

NOLIN News

Editor, Patsy Whitehead

News you can use

Why we need new power lines

One lesson our nation and the electric industry have relearned in recent years is the vital importance to continue upgrading the power grid.

Just a few years ago, the blackout in the Northeast affected up to 50 million people in eight U.S. states and portions of Canada.

To prevent problems on our system, Nolin RECC works closely with our power supplier to ensure that the regional electric system keeps pace with member demand.

A good way to understand why this is important is to think of the electric grid as a highway. If traffic gets too heavy on the grid, the system gets congested and less reliable. If the traffic increases too much, power lines can overload. People can lose power.

We work closely with our power supplier to keep that from

happening. The primary way that utilities prevent this is by building new infrastructure to handle traffic on the grid. That's why cooperatives and other electric utilities continue to build power lines today.

And that's why more power lines will be needed in the future.

The challenge is greater than ever because electricity consumption is rising in Kentucky, and across the country. Traffic on the grid continues to grow.

There are many reasons why this is happening. Urban areas have grown significantly into formerly rural areas in Kentucky, which puts a strain on the regional grid. Today's homes are being built bigger. Appliances and gadgets are becoming more numerous.

Just look at our lives compared with a generation ago. Many more people have air conditioners and other appliances. Big-screen TVs, mobile phones, computers, and iPods are commonplace.

To ensure that the grid can handle these changes, cooperatives are building new power lines to accommodate the growing traffic. We also try to minimize the impact. Whenever possible, cooperatives seek to upgrade existing lines or run those parallel to existing line corridors.

As we work to ensure the reliability of our system, we strive to minimize the impact on the environment and local communities, and to hold down the costs of these projects.

On major power line projects, our power supplier uses sophisticated computer modeling that helps to develop proposed transmission line routes, while minimizing overall impacts. Before major power lines are built in our service area, open houses are held to gather public input and provide information before finalizing a proposed power line route.

Cooperatives want to be your partner in these efforts in order to provide our homes, farms, and businesses with the most reliable power supply that we possibly can. ■



Nolin RECC is anticipating major growth in the next few years and must implement new construction to meet our ever-increasing demand for electricity. From left to right, Greg Harrington (System Engineer), Vince Heuser (Vice President System Operations), and Mickey Miller (President & CEO) discuss new power line needs in the Nolin service area.

On the inside...

New Co-op Connections Card..... 4A

Cash in on Operation Round-Up.... 7A