

INSIDE THIS EDITION**2** | Reliable Electricity, ctd.**3** | Classifieds, Utility Bill Assistance**4** | Outage Reporting, Recipe & Energy Tip**Reliable, affordable, responsible electricity**

Associated Electric matches responsible generation with the need for reliable, affordable power

By Mark Viguet



From the White House, a proposed plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030 and create a carbon-free power sector by 2035 means power generators like Associated Electric Cooperative must intensify efforts to maintain reliability and affordability with responsibly generated electricity.

Associated is owned by and provides wholesale power to six regional transmission cooperatives who provide that power to 51 local electric distribution cooperative systems in Missouri, southeast Iowa and northeast Oklahoma that serve 2.1 million consumer-members. Their priorities are clear.

“Our mission mirrors the priorities of the consumer-owners served by our system, who want reliable, low-cost electricity,” said David Tudor, Associated’s CEO and general manager. “We have successfully navigated many changes in presidential administrations, policies and regulations over many years and will continue to do the right things, for the right reasons, at the right times.”

Renewable leadership

A cornerstone of any plan to reduce carbon includes increasing renewable power sources like wind, which are variable, not reliable—only available when the wind is blowing or, in the case of solar power, when the sun is shining. Today, no battery technology exists that duplicates the reliability of traditional generation like nuclear, coal or natural gas plants.

Associated has been a renewable power leader for Missouri, bringing the first utility-scale wind farms to the state in 2007 by contracting to buy all the power produced by the wind farms. Since then, Associated has increased its total to eight wind farms. The two most recent wind farms were added in 2020. Hydropower is another Associated renewable resource, purchased through a long-term contract with the federal government.

Continued on Page 2

FOLLOW VVEC ON FACEBOOK



REPORT OUTAGES ON SMARTHUB

VVEC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

District 1

Jim Brackett, 720-4531

District 2

Jack Bogart, 371-9587

District 3

Vernon Lewis, 521-5461

District 4

John Hibdon, 847-2320

District 5

Jimmy Lambert, 760-7029

District 6

Dennis Lenox, 289-5961

District 7

Charles Huerter, 914-1498

District 8

Ken Howard, 724-9965

District 9

Buddy McCarty, 272-5134
or 272-5364

CONTACT US

General Manager

Alice Lawson

VVEC Headquarters

8901 E. 146th Street N.,
Collinsville

Mailing address

P.O. Box 219
Collinsville, OK 74021

Phone number

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

Office hours

7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

Power Circuit Editor

Laura Araujo

Power Circuit is published monthly by Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative, Collinsville, Oklahoma (ISSN 10884378) for its members in Tulsa, Rogers, Washington, Nowata and Osage counties. Periodical postage paid at Tulsa, Oklahoma and other additional mailing offices. Subscription price is \$0.19 per month.

POSTMASTER - send address changes to Power Circuit, P.O. Box 219, Collinsville, OK 74021.

ASSOCIATED - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



This concrete tank allows fly ash to be recycled and water reused at the Thomas Hill Energy Center. Photos courtesy of AECI

Reliability concerns

“Associated’s renewable resources have been carefully located and integrated into our owner’s transmission systems so they can be supported with reliable coal and natural gas plant resources,” Tudor said. “You can find no greater example of the value of those 24/7 power sources—coal and natural gas—than the February winter storm, where cooperatives avoided rolling blackouts as utilities all around our system put customers in the dark.”

Affordability a key member priority

Rural America needs affordable power supply for their homes, farms and businesses. That much is plain from triennial survey results where members say it’s one of their top priorities—and concerns. Associated ranks among the lower cost wholesale power suppliers in the country and that is by design, not accident.

“When we make decisions, cost is near the top of the list: does this make good economic sense for our members?” Tudor explained. “By keep-

ing that goal prominent, we’ve delivered power that is affordable while also generating responsible power with a balanced resource mix.”

Implementing a realistic plan will take time and money

Associated is working hard to preserve member benefits in a changing industry with increasing challenges. The cooperative has been educating state and federal legislators about the realities of an overly aggressive White House plan and the choices power generation companies face.

“Technology that doesn’t exist today must be developed to store renewable energy effectively and affordably, while high-voltage transmission networks need upgrades to handle the changing generation mix reliably,” Tudor said. “Both of those key elements will take time and money, and lots of both. We are working to make sure our legislators understand this.” ■

For more information about Associated Electric and its responsible generation efforts, visit www.aeci.org.

Member survey coming soon

We will soon be sponsoring a survey to measure the quality of service provided to you, our member. Between November and December, an approved independent research firm may contact you to complete the survey by phone, online via email or post card invitation. We would appreciate your time in providing responses. To learn more, visit our website, www.vvec.com.

We value your opinion!



Complete
our
survey.

#MembersMakeTheDifference

VVEC
Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Classified ads return to Power Circuit



In January 2022, we will begin publishing classified ads in the monthly Power Circuit newsletter.

Ads will be accepted in writing/by email only and are a free service to VVEC members only. Ads can be emailed to Classified@vvec.com or sent to Attn: Classified, P.O. Box 219, Collinsville, OK 74021. **Your account number, name, address and a phone number is required on all ads.**

PLEASE NOTE: Deadline for all ads is the **1st of the month**. Ads submitted by the 1st of the month will run in the following month's newsletter (e.g. ads submitted by December 1, 2021 will run in January 2022).

As many ads as space allows will be included in each issue. VVEC reserves the right to delete or shorten items or descriptions.

LOCAL AGENCIES PROVIDE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE WITH UTILITY BILLS

There are a number of government agencies and charitable and religious organizations that offer assistance with utility bills; some of them are listed here. If you realize you may have difficulty paying your electric bill, please contact our consumer service representatives as soon as possible. We will make every effort to work with you to make payment arrangements and hopefully avoid interruption to your electric service.

ORGANIZATION	SERVES	PHONE NUMBER
SEAC	Avant, Sperry, Skiatook	396-1137
Community Action	Nowata County	273-2868
DHS	Nowata County	273-2327
DHS	Osage Count	287-5800
DHS	Rogers County	283-8300
Community Action	Rogers County	341-5000
DHS	Tulsa County	581-2689, 581-2401
Helping Hand	Tulsa County	584-6923
Salvation Army	Tulsa County	582-7201
Owasso Comm. Res.	Tulsa/Rogers Counties	272-4969
Community Action	Washington County	333-8115
Concern	Washington County	336-4693
DHS	Washington County	338-5700

OFFICE CLOSED NOTICE

VVEC's office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 25th and 26th, in observance of Thanksgiving.

IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE

- First, 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.
- Then, call the Co-op at 371-2584, or 1-800-870-5948. 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, leave your information; every message will be answered. Or, download the SmartHub app to report outages from your smartphone.

WINTER RESIDENTIAL RATES

October through March usage, November through April billing

Customer Charge | \$30.00

Energy Charge | \$.07772/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% of revenue will be included, plus additional taxes if applicable.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer.

**VOLUME 80 | NUMBER 11
NOVEMBER 2021**

SmartHub makes reporting outages easy

If your power goes out, pick up the phone—but don't make a call. The fastest and easiest way to report outages is via the SmartHub app. It's available free to VVEC members, and can be downloaded on the App Store (iOS users) or Google Play (Android users). Or, access SmartHub via the web at <https://vvec.smarthub.coop>. With SmartHub you can instantly see if your account is affected by an outage that has been reported, and you can report outages from the app within seconds. Plus, you can pay your electric bill and check on current and past usage via SmartHub.



Scan here to download



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Fall is the perfect time to prep your home for the upcoming winter chill. One of the best ways you can save energy and stay comfortable is to caulk and weatherstrip areas that typically need sealing. Start by sealing around windows and doors. Seal plumbing, ducting, and areas where electrical wiring comes through walls, floors and ceilings for additional energy savings.

Source: energy.gov



Stuffed Bell Pepper Casserole | Serves 4



Ingredients

- 20 ounces ground beef or turkey
- 1 yellow onion, chopped
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 3 large bell peppers, chopped (1 each red, yellow and green)
- 28-ounce can crushed tomatoes
- 1/2 cup long-grain brown rice
- 1 teaspoon oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 8 ounces shredded sharp cheddar cheese

Heat oven to 350°F. In large skillet over medium heat, add meat, onions, salt and pepper. Break up turkey and cook until browned. Add meat mixture to 9-by-13-inch baking dish. Add bell peppers, crushed tomatoes, brown rice, oregano and garlic powder. Mix until combined. Cover with aluminum foil. Bake 80-90 minutes until rice is tender.

Recipe and photo courtesy of culinary.net.