

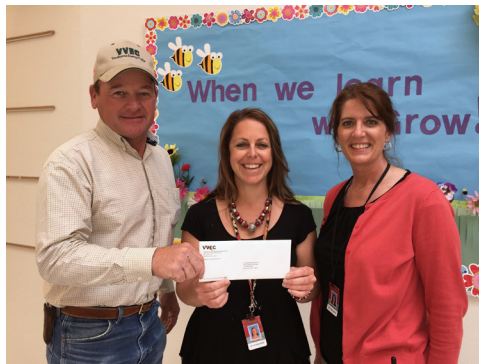
Investing in the next generation: VVEC awards Adopt-A-School grants

Education is freedom. That's why VVEC has been working with school systems in our service territory for more than 20 years to assist in providing a quality education to our young people.

Through the Adopt-A-School grant program, we help school systems enhance the learning experience by purchasing needed resources, such as books, computers, software, electronic equipment, updating their libraries, or purchasing equipment that will make the school and grounds safer.

This year, 14 area schools submitted grant applications. Five grant recipients were selected: Catalayah Elementary in Claremore, JW Sam Elementary in Catoosa, Oklahoma Union Public Schools in South Coffeyville, Pawhuska Public Schools in Pawhuska and Sequoyah Middle School in Claremore.

For more information on the Adopt-A-School grant program, visit www.vvec.com/content/adopt-school-grant-program. Applications for next year's grant program will be available in February 2017.



Top left to bottom left: VVEC Member Service Representative Chub Brewer presents Adopt-A-School grant checks to fourth-grade teacher Liz Wilhite and Principal Kelly Shuck at Catalayah Elementary in Claremore; to second-grade teachers Rita Coblentz and Melinda Engles at JW Sam Elementary in Catoosa; to Principal David Lovelace at Oklahoma Union Schools in South Coffeyville; to Pawhuska Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Landon Berry and Principal Beverly Moore; and to Principal Barry Bulman and seventh-grade teacher Katy DePew at Sequoyah Middle School in Claremore. Photos by Misti Frazier

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Editor - Laura Araujo

VVEC offices will be closed Monday, July 4, in recognition of Independence Day. Please call 918-371-2584 or 800-870-5948 if you need to report an outage.

Summer Residential Rates

April through September usage,
May through October billing

Customer Charge \$30.00

Energy Charge

1st 2,000 kWh \$.08272/kWh

Over 2,000 kWh \$.08782/kWh

A power cost adjustment (PCA) will be applied to all bills when the actual cost of power purchased exceeds or is less than 59.87 mills per kWh.

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

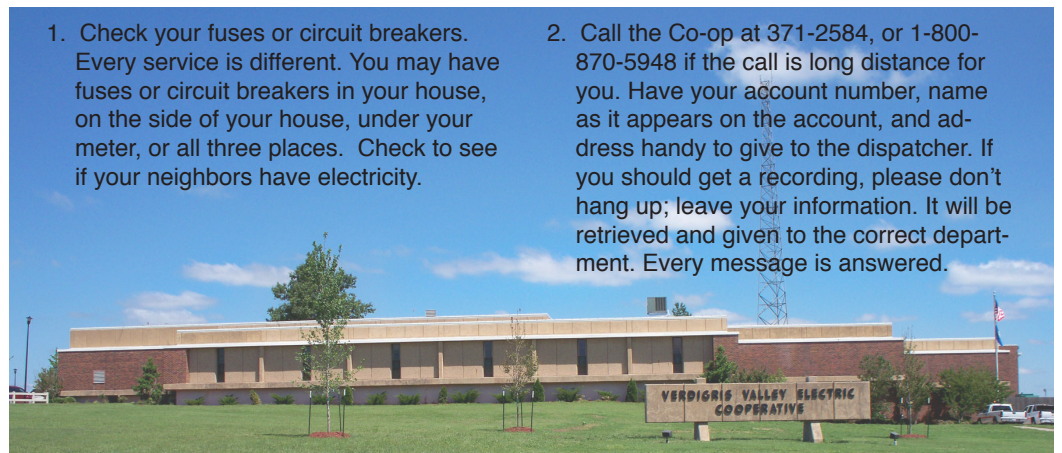
Lessons in electrical safety



The Progressive Agriculture Safety Days took place at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Dewey on May 11-12. VVEC employees Robert Rouse (pictured) and Mike Mattox taught 600 fifth- and sixth-graders and their adult sponsors about electrical safety. Photo by Mike Mattox

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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After an outage: VVEC's power restoration plan

By Randy Riddle

We have come to expect that if we lose electric service, it will be restored within a few minutes up to a few hours at most. But when a devastating event—a tornado, an ice storm or a snow storm—occurs and causes major damage to a co-op's system, longer outages cannot be helped. Crews work long, hard hours restoring service, but it's a task that needs to be done methodically to be done safely. Every electric cooperative follows a basic principle when it comes to restoring power. Priority goes to the lines that will get the most people back in service the quickest. This usually begins with main lines from the substations that can affect 200 to 1000 members, and continues out to tap lines which may affect 30 to 200 members, and then to individual service lines affecting just one to five members.

VVEC's steps for restoring outages are as follows:

Step 1: All repairs start with the main line.

The substation is energized but a main distribution line is damaged near the substation, leaving most members without power. All repairs start with the main line. A large number of members will have power restored once the main line is fixed. All other repairs would be pointless if this line is not restored first.

Step 2: With the main line restored, the line crew can isolate other damage.

With the main line restored

the line crew can isolate other damage and prioritize repairs. Though some repairs may be closer, fixing the line that serves a subdivision down the road will get electric restored to a larger number of consumers more quickly.

Step 3: A smaller tap line is next on the list.

A smaller tap line serving a number of homes is next on the list for the line crew. This move probably doesn't make some folks too happy. They've seen crews driving by their home and working right across the road. They see lights in the homes of all their neighbors, but they don't have power. That's because even though electricity is coming to their pole (that happened with the first repair in Step 1), the service line from their pole to their meter may be damaged. Individual repairs come after all distribution and tap lines are restored.

Step 4: Take care of individual repairs last.

Only after the tap lines are repaired do crews start work on individual service lines. Crews may have been past these homes a few times and could have stopped to restore power any time after the first main line was repaired and electricity was flowing to the pole nearby. But it's not fair to other members for a crew to spend hours fixing one outage, when the crew can move down the road and restore power to dozens of homes in the same amount of time.



The easiest way to report a power outage is to login to SmartHub from a computer or smartphone.

Don't wait for someone else to report the outage because you may be the only member without power, and your report can help us determine where the problem is. The easiest way to report your outage is through SmartHub, either on a computer or on your smartphone. Using SmartHub will save the hassle of getting caught up in clogged phone lines because hundreds of members are trying to call in to a few phone lines at the same time.

If you have someone in your home who requires medical equipment, you should always have backup power or supplies. We have medical alerts all over our system. If your outage is one that requires individual repairs, it could still be toward the end of the power restoration period before electricity is restored to your home.

Randy Riddle serves as operations manager for VVEC.

Qualifications to be a VVEC trustee

Electric cooperatives are governed by a board of trustees, who are each members of the cooperative residing in the districts they represent. They are elected to the board by members of their respective districts, at meetings held in the districts. Each trustee serves a three-year term, and the terms are staggered so three different trustee terms expire each year. Qualifications for trustees can be found in the cooperative's bylaws: Article 4, Section 4. Those qualifications are:

"Each year, there shall be elected trustees to succeed all trustees whose terms of of-

fice shall expire at the time of holding such election. All duly elected and qualified trustees shall serve for the term of three (3) years, or until their successors are elected and qualified, subject to the provisions of these bylaws with respect to the removal of trustees.

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a trustee of the cooperative who:

(a) is not a member and bona fide resident in the area served or to be served by the cooperative; or

(b) is any way employed by or financially interested in a com-

peting enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the cooperative; or

(c) has been convicted, pleaded guilty, or pleaded nolo contendere to a felony; or

(d) is a close relative of an incumbent trustee or of an employee of the cooperative; or

(e) is or was an employee of the cooperative during the preceding three years prior to time of filing or being nominated.

VVEC employees volunteer at Oklahoma's Special Olympics



Left: VVEC employees Chub Brewer, Misti Frazier, Vivian Rabbit, Lori Prock and Stacey Breshears volunteer at the Special Olympics in Stillwater, May 11-13. Volunteers from Oklahoma's electric cooperatives comprise one of the largest volunteer groups at the Special Olympics each year. Right: An athlete competes in the standing long jump at the Stillwater High School field. Photo by Misti Frazier