# **COOPERATIVE**(ONNECTION

## REA Energy Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 🔨



Website: www.reaenergy.com Email: reaenergy@reaenergy.com

Chad Carrick President and CEO

#### 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

> Nick Hartman Manager of Engineering

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

Bryon Roland Purchasing & Facilities Manager

Renee Spalla Supervisor of Consumer Services

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

### Guest Column Your Bill Explained: Electricity Generation and Transmission Costs



**ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES**, like REA Energy Cooperative, play a crucial role in providing reliable, affordable and equitable electricity to rural areas across the United States. REA Energy is an electric distribution cooperative, meaning we must purchase wholesale power from others to distribute to our members. To provide this power, we rely on and must pay for electric generation and transmission.

STACY HILLIARD Starting with your March electric bill, you will be able to view your usage, with a breakdown of the charges for generation and transmission and distribution. An explanation of your bill and a list of rates for each rate class appear on page 14c.

#### **Electric generation – the starting point**

The journey of electricity begins at power plants, where various methods of electric generation come into play. In the case of REA Energy, we are owners of various sources of energy through Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny). Based in Harrisburg, Allegheny provides nearly 67% of the power used by Pennsylvania rural electric cooperatives.

The rest of that electricity is purchased on the open market, where prices have increased significantly over the last several years. Recent forecasts predict these power costs could increase dramatically over the next few years.

#### Electric transmission - bringing power to the cooperative

Once generated, electricity needs to be delivered to you, the consumer-member. Transmission is the process of delivering electricity from a generating site, such as a power plant, to the distribution grid or an electrical substation. Often referred to as the interstate highways of the electric grid, transmission lines carry electricity over long distances to a distribution substation. Like generation costs, transmissions costs have increased significantly over the last several years, and are predicted to keep increasing.

In the REA Energy service territory, the sole transmission provider is FirstEnergy. The cooperative must make sure we are able to receive our power from them to distribute it to our members. If FirstEnergy loses power in our service territory, REA does, too. We then must wait for our service provider to get back up and running before our substations get back up and running.

Once the electricity from First Energy's high-voltage transmission lines reaches REA's 33 substations, it passes through transformers that lower the voltage. From our substations, power is distributed by three-phase line and ultimately to a single-phase line to your home.

A lot goes into ensuring your homes and businesses receive power. Here at REA, we put our members first, which is what makes us stand out from other electric companies. Our employees, and especially our lineworkers, strive to provide quality, reliable and affordable electric service and products to satisfy the needs of our members.

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

## Petitions for Director Candidates Due June 20

STACY HILLIARD, CCC, CKAE, COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING MANAGER

**THE REA ENERGY COOPERATIVE, INC.,** Board of Directors is comprised of nine cooperative members who are elected to four-year terms on a rotating basis.

In 2025, Districts 5 and 6 are up for re-election. District 5 includes Cherryhill, Pine and Rayne townships in Indiana County. District 6 includes Chest, Elder, and Susquehanna townships in Cambria County, and Banks, Canoe, Grant, Green, and Montgomery townships in Indiana County.

#### Qualifications

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

- ► Must be a current member of REA Energy Cooperative, Inc.
- ► Must be at least 18 years old
- Must have signed and submitted an application for service at primary residence, which must be within the district up for election
- Must have received electric service at primary residence continuously for the past year
- May not be employed by, or financially interested in, any business in competition with REA
- ► Must not have been an employee of REA 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 REA within 90 days of

billing during the previous one-year period

- Must not have been convicted of theft of services from REA
- Must not have been convicted of, or pled guilty to, a felony or crime of moral turpitude
- Must not currently hold a political position where the individual was elected by registered voters or appointed to fill an unexpired term of a duly elected official

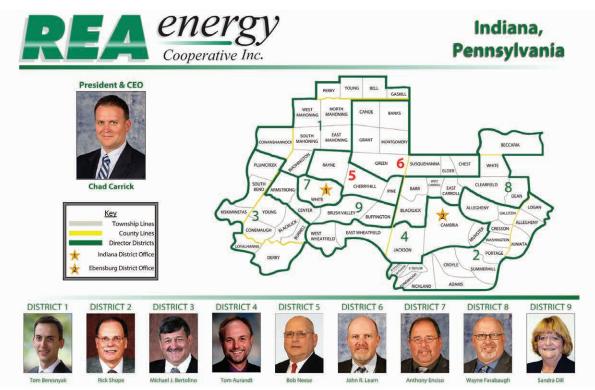
Complete director qualifications are detailed in the cooperative's bylaws in Article III, Section 2(a). Packets containing all the necessary information and forms are available at the cooperative's offices or by emailing reaenergy@reaenergy.com.

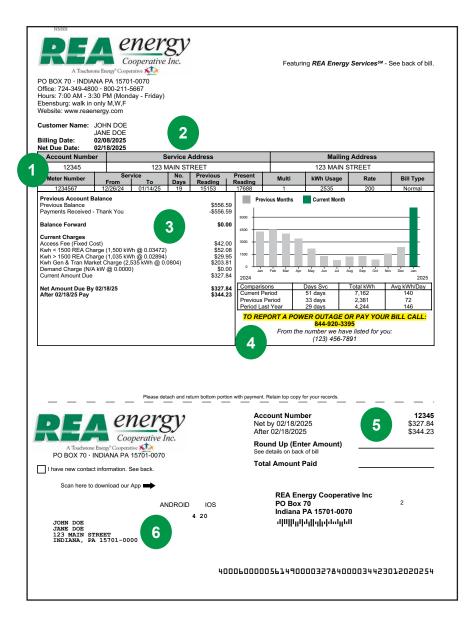
Along with these qualifications, directors are required to obtain and maintain several certifications and participate in training and conferences. Additionally, directors contribute many hours a month serving members and staying current on industry trends and policy.

#### Important dates to remember

Interested applicants may submit petitions to the cooperative between March 21 and 3 p.m. June 20. To register as a candidate, your primary residence must be in District 5 or 6.

Information about nominees will be mailed to members in Districts 5 and 6 at the beginning of August. Election results will be announced at REA Energy's Annual Meeting Sept. 18. Q





# RATES

Residential

Access fee – \$42 Generation & transmission (G&T) – \$.0804/kWh Distribution, first 1,500 kWh – \$.03472/kWh Distribution, over 1,500 kWh – \$.02894/kWh

> **Electric heat** G&T – \$.0804/kWh Distribution – \$.02372/kWh

Small commercial – no demand

Access fee – \$50 G&T – \$.0804/kWh Distribution, first 1,500 kWh – \$.03472/kWh Distribution, over 1,500 kWh – \$.02894/kWh

Small commercial – demand

Access fee – \$134.50 Demand charge – \$13.50 G&T/Distribution – \$.08245/kWh

Large commercial

Access fee – \$269 Demand charge – \$18.50 G&T/Distribution – \$.06595/kWh

**Dual fuel and ETS** G&T/Distribution – \$.07145/kWh

> Outdoor lights \$17.95/month

## **Understanding Your Bill**

- 1. Your account number is your key to billing and consumer services. For members with multiple accounts, you will most likely have consecutive numbers, i.e. 12345, 12346.
- 2. Ensure your service address and mailing address are correct. If your mailing address will change, notify us as soon as possible to ensure you receive your bill and other mail in a timely manner.
- 3. Your account summary shows the charges for the current month, along with previous charges and payments. Sales tax and outdoor yard-light charges are also shown, if applicable. Your bill is for the net amount. Late bills will be charged an additional 5% penalty.
- 4. You can report an outage or use our pay-by-phone option by calling 844-920-3395. Your primary contact number is also included on your bill.
- 5. The payment portion of your bill includes your account number. Here, it will indicate if you pay your bill by auto draft and list the net and penalty balance due with your due date. Finally, there is a line for you to include a donation to Operation Round-Up<sup>°</sup>, if you choose. Operation Round-Up<sup>°</sup> members may choose to round up their electric bills each month or have them automatically rounded up. These additional few cents help fund our Members Sharing with Members program.
- 6. If there have been any changes to your address or phone number, please check the box and update your information on the back of the bill. Having the correct phone number allows lineworkers to accurately locate outages when reported.

HAPPY ooperative Inc.

# Get featured in PENNINES

Do you or someone you know have a business or organization that is powered by REA Energy or serves REA members? We want to hear from you!

Contact reaenergy@reaenergy.com to schedule an interview to appear in *Penn Lines.* 



#### **Right-of-Way Management News**

REA Energy contractors from Penn Line Tree Service will be trimming the rights of way near the Latimer and Livermore substations and emergency maintenance areas in March.

Members in the affected areas will be notified. Contractors will perform all right-of-way work per REA Energy specifications. All contractors 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.

## Your Board of Directors















Michael J. Bertolino Chairman District 3

Wayne Farabaugh Ro Vice Chairman Sec District 8

**88 YEARS OF POWERING YOU** 

Robert P. Neese Sandra Dill Secretary/Treasurer District 9 District 5

Tom Beresnyak District 1

Anthony Enciso District 7

ciso Thomas Aurandt 7 District 4

John R. Learn District 6

J.R. "Rick" Shope District 2

REA Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.