Hardening lines in ice storm country

When the temperature outside is hovering around the 100-degree mark, the only form of ice most people are concerned with is the ice in their glass of tea. But for some local residents, the devastating January 2017 ice storm that shattered thousands of NWEC’s poles is back on their minds this summer as they drive past crews repairing, rebuilding, and hardening 380 miles of distribution line.

NWEC has contracted with RES Group, a global line construction company, for the first of three projects planned over the next three years. RES Group is working to replace the old conductor and install larger poles, including ductile iron poles with storm anchors to provide added strength to NWEC’s system.

In all, NWEC faces about $68.5 million of work on 1,260 miles of line. The three construction projects qualify for Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) reimbursement under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

The HMGP provides grants to state and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. Rural electric cooperatives are eligible to participate in the program. The purpose of the HMGP is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster.

This is significant for two reasons: the new lines will be bigger and stronger than ever which means better resistance to severe weather events; and FEMA will contribute 75% of the qualifying costs to upgrade and rebuild the lines.

Both of these are good for NWEC and its members. Almost 25% of NWEC’s system will be rebuilt to newer, stronger specifications which in turn will help increase reliability. And the cost for the Cooperative to replace old and outdated electric lines is 25 cents on the dollar.

NWEC and its members will see benefits for years to come as a result of this ambitious undertaking.
Low interest loan available for energy efficient improvements

Need to replace your heating and cooling system, install energy efficient windows or add more insulation to your attic? Northwestern Electric can help you make those improvements by offering our low interest loan.

The Energy Resources Conservation (ERC) Loan can be used to finance the following energy saving measures:
- caulking & weatherstripping
- water heaters
- insulation
- storm windows & doors
- attic ventilation fans
- heat pumps

Northwestern Electric will finance 80% of the total cost up to $10,000 for an energy efficient air source heat pump or geothermal system and 80% of the total cost up to $3,000 for other energy efficient measures on a single family dwelling. You can take up to 84 months to pay on loans over $5,000 and up to 60 months on loans totalling $5,000 or less. The interest rate is based on the current prime rate at the time the loan is made and will not exceed five percent.

Loan requests must be made in advance and approved before the work is started. In order to qualify for the loan, members must have good credit with the Cooperative and an energy audit must be performed to support the energy conservation measures. For more information, call Jonna Hensley at 580.256.7425 or 800.375-7423. (4457007)

Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

Routinely replace your air conditioner’s filter. Replacing a dirty, clogged filter can reduce your air conditioner’s energy consumption by 5 to 15 percent.

Source: Energy.gov
Hidden account number contest

Congratulations to Nicki Gaisford for recognizing her number in last month’s newsletter. The other number belonged to Brett Coldwater.

We have hidden two account numbers somewhere in the articles in this newsletter. The numbers will always be enclosed in parentheses and will look similar to this example (XXXXXX).

If you recognize your account number, all you have to do is give us a call on or before the 8th of the current month and we’ll give you a credit on your bill for the amount stated.

This month’s numbers are worth $25 each. Happy hunting!

Students experience sights and sounds of Washington, D.C.

Cristina Alvarez, Jaycie Cash and Jimmi Jo Winn experienced the sights and sounds of the nation’s capital as NWEC’s delegates during the Annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

The students began the tour on June 14, 2019, with a Youth Tour luncheon and D.C. prep seminar in Oklahoma City. The 72 winners, representing 25 of the state’s rural electric systems, departed for the nation’s capital early the next morning for their week-long adventure.

Cristina started the trip feeling excited, thrilled and a little bit nervous. She hoped the trip would provide her with great experiences and the ability to see the bigger picture. And the trip didn’t disappoint. “I gained life-long friends and learned that to see the greater picture you have to be open-minded,” said Cristina. “The trip was what I expected and more.”

Jimmi was just as excited and nervous. She hoped to gain more of an understanding of our nation’s capital, make life-long friends and create memories. “I was hoping to get more of an idea of the struggles, losses, and victories people and our nation had to go through in past history,” Jimmi said. “The trip gave me perspective on some of these things.”

Jaycie began the trip feeling patriotic and ecstatic. Her goals for the trip included gaining a better understanding of our nation’s history, developing a greater sense of pride for America and making new friends. “I gained so many amazing friendships this week,” said Jaycie. “I also grasped a better understanding of our nation’s history and the importance of it. What a week it was. I loved every second of it!” (7087002)

Youth Tour is designed to help students better understand the values of rural electrification and to become more familiar with the historical and political environment of our nation’s capital.

Cristina Alvarez, Jaycie Cash and Jimmi Jo Winn experienced the sights and sounds of Washington, D.C., during the 2019 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.
Electric cooperatives maintain more miles of power lines per consumer than other types of electric utilities. Even though they serve fewer consumers and acquire less revenue, electric co-ops always go the extra mile to power the communities they serve.

**Going the Extra Mile**

Electric cooperatives maintain more miles of power lines per consumer than other types of electric utilities. Even though they serve fewer consumers and acquire less revenue, electric co-ops always go the extra mile to power the communities they serve.

- **Electric Co-ops**
  - Consumers served per mile: 8
  - Revenue: $19,000

- **Other Electric Utilities**
  - Consumers served per mile: 32
  - Revenue: $79,000

Sources: EIA, 2017 data. Includes revenue and consumer averages per mile of line.

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Sealed bids may be mailed to NWEC, P.O. Box 2707, Woodward, OK 73802 or dropped off at our Woodward office, 2925 Williams Avenue. Please write either “2013 F350”, “2013 F250” or “2014 F150” on the front of envelope. Bids will be accepted until 4 p.m. on August 16. If you have any questions, please contact Chris at NWEC, 580.256.7425. Trucks may be seen at 2925 Williams Avenue, Woodward, Okla. **NWEC reserves the right to reject any and all bids.**

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2013 F350 supercab, single wheel with utility body, 7.2 V8 gas, 4x4, automatic, cloth interior, 138,383 miles. This truck is being sold “as is” with no warranty expressed or implied. Starting bid $9,000.00.

2013 Ford F250 regular cab, utility body, 6.2 V8 gas, 4x4, automatic, cloth interior, 186,738 miles. This truck is being sold “as is” with no warranty expressed or implied. Starting bid $5,000.00.

2014 Ford F150 XLT, super crew, 5.0 V8, automatic, 4x4, cloth interior, 135,271 miles. This truck is being sold “as is” with no warranty expressed or implied. Starting bid $11,000.00.