

# REA Energy Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

## REA ENERGY COOPERATIVE, INC.

75 Airport Road • P.O. Box 70  
Indiana, PA 15701-0070  
724-349-4800 • 800-211-5667

## EBENSBURG DISTRICT OFFICE

127 Municipal Road  
Ebensburg, PA 15931  
814-472-8570

Website: [www.reaenergy.com](http://www.reaenergy.com)  
Email: [reaenergy@reaenergy.com](mailto:reaenergy@reaenergy.com)

### STAFF

#### Barry Baker

Indiana Operations Manager

#### Erin Bauer

ACRE Coordinator

#### Shane Cribbs

Network & Systems Manager

#### Dave Daugherty

Safety & Right of Way Manager

#### Jeff Dishong

Ebensburg Operations Supervisor

#### Lisa Gardill

Accounting & Finance Manager

#### Stacy Hilliard, CCC, CKAE

Communications & Marketing Manager

Local Pages Editor

#### Chris Masterson

Reliability Supervisor

#### Bryon Roland

Purchasing & Facilities Manager

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

## Happy Birthday, REA Energy!



**WHAT A DIFFERENCE 86 YEARS** has made! Take a minute and imagine what your life would be like without electricity. Then think about what rural areas throughout Pennsylvania must have been like without electricity all those years ago.

Some current REA members may remember what life was like without electricity. Memories may consist of reading the newspaper by lamp light, cooking with a gas stove, milking dairy cows by hand and listening to a battery-powered radio

with only a few channels.

### Rural Electrification Administration is created

Before 1935, electricity was mainly available only to people who lived in or near cities or larger towns. Nearly 90% of urban areas had electricity, but only 10% of rural areas did. In fact, many people believed that farm families did not want — or even need — electricity. Things began to change rapidly, however, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order on May 11, 1935, creating the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), a branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture charged with lending money to help get electricity to rural areas.

Private utility companies, which supplied electric power to most of the nation's consumers, argued it was too expensive to string electric lines to isolated rural farmsteads. Plus, they said, most farmers were too poor to be able to afford electricity.

Luckily, for rural residents, the Roosevelt Administration believed that if private enterprise could not supply electric power to them, then it was the duty of the government to do so.

By 1939, the REA had helped to establish 417 rural electric cooperatives, which served 288,000 households. The actions of the REA encouraged private utilities to electrify the countryside, as well. By 1939, rural households with electricity had risen to 25%.

It wasn't long before neighbors in our area joined together to create nonprofit cooperatives, which could borrow money from the REA to build electrical systems.

On March 4, 1937, Southwest Central Rural Electric Cooperative — known today as REA Energy Cooperative, Inc. — was incorporated. This was a result of the determination of Mr. Sterling J. Orange, who would become the cooperative's first general manager, to bring electricity to rural residents of Indiana, Cambria and parts of surrounding counties.

Today, with 70 full-time employees and nearly 18,500 members in seven counties, REA Energy continues to serve our members with reliable electric service, reasonable rates, and a sense of being a "good neighbor," and not just another company. Thank you from your board of directors, management, and employees for your support and loyalty throughout the years. 🎉

**STACY HILLIARD, CCC, CKAE**  
COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING MANAGER



# Petitions for Director Candidates Due by June 16

STACY HILLIARD, CCC, CKAE, COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING MANAGER

IN 2023, DISTRICTS 1 AND 2 are up for re-election.

**District 1** includes Cowanshannock Township in Armstrong County. 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 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 pled guilty to, a felony or crime of moral turpitude.

Complete director qualifications are detailed in Article III, Section 2(a), of the cooperative's bylaws. Packets containing all the necessary information and forms are available at the cooperative'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 March 16. 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 16, 2023.

Information about nominees will be mailed to members in Districts 1 and 2 in the beginning of August. Election results will be announced at REA Energy's Annual Meeting on Sept. 14. 📍



- District 1 - Tom Beresnyak
- District 2 - James "Rick" Shope
- District 3 - Michael Bertolino
- District 4 - Tom Aurandt
- District 5 - Robert Neese

- District 6 - John Learn
- District 7 - Anthony Enciso
- District 8 - Wayne Farabaugh
- District 9 - Sandra Dill



Chad Carrick,  
President  
and CEO

# Right-of-Way Maintenance Scheduled for 2023

**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 carrying out this commitment, so REA Energy can provide safe and reliable electricity to its members.

There are benefits of having a well-established vegetation maintenance program (VMP). The first benefit is public safety. High voltage distribution lines can be a danger to society. If vegetation is allowed to grow into any 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 needs a conductor to get there. An example would be vegetation, which can become a conductor. When vegetation is touching or laying on distribution lines, there is the potential the electrical energy is using that vegetation to find a path to ground, which has the potential to energize a portion of the vegetation it is touching. If landowners notice this situation, they are advised not to take matters into their own hands; instead, call REA Energy and report the situation. Trained professionals in the industry can assess the situation and 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 because a properly maintained ROW allows utility personnel better access to the lines and the ability to see where the outage is located. This allows personnel to assess the situation and determine what tools and material may be needed to properly restore the line.

With an unmaintained ROW, utility lines can become entangled with brush and tree limbs. When ROWs are in this form, restoration times may increase due to personnel having to spend more time looking for the outage location. Once the location of the outage has been determined and found, utility personnel may get tangled in the overgrown ROW. Untangling the utility lines is very time consuming for utility personnel. This makes it very hazardous for all parties involved, right down to the public.

## Landowner notification

REA uses various methods to notify landowners before any vegetation management work takes place on the property. Letters are mailed to members, and information is included in *Penn Lines* magazine. The final notification will be an in-person visit from a representative of the professional vegetation management contractor. If you're not home, they will leave

a yellow door-hanger providing their phone number to address your questions or schedule a meeting. If you're home, the representative will explain what work must be accomplished. Landowners should ask questions so they have a complete understanding of the work that will be performed on their property.

## REA Energy's Cycle Trimming Program

There are approximately 2,200 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 maintain all ROWs in its service area. Adequate trimming and spraying programs make it possible to provide safe, reliable electric service and reduce outage times and overall costs.

In 2023, the following cycle trimming, mowing and herbicide projects are scheduled:

- ▶ Kenwood Substation / Metering Point — 84 miles
- ▶ Washington Substation — 139 miles
- ▶ St. Augustine / Fallentimber Substation / Metering Point — 115 miles
- ▶ Summerhill Substation — 57 miles
- ▶ Birtle Substation — 21 miles

## Reliability

Our focus this year is to reduce vegetation related outages. This is achievable with proper maintenance and the willingness of members to work with the cooperative to maintain ROWs. REA Energy appreciates your cooperation with its VMP. This will enable the cooperative to reduce outages, keep the system safe for employees and landowners, and minimize overall costs. If you have any questions about ROW issues, you can visit [reaenergy.com](http://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](http://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"><li>• Maple</li><li>• Birch</li><li>• Oak</li><li>• Spruce</li><li>• Pine</li></ul>	Height/spread of 25 to 40 feet, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Washington hawthorn</li><li>• Goldenrain tree</li><li>• Eastern redbud</li><li>• American arborvitae</li><li>• Dogwoods</li></ul>	Height/spread of no more than 25 feet such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Star magnolia</li><li>• Crabapple</li><li>• Lilac</li></ul>

Avoid planting within 20 feet of power lines. When planting within 20 feet is unavoidable, use only shrubs and small trees.

Tree pruning zone: 40ft. high of less, 40ft. —, Maximum tree height 25ft.

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

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



Patricia Berringer was chosen as the winner of the REA Energy Services 2022 Contest. Customers whose REA Energy Services job or product was \$500 or more were entered into a drawing for a prize valued up to \$500. Congratulations, Patricia, and thank you for choosing REA Energy Services.

REA Energy Services will be conducting a similar customer contest in 2023. Visit [reaservices.com](http://reaservices.com) to learn more about the products and services offered.

#### ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING

##### RESIDENTIAL

- Meter Sockets
- Entrance Cable Replacement
- Complete 100-, 200- and 400-amp Services
- Complete Wiring on New Construction
- Manufactured Home Services
- Home/Farm Meter Pole Services
- Panel and Breaker Replacement
- Automatic and Portable Generators

##### COMMERCIAL

- Three-Phase Switch-Gear Installation
- Motor-Control Installation
- Complete Wiring

- Commercial Lighting
- Automatic and Portable Generators
- Farm Services

#### HEATING, VENTILATION, AND AIR CONDITIONING

##### RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL

- Heat Pumps
  - » Ducted
  - » Ductless
- Geothermal
- Electric Boilers
- Electric Thermal Storage



E-mail: [reaservices@reaservices.com](mailto:reaservices@reaservices.com)  
[www.reaservices.com](http://www.reaservices.com)

FOR A FREE ESTIMATE CALL:  
724-349-4800, ext. 3

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REA Energy Cooperative, Inc. is beginning a project this month to replace members' aging meters with new, modern ones.

Powermetrix, the cooperative's contractor, will start changing out meters in the Cherryhill Substation area, followed by the Brown's Crossroads, Clyde, Curry Run, Latimer, Livermore and Parkwood substations to balance out the year. We plan to replace approximately 4,000 to 5,000 meters per year.

The contractor's representatives will carry REA identification cards and have REA contractor IDs on their vehicles. The contractor will not need to enter your home or business to change out the meter. However, you will experience a brief interruption in service as the new meter is installed.

REA would like to thank you for your cooperation as we complete this process.

Stop by REA Energy's booth at the Indiana-Armstrong Home Builder's Show at the Kovalchick Complex, March 24-26, 2023. Members who visit the booth will receive a free gift.

#### Right-of-Way Management News

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

- Contractor crews from Penn Line Tree Service will be trimming the rights of way in the Kenwood and Strongstown areas, in addition to emergency maintenance areas.

Members in the affected areas 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 you can view the specifications at [reaenergy.com](http://reaenergy.com).