7, 8 or 9.

Interested applicants will need to have their petitions submitted and received at REA Energy by 3 p.m. June 24.

Information containing the names of all the nominees will be mailed to members in Districts 7, 8 and 9 at the beginning of August. Election results will be announced at REA Energy's Annual Meeting on Sept. 22. 📍

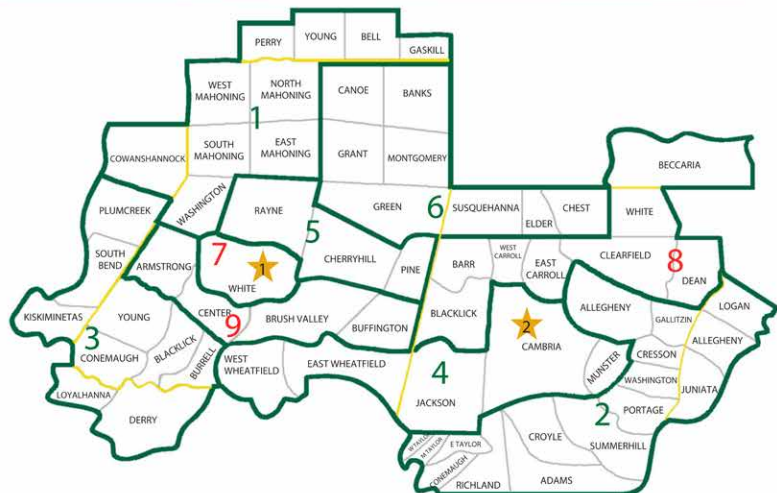
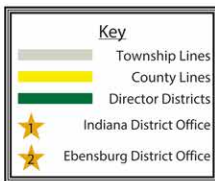


Indiana, Pennsylvania

President & CEO



Chad Carrick



# Windstorm, Revisited

KAYLA KING, CCC, MARKETING AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

APRIL 29, 2025, is a day many of us at REA Energy will never forget, even long after we retire.

That Tuesday began like any other. Employees were settling into the work week, answering emails and phone calls. As an avid weather enthusiast, I kept a national weather site open, watching forecasts of intense winds. At that point, it was a normal day with no outages or emergency calls.

By that evening, everything changed. Pittsburgh news stations began reporting on powerful winds moving through the region. Videos showed roofing torn off buildings and heavy patio furniture being thrown like it weighed nothing. Reports of widespread power outages caused by fallen trees and limbs began to appear. Forecasters suggested the winds could weaken before reaching Indiana County, so I remained hopeful that the storm would pass quietly.

## Broken trees and darkness

Unfortunately, the wind grew stronger. I watched as trees near my home bent with the force of the storm. Loud cracking sounds rang out in the distance as branches and trees began to break under the intense wind. The lights in my house flickered repeatedly. Eventually, the power went out completely, enveloping my neighborhood in darkness.

I then tried checking for outage information, but the outage system would not load. Phone lines were down, too. I relied on a backup battery to briefly power my router for updates.

By Wednesday morning, emergency storm operations were underway at the co-op. The storm caused significant damage to electric lines and communication systems, including the supervisory control and data acquisition system. Phone and mapping systems were also disrupted. With outage



Photos from the April 29, 2025, windstorm restoration efforts. Photos provided by REA Energy members and employees.

reporting only intermittent, emails and Face-book messages flooded in as staff reassured members that crews were working safely and quickly.

When I arrived at work, line crews had already been out for more than 12 hours, physically inspecting miles of line through “bird-dogging.” At the height of the storm, 20 substations lost power due to a lost transmission feed from FirstEnergy, complicating damage assessment. Without that electric supply, diagnosing the full extent of the damage became even more challenging.

“It was a domino effect,” says Jonathan, a chief lineman. “You would get to one section that needed to be repaired, and we would find so much more that needed to be fixed.”

Kevin, a journeyman lineman, echoed Jonathan’s thoughts.

“Nothing was an easy fix,” he says. “Everything was an extensive, complicated situation.”

## A call for help

As the extent of damage became clear, additional help was called in, nearly quadrupling the outside workforce. Six sister cooperatives, along with tree-trimmers and independent contractors, added 78 workers to REA’s 37 crew members. Crews worked exhausting 16-hour shifts, some sleeping

in campers between rotations. Community members delivered snacks and water in support.

Throughout the week of grueling power restoration from the initial storm, subsequent storms hit our service territory, causing additional damage, especially in Cambria County. One storm caused an additional 4,000 outages, which, under normal conditions, would be a large outage for REA Energy. It felt

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## GUEST COLUMN

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REA Energy will continuously work to manage expenses and limit the need for additional distribution-related rate increases.

## Commitment to affordability

REA Energy’s generation and transmission rates remain among the lowest in Pennsylvania, reflecting the cooperative model’s focus on serving members first.

As the energy landscape continues to change, REA Energy remains committed to balancing financial responsibility with member support. While wholesale market conditions are beyond our control, cooperative values — community, fairness and transparency — guide every decision we make. 📌

**STACY HILLIARD, CCC, CKA**  
COMMUNICATIONS &  
MARKETING MANAGER

## WINDSTORM, REVISITED

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like we were moving 1 foot forward, then being pushed 2 feet back.

Many REA Energy employees were also experiencing their own power outages at home. Bill, a chief lineman, remembers the frustration caused by the power outage.

“As a member without power during last April’s storm, my family and I understood the frustrations involved with not having power for extended times following that storm,” he says. “Members understood the magnitude of the event and were supportive of our restoration efforts. Everyone involved with the restoration at all levels was focused on restoring power to all the members as safely and efficiently as possible while working long hours under challenging circumstances.”

It took nearly a week to return our service to normal. More than 100 poles and 36 transformers were replaced. On May 5, power was restored to the final member affected by the initial storm. Cleanup and repairs continued for weeks. The storm was later classified as a derecho, a rare and powerful straight-line windstorm.

## Safe and connected

Events like this remind us why the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) is recognizing April 13, 2026, as Lineworker Appreciation Day. Our lineworkers, load technicians, operations staff, office employees and mutual-aid crews from other cooperatives all played critical roles in restoring power in the wake of last year’s storm.

Today, lineworkers continue to get the job done by overcoming dangerous conditions to keep electricity flowing to our communities. Their skill, dedication and willingness to work long hours in severe weather helps ensure members stay safe and connected.

During Lineworker Appreciation Day, we recognize the sacrifices these men and women make every day. The events of April 29, 2025, showed just how important their work truly is. Because of their commitment and teamwork, thousands of members had their power restored safely.

The service of our lineworkers is something we are deeply thankful for, not just in April, but all year long. 🇺🇸

REA Energy offices will be closed on April 3 in observance of Good Friday. To report a power outage or make a payment, call 844-920-3395.

**Director petitions for Districts 7, 8 & 9 are due June 24. Contact REA Energy to learn more today!**

## Right-of-Way Management News

REA Energy contractors will be completing tree-trimming work in the following areas in April: Contractor crews from Penn Line Tree Service will be trimming the rights of way of the Reese substations and Wilmore metering point areas, in addition to emergency maintenance areas. Affected members will be notified. Contractors will perform all right-of-way work per REA Energy specifications. All contractor employees will carry employee identification cards, and their vehicles will display their company name. If you have any questions, call 724-349-4800 or view the specifications at [reaenergy.com](http://reaenergy.com).

# Your Board of Directors



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*REA Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*