REA Energy Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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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

REA Awarded Grant to Enhance Reliability

STACY HILLIARD

WE ARE HAPPY TO REPORT that REA Energy Cooperative was recently awarded a $1.5 million grant through the Pennsylvania Grid Resilience Grants (PA GRG) Program. This grant will allow REA Energy to complete important upgrades to its distribution system. These upgrades will help strengthen reliability and reduce power outages.

What is the Pennsylvania Grid Resilience Grant Program?

The PA GRG Program is funded by a state formula grant through the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The program is designed to support projects that prevent outages and enhance the resilience of electric grids across Pennsylvania.

What does the grant mean for REA Energy members?

REA Energy serves more than 18,500 members in rural areas throughout seven counties in western Pennsylvania. Rural infrastructure can be more vulnerable to damage from severe weather, aging equipment and challenging terrain. With the GRG grant, the cooperative will install 45 smart-grid devices, which will allow crews to quickly identify problems.

The equipment upgrades are expected to help:

- Reduce the duration of outages
- Improve outage detection through office monitoring
- Decrease service restoration times
- Provide greater reliability for approximately 9,000 cooperative members

Building a more resilient grid

REA Energy President and CEO Chad Carrick emphasizes the importance of investing in critical electric infrastructure.

"Frequent or extended outages can impact health care, emergency response, businesses and daily life," he says. "By supporting smart, targeted upgrades to electric systems, the PA GRG Program helps utilities like REA Energy strengthen service reliability while preparing for future challenges."

Investing in the future of reliable power

For REA Energy, this grant represents an important investment in the cooperative's long-term mission, which is to provide safe, reliable and affordable electric service to consumer-members. By using federal and state funding, REA Energy can make meaningful system upgrades while limiting the financial impact on members.

"The capabilities provided by the 45 devices being installed will increase our remote system visibility and control by approximately 50%," Manager of Engineering Nick Hardman says. "The additional real-time system data that will be obtained will improve our planning for future upgrades and maintenance, the locating and fixing of issues on the system and provide additional flexibility, safety, and security when operating our system in normal or abnormal conditions."

As these improvements are implemented, members can expect a stronger, more resilient electric system built to meet today's needs and tomorrow's challenges.

STACY HILLIARD, CCC, CKAE
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING MANAGER

The Power Behind Your Power: How REA Energy Keeps the Lights On

KAYLA KING, CCC, MARKETING AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

REA ENERGY COOPERATIVE IS BUILT on a foundation of cooperation, diversification and long-term planning to ensure reliable and affordable electricity for our members. The same standards hold true with the electrical power that is supplied to our members.

Some may assume a local electric cooperative generates its own power, which is not true in REA Energy's case. Instead, we rely on a larger network of generation and transmission resources to deliver electricity efficiently to the communities we serve.

Where does your power come from?

At the center of REA Energy's power supply is Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny), a generation and transmission cooperative based in Harrisburg that provides wholesale power to 14 electric cooperatives across Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Formed 80 years ago to enable smaller electric cooperatives greater purchasing power and stability, Allegheny allows members like REA Energy to benefit from economies of scale, shared resources and coordinated planning. This cooperative model ensures that electricity remains both cost-effective and dependable for rural Pennsylvania communities that might otherwise face higher energy costs.

One of REA Energy's main supply strengths is its mix of energy sources. About 67% of the electricity used by members comes from resources owned through Allegheny. Most of this power is Pennsylvania-based, with the largest share coming from nuclear energy, primarily from a 10% stake in the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station in Luzerne County, which supplies more than half of the cooperative's power.

Hydroelectric sources, such as the Raystown Hydroelectric Plant and the New York Power Authority, contribute a smaller but still notable portion. The remaining electricity comes from long-term contracts and open-market purchases, using a mix of coal, natural gas, oil, nuclear, and renewable sources, such as wind, solar and biomass.

After electricity is generated, it travels across high-voltage transmission lines coordinated by REA Energy's power delivery company, FirstEnergy, until it reaches local substations. At the substations, the voltage is lowered to safe, usable levels for distribution. From there, the cooperative delivers power through its network of distribution lines, transformers, and equipment directly to homes, farms, and businesses in the service territory.

This coordinated process between generation, transmission and distribution is essential to maintaining reliable service. Each step must work seamlessly to balance supply and demand in real time, respond to changing conditions and ensure that members receive consistent, dependable power every day.

How can members help?

Keeping costs down is also a key part of REA Energy's power supply plan. Programs like the Coordinated Load Management System and shifting use help by moving electricity use to times when demand — and power costs — are lower. This improves system efficiency and may lower members' power bills. Over the years, these programs have saved cooperative members millions of dollars and reduced strain on the electric grid during peak times.

Shifting use is especially effective and encourages members to use less electricity between 1 and 6 p.m. on summer weekdays, when demand and costs are usually the highest. By shifting use to mornings and evenings, members help stabilize wholesale costs and electric rates. As they say, a little change can make a big difference.

Members are encouraged to set air conditioners to 78 degrees and use fans to stay cool while saving energy. Closing curtains and blinds during the hottest part of the day helps keep homes cooler and reduces the need for additional cooling. It is best to use major appliances like washers, dryers, dishwashers, and ovens early in the morning or later in the evening, rather than during peak hours.

Opening refrigerators and freezers less often, turning off unnecessary lights and electronics, and running pool pumps at night also help lower demand. Even small steps, such as grilling instead of using the oven or switching to energy-efficient lightbulbs, can make a meaningful difference.

REA Energy's power supply reflects the strength of the cooperative model, combining reliable generation sources with proactive cost-management strategies. By working together, through cooperative partnerships and member participation, REA Energy continues to provide dependable, affordable electricity while preparing for future energy needs.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

During these warm summer months, a smart thermostat can help keep your home comfortable while reducing cooling costs. Smart thermostats learn your routine and automatically raise the temperature when you're away and cool things down before you return, avoiding unnecessary energy use. You can also adjust settings remotely from your phone, so you're never cooling an empty house. Setting your thermostat a few degrees higher while you're away or asleep can lead to significant savings. Many smart thermostats provide reports and tips, helping you fine-tune your energy use and stay cool while keeping your electric bill in check.

SUMMER ENERGY EFFICIENCY

As summer temperatures rise, increased air conditioner use can drive up your electric bill. Check out these simple energy-saving tips to stay cool while keeping costs down.

RAISE THE THERMOSTAT A FEW DEGREES

Raising your thermostat a couple of degrees can help reduce cooling costs.

USE CEILING FANS

Ceiling fans can make rooms feel cooler. Set them to rotate counterclockwise in summer to push cool air downward.

REPLACE AIR FILTERS

Replacing your home cooling system's air filters helps maintain optimal air flow and efficiency.

FIRE UP THE GRILL

Using the grill helps keep heat out of your home and lowers electricity use.

USE CURTAINS OR BLINDS

Close curtains or blinds during the day to block sunlight and keep your home cooler.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE: REAENERGY.COM

REA ENERGY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FRIDAY, JULY 3, IN OBSERVANCE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY.

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE OR MAKE A PAYMENT, PLEASE CALL 844-920-3395.

Right-of-Way Management News

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

Contractor crews from Penn Line Tree Service will be trimming the rights of way of the Belsano substation areas in addition to emergency maintenance areas.

Members in affected areas will be notified. Contractors will perform all right-of-way work per REA Energy specifications. All contractor employees carry employee identification cards, and their vehicles display their company name.

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

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