

May Thunderstorm Damage

By Randy Riddle, Manager of Operations & Technical Services

During the late night hours of Saturday, May 16th, a thunderstorm moved through the VVEC service area that not only caused power outages to our customers, but also caused a phone outage for VVEC.

Somewhere around the 11:30 PM time frame, we lost our phone service from our service provider. This was restored around 1:00 AM, only to have it knocked out again within minutes when lightning struck nearby, damaging our in-house phone system. This second problem was not discovered by our dispatchers for a few hours, since many of the members were using the web and their smart phone apps to report the outages. The in-house phones were restored only to find the link between VVEC and its after-hours dispatchers was also damaged. We had to call in VVEC employees and answer the phones at our offices until the parts were delivered to make the repairs and get the system operating normally.

We would like to remind all our members that during high call volume times it is very easy to report your power outage through your smart phone with the SmartHub app. Download the app through the App Store for iOS

devices or Google Play for Android devices. Once you set up your account, you are ready to manage your account. You

may also log into your account through www.vvec.com on a battery powered laptop or tablet during a power outage. 

Bill Gillespie Presents Electrical Safety to Washington County 5th and 6th Graders



On May 12th and 13th, Progressive Agriculture Safety Days was held at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Dewey, OK. Altogether there were 10 organizations participating. Approximately 620 Washington County students in grades five and six attended the event. Bill Gillespie represented VVEC by giving an Electrical Safety lesson. He presented 9 sessions daily to the 5th and 6th graders. 

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VVEC Headquarters

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Phone number

(918) 371-2584 or 1-800-870-5948

Office hours

7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.,

Monday through Friday

Editor - Vickie Chamberlain

VVEC offices will be closed Fri 7/3/15 in observance of the 4th of July Holiday. Please call 918-371-2584 or 1-800-870-5948 to report an outage.

Summer Residential Rates

April through September usage, May through October billing

Customer Charge	\$25.00
Energy Charge	
1st 2,000 kWh	\$0.0809/kWh
Over 2,000 kWh	\$0.0860/kWh

A power cost adjustment (PCA) will be applied to all bills when the actual cost of power purchased exceeds or is less than 55.993 mills per kWh.

In addition, a gross receipts tax of 2% of revenue will be included, plus additional taxes if applicable.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Co-op Lends Helping Hand Through Adopt-a-School Grant

Each year VVEC helps area schools purchase needed equipment, supplies, technology and a large variety of other items needed for the schools to educate our youth. Through an annual application process, schools are selected and funds granted that help them make the purchases they need to meet their objectives.

This year's grant recipients include:

- Bowring Public Schools**
- Claremore Catalayah Elementary**
- Dewey Public Schools**
- Oklahoma Union Public Schools**
- Sequoyah Schools**
- Verdigris Early Childhood Center**

Eighteen schools participated this year. VVEC recognizes the importance of education and your time and participation is appreciated. We hope to have more schools participate in 2016. For more information or to request an application for the 2016 grant, contact VVEC's Member Services department at 918-371-2584. 



Left to right: Rusty Sellers-Science Coordinator and HS Science, Jimmy Brackett -Trustee, Chub Brewer-Member Services Representative, and Kevin Stacy, Superintendent of Oklahoma Union Schools.



Left to Right: Member Services Representative, Chub Brewer and Nicole Hinkle, Superintendent of Bowring Schools

What to do if Your Power Goes Off

1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers. Every service is different. You may have fuses or circuit breakers in your house, on the side of your house, under your meter, or all three places. Check to see if your neighbors have electricity.
2. Call the Co-op at 371-2584, or 1-800-870-5948 if the call is long distance for you. Have your account number, name as it appears on the account, and address handy to give to the dispatcher. If you should get a recording, please don't hang up; leave your information. It will be retrieved and given to the correct department. Every message is answered.



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WVEC Outage Restoration

By Randy Riddle, Manager of Operations & Technical Services



After hours, WVEC has four linemen on trouble call each and every evening, week-end or holiday. There are two in the north part of our system and two in the south part. These linemen can call out help at any time if they get more work than they can handle. When dispatch receives a call, they contact the lead lineman for the area. This lineman contacts the other lineman and either picks him up or determines a place to meet based on where the outage is located. If the outage is a single outage they can proceed directly to the member that called in the trouble. However, if there are multiple calls, the crew has to determine by the location of the calls, which piece of protective equipment has opened up causing the outage, and go to that location. They will look at the equipment (either a breaker or a fuse) and determine if that piece of equipment is actually what is opened. When they locate the device that is opened they can begin to look into what has caused the device to open.

Our distribution system is set up with multiple breakers (similar in principle to the breakers in your house, where you have a large main breaker, then smaller circuit breakers). However the breakers on a

high voltage distribution system have to interrupt much higher voltages and current in the event of a fault. We have a large breaker in the substation, followed by smaller breakers out on the lines and taps as well as fuses for the smaller taps and lines.

The crew must look the line over from the open device downstream to try and determine what opened it and also make sure there is no line or pole down that could be a hazard if the line became re-energized. Sometimes there could be miles of line to inspect; portions of it could be in back yards or cutting across country making it inaccessible to trucks during storms and inclement weather. If a problem can be found that is easily visible, it can be repaired and the outage restored in a short time. Many times a piece of equipment, like a transformer or other types of equipment, may be faulted internally and is not readily visible. If the crew determines there are no visible hazards, they must hang fault indicators on the conductors then go back to the device that is open and turn it back on. If the fault is still on the line they look for a flash in the sky (if it is dark) or they will have to go look at the indicators to try and pinpoint the faulted

equipment or line. They may have to move these indicators several times to locate the fault. The more transformers or other pieces of equipment that are on the line, the longer it will take to find the faulted equipment and get it repaired and power restored. Walking through cross-country right-of-ways or through back yards at 2 AM can be very time consuming and difficult. Then when you find the problem and it happens to be in one of the cross country right-of-ways or in a back yard, trying to get the equipment to the location to make the repairs can be even more difficult.

When repairs are complete, the power is turned back on. In the event that the repairs are being made after a storm, the crew hopes that this is the only problem on the line and it stays on. Many times after a storm has gone through an area, a crew may work an hour cutting a big tree off a line or putting up a piece of broken wire and try to energize the line only to find the breaker will not hold because there is another problem down the line.

The maintenance crews at WVEC have a lot of experience with the median experience for our Lead maintenance lineman being almost 30 years and the overall median experience level of the maintenance department at almost 20 years. With that much experience, one would think that they had seen it all. There are in fact, a lot of similarities in some outages, then, there are some that are new to everyone. There are many variables involved. **5**

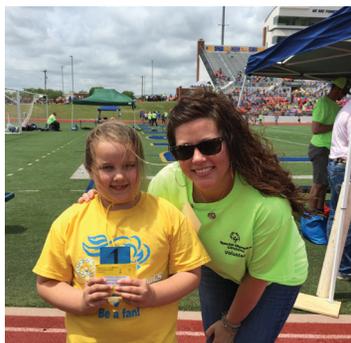


VVEC Employees Volunteer at the 2015 Special Olympic Summer Games

Five employees from VVEC attended the 2015 Special Olympic Summer State Games as volunteers. The following people worked as volunteers: Chub Brewer, Stacey Breshers, Lori Prock, Misti Frazier & Vivian Rabbit. Opening ceremonies were at the Gallagher-Iba Arena on the OSU Campus Wed May 13th. The track and field events were 5/14 & 5/15 at the Stillwater High School Track.

Co-op volunteers comprise one of the largest volunteer groups at the games each year. Here are some of the jobs co-op employees contribute to:

- Man concession stands
- Hawk water inside Gallagher-Iba Arena
- Stage athletes preparing for races
- Serve as official timekeepers
- Act as starters and runners during races
- Ensure all participants receive awards
- Escort wheelchair athletes to V.I.P. seating at center court
- Hug the winners and console those who did not win. 



RECIPE

Yellow Squash Casserole



- 4 or 5 medium yellow squash, peeled and sliced
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 cup shredded raw carrot
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 stick margarine
- 8 oz. package chicken stuffing mix

Cook squash and onion in water for 5 minutes, drain. Mix together soup and sour cream; fold in shredded carrot, squash and onion. Melt margarine in medium saucepan; stir in stuffing mix. Spread half of stuffing mix in greased 8 x 8 x 2 inch glass dish. Pour vegetable mixture over stuffing; top with other half of stuffing.

Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Let stand about 15 minutes before serving.