



**Tri-County Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Hi-Lites

*Hi-Lites is a monthly
newsletter published for
the members of Tri-County
Electric Cooperative, Inc.*

February 2016

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Mission Statement

To safely provide our member-owners with adequate and reliable electric service, superior customer service and innovative energy solutions, all at reasonable prices.



2016 Plan of Work

by Marcia Scott, General Manager

Tri-County Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors recently approved the annual plan of work for 2016. Each year, a number of line projects which will improve the reliability of the electrical distribution system are selected and prioritized. Some lines are replaced due to age and condition. Other lines will be replaced with larger conductor due to load growth.

The following items are included in our 2016 plan of work:

- » Pole Replacements - Approximately 600 poles will be replaced in 2016. Poles are inspected on an eight-year rotation cycle and poles that fail inspection are replaced. This year, the poles being replaced are in the southeast part of Washington County.

- » Underground Replacement at Rend Lake - Replacing older underground conductor feeding the Wayne Fitzgerald State Park will improve reliability.

- » Waltonville Substation- Approximately 3.5 miles of line will be rebuilt replacing the single phase #4 ACSR (Aluminium Conductor Steel Reinforced) with three phase 1/0 ACSR conductor. This line is located along East Bonnie Road, Topaz Lane, East Dubois Road, and North Ridge Lane.

- » Odin Substation – Approximately 5 miles of line will be rebuilt, replacing three phase #4 ACSR to three phase 1/0 ACSR along Route 51 north of Sandoval.

- » Electronic Recloser Replacements in Substations - Reclosers will be replaced with new triple-single reclosers on ten circuits in various substations. This replacement is due to the age of the reclosers, and should reduce the number of blinks that members on those circuits experience.

- » Substation Transformer Oil/Gas Monitors - Substation oil/gas

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2016 Plan of Work Continued

monitors will be added at two of our substations. These devices monitor the gas content of transformer oil and send an alarm when the oil analysis is out of specification. This will assist the cooperative with planned transformer maintenance.

» Reserve Substation – Replace substation transformer with new and larger transformer.

The goal of all of the above mentioned system upgrades is to improve service reliability for the membership.



Reserve substation transformer being moved by crane to its new location.

A hand holding a smartphone. The screen displays the TCEC logo at the top, followed by a circular graphic with the word 'smarthub' in the center. Below the graphic, the text reads: 'Download Smarthub to any Android or iOS smartphone!'. At the bottom of the phone screen, there is a blue rounded rectangle containing the following text: 'To download the Smarthub app, go to: www.smarthubapp.com and click *How Do I Get It?*. If you prefer, you can download from the appstore for iPhone or Google Play. Call Tri-County Electric Cooperative at 618-244-5151, if you need assistance.'

Fondue for Two

Create a unique dining experience in your own home by serving fondue! Recipe can be doubled to accomodate larger groups.

Ingredients

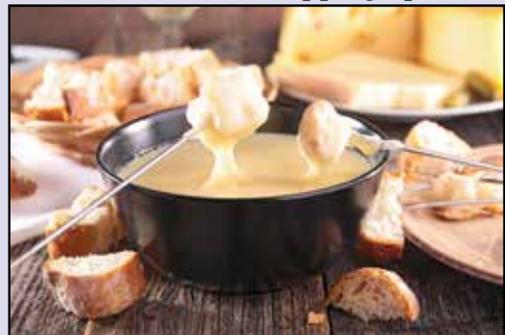
4 ounces beef broth
1 teaspoon chopped garlic
8 ounces sharp cheddar cheese
Fresh cracked pepper
Mustard powder
1 teaspoon worcestershire sauce

Recommended dipping options:

Pears
Apples
Crusty french or pumpernickel bread
Baby Carrots
Broccoli
Kielbasa
Roasted Mushrooms

Directions:

1. Start by pouring 4 oz. of beef broth in a small saucepan on low heat.
2. Add garlic and three shakes of mustard powder and stir.
3. Add half of of cheddar cheese.
4. Mix thoroughly (using whipping motion until cheese is melted). Add five turns of pepper grinder (or more to taste) and worcestershire sauce.
5. Add remaining cheese and stir until blended completely.
6. Serve hot with assorted dipping options.





Pearce Retires With Over 43 Years of Service



Superintendent of Operations Kevin Cummings presented Rodney Pearce a 'This Is Your Life' book to commemorate his years of service.

High school students* have a great opportunity to win a **FREE**, well-chaperoned, educational **trip to Washington, D.C.** Three students will be selected to attend the Youth to Washington program June 10 through June 17 of this year. Requirements to earn the trip are very simple. A test, consisting of true-false and multiple choice questions on material contained in a rural electrification booklet, will be administered at local high schools. The study booklets will be available at the cooperative or any of the area high schools by February 1, 2016.

Testing will be held at each participating high school, or special arrangements can be made for a home-schooled student.

Senator Lyndon Baines Johnson inspired the Youth Tour when he addressed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Annual Meeting in Chicago in 1957. The Senator and future president declared, "If one thing goes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents."

Consequently, cooperatives began sending students to Washington to participate in this opportunity. The first year of the coordinated tour included approximately 400 young people from 12 states. Word of the program has continued to spread and today, more than 1,700 young people and their chaperones participate in the Youth Tour every year.

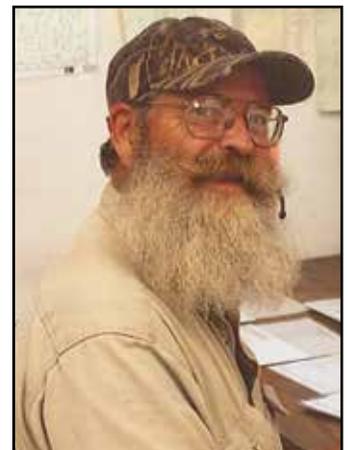
**Qualifications: Student must be a high school Sophomore, Junior or Senior. Student must reside in a home served by Tri-County Electric Cooperative. Students who have previously participated in the tour are not eligible.*

Rodney Pearce began his career with Tri-County Electric Cooperative in April 1971 as a temporary Custodian Helper. In September 1971, he became Storekeeper. In June 1972, Pearce enlisted in the Army for three years returning as Storekeeper in November 1975.

In May 1977, Pearce became a Groundman Truck Driver and in January 1982, he became a Journeyman Lineman. In May 1986, he was promoted to Foreman and became a Jefferson County Serviceman in February 1998.

Rodney is looking forward to having more time to ride his Harley and go scuba diving!

We thank Rodney for his years of serving the cooperative and its members and wish him and his wife Vicki the very best for a long and healthy retirement!



What's on that pole?

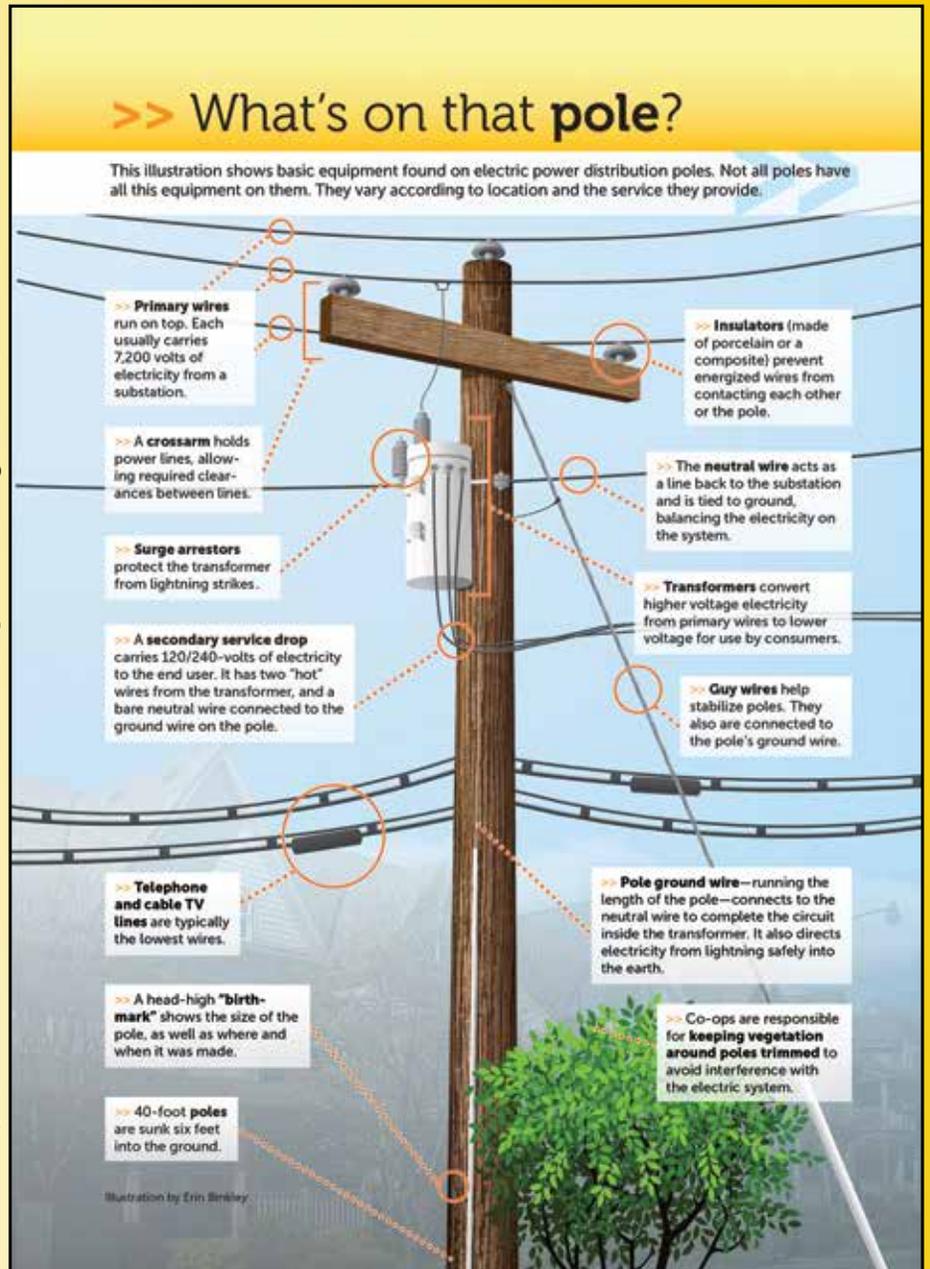
You probably don't pay much attention to the utility poles found throughout the Tri-County Electric Cooperative territory, but did you know these tall structures are the backbone of our distribution network? With nearly 3,393 miles of energized lines, that alone is 61,074 poles to maintain at approximately 18 poles per mile. Add to that the thousands of additional poles used for meter bases, security lights or additional transformers and you begin to understand it's an on-going effort to maintain the poles and lines.

Strong, sturdy utility poles ensure a reliable electric system, which is why we routinely inspect the thousands of poles found on our lines. Throughout the year, our crews check poles for decay caused by exposure to the elements. They know which poles are oldest and conduct inspections through a rotational process. Typically, a standard wooden distribution pole is expected to last several years. Tri-County Electric also has some steel poles throughout the area.

Occasionally, poles need to be replaced for other reasons besides decay such as weather disasters, natural causes, power line relocation and car crashes.

When a pole needs to be replaced, crews will start the process by digging a hole, typically next to the pole being replaced. The depth of the hole must be 15 percent of the new pole's height.

Next, the new pole must be fitted with bolts, cross arms, insulators, ground wires and arm braces - all of the necessary parts for delivering safe and reliable electricity. Then, crews safely detach the power lines from the old pole. The new pole is then raised and guided carefully into position, and the lines are attached, leaving the new pole to do its job.



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Tri-County Electric Cooperative Offices will be closed on Monday, February 15th, 2016 in Observance of Presidents' Day