

REA Energy Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey



Chad Carrick
President & CEO

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- Jeff Dishong**
Ebensburg Operations Supervisor
- Lisa Gardill**
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- Stacy Hilliard, CCC**
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- Patrick McAndrew**
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- Bryon Roland**
Purchasing & Facilities Manager
- Brendan Short**
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7 - 11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday

From the President & CEO



Nuclear power is co-op power

By Chad Carrick, MBA, CFPC
President & CEO

FROM the time our alarm goes off, we're on the grid. Electricity powers much of our daily lives. And as long as the lights come on, we don't give it much thought. We rarely think about where our electricity comes from.

But as a consumer-member of REA Energy Cooperative, Inc., you have an ownership interest in your power resources. Did you know most of the energy used in cooperative homes and businesses throughout the Commonwealth is generated by self-owned nuclear power? It's true. In Pennsylvania, nuclear power is co-op power.

Since 1977, Pennsylvania's electric cooperatives have been partners in the ownership of the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (Susquehanna), a nuclear facility in Berwick, Pa. For decades, this cooperative investment in nuclear power has been a driving force in providing our communities with safe, reliable and affordable electric energy. The plant supplies approximately 60 percent of our energy needs, and is one of the main reasons cooperative consumers enjoy one of the lowest and most stable electric generation rates in the region.

But cooperative members aren't the only ones benefitting from nuclear power. According to a report by the General Assembly's bipartisan Nuclear Energy Caucus, without the state's nuclear plants, Pennsylvanians would pay close to \$800 million more annually for electricity. The plants annually contribute \$2 billion to the state's economy, pay \$69 million in net tax revenues and employ 16,000 Pennsylvanians.

Nuclear power also provides 93

percent of the Commonwealth's carbon-free energy, helping Pennsylvanians avoid billions in health and environmental costs. No other generation resource comes close to having this kind of impact.

The future of our nuclear plants, however, is a matter of serious concern. Recently, two plants — Beaver Valley and Three Mile Island — have announced premature closures if action is not taken to correct current market dynamics. Such closures would have devastating, long-term consequences, because once a nuclear plant closes, it's closed forever.

While our Susquehanna plant is not currently in danger, if this troubling trend continues, it will result in higher energy prices and higher environmental costs for us all — something that will hit our rural communities particularly hard.

To avoid this fate, Pennsylvania needs a market design that recognizes nuclear power's positive contributions. Electric cooperatives are working with legislative leaders on a bipartisan effort to secure the future of nuclear power in Pennsylvania. These lawmakers are introducing legislation to equitably compensate nuclear power for its zero-carbon emissions and grid dependability.

Rural electric cooperatives understand the benefits of nuclear power, and we can help to educate others on its importance. Please take a moment to visit PARuralAction.org and send an email to your local legislators urging them to support efforts to ensure nuclear power remains viable in Pennsylvania. After all, nuclear power is co-op power. 

Milner, longtime employee, retires

FEBRUARY 4, 2019. This date for longtime REA Energy employee and Chief Lineman Joseph (Joe) Milner holds special significance. It represents the culmination of a career spanning 40 years at the cooperative and the start of the next chapter of his life.

Milner began his employment at the cooperative in February 1979 as a storeroom helper. Through the years, he has held various positions including: storeroom keeper, utility man, apprentice, and journeyman lineman. His most recent position was chief lineman.

When asked what he enjoyed the most about working at the cooperative, he stated he enjoyed working outside and always being in a different place in our service territory. But, most of all, he enjoyed working with a great group of linemen over the years.

Milner says he will miss his coworkers and line work, sharing knowledge and experiences; however, he says he will not miss getting that one “last” outage after an exhausting round of



REA Energy Chief Lineman Joe Milner is retiring after 40 years of service to the cooperative.

storm work.

In his retirement, Milner plans to relax a while, spend time with family and friends, spend time cooking and baking, hiking, hunting, fishing, and traveling. He also intends to explore

the possibility of volunteering at a soup kitchen.

The board of directors and employees at REA Energy Cooperative, Inc. wish to bid a fond farewell to him as he begins a well-deserved retirement. ☀

Petitions for director candidates due by June 21

By Stacy Hilliard, CCC, *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 2019, Districts 1 and 2 are up for re-election. District 1 includes the following township in Armstrong County: Cowanshannock. District 1 also includes the following townships in Indiana County: East Mahoning, North Mahoning, South Mahoning, Washington, and West Mahoning, as well as Creekside Borough. In Jefferson County, District 1 includes: Bell, Gaskill, Perry and Young townships.

District 2 includes the following townships in Blair County: Allegheny, Juniata and Logan. District 2 also includes these townships in Cambria County: Adams, Allegheny, Conemaugh, Cresson, Croyle, East Taylor, Gallitzin, Middle Taylor, Portage, Richland, Summerhill, Washington and West Taylor.

Qualifications

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

- ▶ Be at least 18 years old
- ▶ Signed and submitted an application for service at primary residence
- ▶ Received electric service at primary residence continuously for the past year

- ▶ Not be employed by, or financially interested in, any business in competition with REA
- ▶ Never been an employee of REA or any electric cooperative or association
- ▶ Not a close relative of a director or employee of REA
- ▶ Have paid all balances due REA within 90 days of billing during the previous one-year period
- ▶ Have not been convicted of theft of services from REA
- ▶ Have not been convicted of, or pleaded 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 of the necessary information and forms are available at cooperative's offices, or by emailing reaenergy@reaenergy.com.

Important dates to remember

This year, the first day members can submit petitions to run for director is March 22, 2019. To register as a candidate, you must reside in District 1 or 2.

Interested applicants will need to have their petitions submitted and received at the cooperative by 3 p.m. June 21, 2019.

A ballot containing the names of all the nominees will be mailed to members in Districts 1 and 2 in the beginning of September. Election results will be announced at REA Energy's annual meeting on Sept. 19, 2019. ☀

Right-of-way maintenance scheduled for 2019

By Brendan Short
Right-of-Way/Forestry Supervisor

REA ENERGY is committed to and strives toward providing the highest quality service to our members. Right-of-way (ROW) vegetation maintenance plays a major role in achieving this commitment, so REA can provide safe and reliable electric to its members.

There are benefits of having a well-established vegetation maintenance program (VMP). The first benefit is public safety. Distribution lines are high-voltage lines that can be a danger to the public. If trees are allowed to grow into any form of high-voltage line, this can create a very dangerous situation for utility personnel, unaware landowners or the public.

Electrical energy is always trying to find its way to ground. But to get there it needs a conductor, a healthy looking tree, for example. When tree limbs are touching or lying on distribution lines, there is the potential that the distribution energy is using that tree to find a path to ground, which has the possibility to energize a portion of that tree. If landowners notice this situation, they should not take matters into their own hands. Instead, call REA Energy and report the situation. Trained professionals in the industry can assess the situation and work to resolve it.

The second benefit of a well-established VMP is storm restoration time. With a proper VMP in place, storm restoration times may be reduced drastically. This is because a properly maintained ROW allows utility personnel to have better access to the lines and they can more easily see where the outage is located. This allows personnel to assess the situation and determine what tools and materials may be needed to properly restore the line.

With a non-maintained ROW, utility lines can become entangled within brush and tree limbs. When ROWs are in this form, restoration times may increase because personnel have to spend more time looking for the

outage location. Once the location of the outage has been determined, utility personnel may be engulfed within an overgrown ROW. Untangling the utility lines is very time consuming for vegetation management crews. This makes it very hazardous for utility personnel and the public.

Landowner notification

REA utilizes various notification methods before any vegetation management work takes place on the property. All attempts will be made to notify landowners. Methods of notification used to notify landowners of the pending work are automated phone calls, letters, newspaper ads, *Penn Lines*, Twitter and Facebook posts. Final notification will be a personal message from a representative from the professional tree contractor. At this time, the representative will be explaining what work must be accomplished within the given property. Landowners at this time should ask questions so they have a complete understanding of the work that will be performed within their property.

REA cycle trimming program

There are approximately 2,600 miles of electric line to maintain in the cooperative's territory. REA Energy requires tree trimming, tree removal and herbicide treatment on a cyclical basis. Currently, the cooperative has adopted a five-year vegetation management cycle to take care of all of the ROW in our service area. Adequate trimming and spraying programs make it possible to provide reliable electric service and reduce outage time.

In 2019, the following cycle trimming, mowing and herbicide projects are scheduled:

- ▶ Laurel Substation – 126 miles
- ▶ Parkwood Substation – 143 miles
- ▶ Livermore Substation – 108 miles
- ▶ Washington Substation – 138 miles
- ▶ Clyde Substation – 70 miles

Reliability

Our focus this year is to reduce tree-related outages. This is achievable with proper maintenance and the cooperation of members working with the cooperative to maintain the ROW. REA Energy appreciates your cooperation with tree trimming and vegetation control within ROWs. Working together, we will reduce outages, keep the system safe for employees and landowners, and reduce outage time. If you have any questions regarding ROW issues, you can visit our website at reaenergy.com to see proper specifications for ROW clearance, or contact the Indiana office at 724-349-4800 or the Ebensburg office at 814-472-8570. 🌳

Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

For more tips on smart tree planting in your community, contact your local electric cooperative or visit www.ArborDay.org.

Trees beautify our neighborhoods, and when planted in the right spot, can even help lower energy bills. But the wrong tree in the wrong place can be a hazard... especially to power lines.

LARGE TREES	MEDIUM TREES	SMALL TREES
Height/spread of more than 40 feet, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maple• Birch• Oak• Sweetgum• Spruce• Linden• Pine	Height/spread of 25 to 40 feet, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Washington hawthorn• Goldenraintree• Eastern redbud• American arborvitae• Dogwoods	Avoid planting within 20 feet of power lines. When planting within 20 feet is unavoidable, use only shrubs and small trees. Height/spread of no more than 25 feet such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Star magnolia• Crabapple• Lilac

Be safe! Always call 811 before you dig to locate any buried utility lines.

Sources: The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

REA's safety internship program

Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) student Brandon Prenni started in the position of safety intern on Jan. 14.

Some of his duties will include completing safety work and conducting safety checks. Prenni will graduate from IUP in May 2019.

In his free time, Prenni enjoys spending time with his family, hunting, fishing, powerlifting, snowboarding and working on cars.



INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: Brandon Prenni is a safety intern at REA Energy. He began work in January.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Don't forget to spring forward on **March 10!** Set your clocks ahead by one hour.

Right-of-way management/facility construction news

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

- ▶ Contractor crews from Penn Line Tree Service will be trimming the rights-of-way of the Laurel, Parkwood and Uniontown substation areas, in addition to emergency maintenance areas. 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 contractor employees will carry employee identification cards and their vehicles will display their company name.

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

Don't forget to stop by REA Energy's booth at the Indiana-Armstrong Homebuilder's Show at the Kovalchick Complex March 22-24. Members who visit the booth will receive a free gift.



Your Board of Directors



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District 2

REA Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.