

VVEC

POWER CIRCUIT

NOVEMBER 2022 | PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF VERDIGRIS VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE | A SUPPLEMENT TO OKLAHOMA LIVING | WWW.VVEC.COM

Protect Reliability



Read more on page 6 & 7, a candid conversation with Associated's CEO and General Manager David Tudor, offering his insights and information on specific plans to maintain current and future reliability of power supply.



Employee Spotlight



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

General Manager: Alice Lawson

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Jon Van Pelt

Jon Van Pelt began his career at the cooperative in 1989 and now serves as the Warehouse Superintendent. Day to day, Jon and his team are busy maintaining the warehouse. They receive all the material used for VVEC to build and maintain our lines. The day starts off with getting material ready for VVEC crews in addition to VVEC Contractor crews. There are many behind the scenes duties the warehouse maintains to keep the cooperative functioning with day to day operations and lately that has become a little more challenging. Jon spoke of “keeping an eye” on the material as there has been with all things in our lives, material and delivery issues. Jon and his team are not exempt from “storm work” as they make themselves available to coordinate quickly during these times to get material for the crews to make repairs and restoration. Jon and his lovely wife, Sherry, live in Talala and enjoy spending time with their three children and eight grandchildren. He also enjoys spending his mornings at the Talala store with the old timers and catching up with the locals at Mid-America Feed Store. In his spare time, Jon likes to work around his property, spend time with his wife and hang out in the shop restoring his '66 International Scout. Jon said his favorite thing about work is being around and working with great people!

Thanks Jon for ALL that you do!

Make Sure Safety is on Your Holiday Menu This Year

The kitchen can be a busy place during the holiday season, prepping and preparing favorite recipes (or sampling those favorite recipes).

Whether you are a seasoned cook or novice baker, it's important to keep electrical safety in mind. In the United States alone, approximately 1,000 deaths occur each year as a result of electrical injuries, according to the National Institutes of Health. An additional non-fatal 30,000 shock incidents occur each year.

The following kitchen hazards may cause electric shock:

- Damaged or worn electrical cords
- Equipment and appliances with improper or faulty wiring
- Using damp cloths or water for cooking or cleaning near sources of electricity

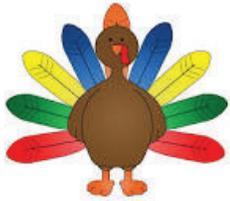
The following tips may help prevent electric shock in your home:

- Always read and follow an appliance's operating instructions.
- Always dry your hands before handling cords or plugs.
- If an unplugged appliance cord gets wet or damp, do not plug it in until it is thoroughly dry.

- Do not handle electrical cords or appliances when standing in water.
- Pull on the plug, not the cord, to disconnect an appliance from an outlet.
- To avoid damaging cords, don't run them across walkways or underneath rugs. Draping them over walkways is also a tripping hazard.
- Regularly inspect electrical cords and plugs for damaged insulation and exposed wiring; immediately discard any damaged item. Avoid using any cord or plug that is frayed, cracked, taped or otherwise questionable.
- Only handle the insulated part of a plug or cord when disposing it.
- Do not overload extension cords, multi-pack "power strips" or surge protectors with too many appliances or other items or plug them into each other. Use them only as a temporary solution, and not a permanent one.
- Ensure extension cords, power strips and surge protectors are in good condition and the appropriate gauge for the job (the lower the number, the bigger the gauge and the greater the amperage and wattage).
- Never remove the third (round or U-shaped) prong from a plug, which is a grounding/safety feature designed to reduce the risk of shock and electrocution.

If you have doubts about your home's electrical system, have a licensed electrician evaluate wiring, outlets, and switches to verify they are in working order. Educate yourself and everyone in your household on how to properly turn off your home's power in case of an emergency. For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.





November Calendar of Events



11th - Tulsa Veterans Day Parade, 11 a.m - 12 p.m. Downtown Bartlesville.

12th - Nowata Chamber of Commerce Harvest Festival, 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Nowata County Fairgrounds. Vendors, Food Trucks, Pumpkin Derby, Inflatables, and more!

12th - Bartlesville Veterans Parade, 11 a.m - 1 p.m. Downtown Bartlesville.

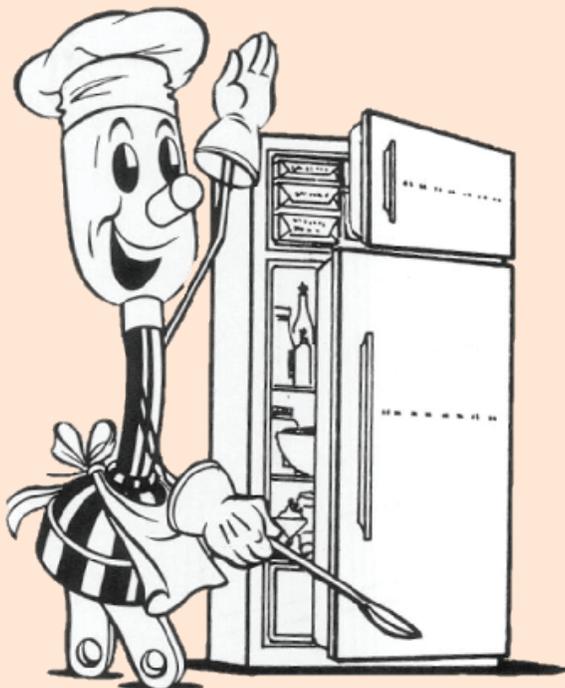
12th - National Family Week: Generations Celebration, Skiatook Public Library, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

17th - The Community Tree Lighting, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Located at the Ne-Mar shopping center in Claremore.

18th - Dickens on the Boulevard, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Music, street dance, food vendors, games, and Santa. Downtown Claremore.

19th - Dickens on the Boulevard, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Music, street dance, food vendors, games, and Santa. Downtown Claremore.

Willie's Throwback Recipe



Pecan Pie

- 1 c. white corn syrup
- 3 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 c. white sugar
- 2 tsp. melted butter
- 1 c. pecan halves
- 9 inch unbaked pie shell

Mix all ingredients for filling together, adding pecans last. Bake in 400 degree oven for 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 350 degrees and bake 30-35 minutes. When pie is done, outer edges of filling should be set; center slightly soft.

Submitted by: Sandra Pointer of Avant,
Published in The Servin' Spoon III

CLASSIFIEDS

SUBMIT ADS to classified@vvec.com or send to Attn: Classified, P.O. Box 219, Collinsville, OK 74021. Ads must be in writing. Your account number, name, address and a phone number is required on all ads.

The 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.

Classified ads are a free service to VVEC members only. As many ads as space allows will be included in each issue. VVEC reserves the right to delete or shorten items or descriptions.

Professional personalized dog grooming at your home. Over 40 years experience, most dogs \$40. Contact 918-381-1170

Billy Goat lawn/leaf vacuum with hose attachment. \$650. Contact 918-637-3314

2X-Chock tire locking chocks \$100. Contact 918-637-3314

5th Wheel gooseneck stabilizing tripod aluminum \$125. Contact 918-637-3314

4 Body Glove life vests, like new, \$100. Contact 918-637-3314

1995 Kubota tractor model B1750 with front loader, box blade and brush hog. 20 hp diesel with 632 hours on it. Good Condition, \$9,000. Contact 918-440-1223.

Shopsmith motor, never out of box. H.P. 1 1/8 Volts 115 A 13.2 R.P.M. 3450. \$200. Contact 918-636-7148

Seed Garlic at cost, Large cloves sweet & hot varieties. Plant now. Contact 918-504-6264

Ginormous water powered rocket. 7ft tall, launches 150 ft into the air. \$35. Contact 918-272-0164

Canine Camper portable tent crate by Midwest homes for pets. Size 25" L x 18" W x 21" H. \$40 Contact 918-272-0164

Cherry Picker engine puller. \$195. Contact 918-440-4032

2 Wagon Wheels 48" tall, 4" Wide, 16 spokes. \$300 OBO. Contact 918-440-4032

1Ttian 3" transfer/trash pump complete with hoses, used like new, \$395. Contact 918-440-4032

VVEC will not be running Classifieds, Calendar of Events, or Willie's Throwback Recipe in the December issue. Classifieds may still be submitted, and will be posted in the January 2023 issue of Power Circuit.



VVEC offices will be closed on Thursday, November 24, 2022 and Friday, November 25, 2022 for our employees to enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends. VVEC offices will resume regular hours on Monday, November 28, 2022. We wish a happy holiday weekend to all of our valued members!

ENERGY INSIGHTS

A candid conversation with
Associated Electric Cooperative's CEO & General Manager



David Tudor, the leader of Associated Electric Cooperative, the power generation cooperative producing thousands of megawatts of electricity for rural Oklahomans, discusses opportunities, challenges and a bright future ahead for rural electric cooperatives.

This year we've seen national headlines about concerns over the reliability of electricity in America. Are those concerns valid?

David: Are reliability issues real? The answer is yes. During the past 20 years in our industry, there has been a shift away from reliable, dispatchable coal and nuclear generation, primarily due to environmental and safety concerns and the push toward new, renewable resources that have been subsidized by the federal government.

The problem is companies across the electric utility industry are being forced to retire baseload power plants that are the foundation of reliable power supply and they are not doing so on their own terms or timetables. The timetables are being pushed hard by the current federal administration, backed by the media, primarily due to concerns around climate change.

Frankly, the dates being put forth to close coal power plants are arbitrary and have no modeling or engineering analysis to support them. The decision-makers in charge of those types of goals are not the ones accountable for negative consequences — like diminished reliability.

This past summer, heat waves hit early. How did Associated keep the power flowing?

David: The situation was definitely tight, but we kept the lights on. We got surprised by an early summer heat wave. The heat came in earlier than normal at record highs and it persisted. Normally, in late July to early August we would see our hottest temperatures, which means the highest energy loads. This year, that heat started in mid-June and kept going for weeks. During that early heatwave, our biggest challenges were planned and unplanned outages underway at some of our coal and natural gas plants.

To be clear, our generating fleet is normally robust enough to meet the energy needs of the system during summer and winter. With some of the coal and natural gas units offline for forced repairs and others undergoing planned maintenance, we had little room for error. We operated to get every megawatt we could out of our generating fleet and relied more than we usually would on third-party power purchases to supplement our own generation. And we did ask our member-owners to help us conserve electricity and we appreciated those efforts. That type of ask is rare and we never want it to become the norm.

Associated's current generation portfolio is diverse: coal and natural gas plants, wind and hydropower. What future changes can we expect?

David: The biggest change will be adding megawatts to our existing fleet to shore up reliability for the future. Over the past few years, as other regions have been retiring baseload power plants, we felt there could be a scarcity of generating capacity across the entire region that potentially could impact us. Following notification to the appropriate regulators, we've been adding megawatts to our existing natural gas fleet, which is the most efficient and cost-effective way to add capacity.

For example, Unionville Power Station, a liquid-fuel plant, was idle and not needed for many years, but we are bringing its 44 megawatts back online soon. Improvements at our existing natural gas plants are adding incremental but valuable generating capacity. Every megawatt we add of natural gas is good for members and the environment because it is dispatchable and roughly 50% cleaner than coal generation.

To that point, we are executing the early phases of a plan to add up to 900 megawatts of additional natural gas generation to our fleet. These additions are to address new load growth on our system, shown very clearly in our February 2021 energy peak — which was an all-time high for Associated — and the peaks this past summer. I expect that new gas generation to be available in late 2026.

Some advocate for renewable energy now at the expense of fossil-fuel generated electricity. How do you answer people who favor that approach?

David: We are looking for generation technologies that actually work and can be financed to replicate the reliability of a coal power plant. That technology doesn't exist today, anywhere in the world. Companies are retiring coal plants, claiming they will reduce carbon significantly or be carbon-free by a date certain, but they do not have any plan to replace dispatchable megawatts with a technology that is proven.

In a word, that is stupid. Associated is not in the business of doing things that are stupid. We've proven we aren't against renewable energy, but we do oppose bad decisions that will make our system less reliable and less affordable for members. Associated is already a leader in wind development in the Midwest with 1,240 megawatts. The most recent addition of about 470 megawatts came online in 2020. We also have modeled the possibility of adding solar to our portfolio and have been searching for viable sites on our system where we could add solar projects. The supply chain shortages and issues with production of solar panels have increased prices significantly and slowed that process down. We think the right thing to do for now is to wait until costs settle down. When it's the right price and the right place, which means "good for members," I think you'll see us

pursue some level of solar development.

Looking into the future, are there any cutting-edge generation technologies you're excited about?

David: Excited is a relative term — many ideas sound great in the concept stage, but the devil's in the details, as they say. Are they reliable? Are they affordable? Earlier this year, we signed an agreement with a company developing small modular nuclear reactors. Three large developers are working to put this technology online. Our agreement with one of these developers is basically to observe the process as this technology develops and is put into production. The earliest one of these units could be online is 2028 and the regulatory process around any sort of nuclear project can be a wildcard. Technologies like this aren't near-term solutions, but we're staying involved to see how it develops.

As a three-tiered cooperative system, which is not common in the industry, talk about how that system works. Pros and cons?

David: I don't believe there are any cons. Associated's three-tiered system works very well — better than other types of systems — because it is structured to enable each tier to focus on their core competencies and do what they do best. For example, distribution cooperatives are really good at serving residential and commercial member-owners. They don't have to worry about the transmission because the transmission cooperatives — which own Associated — are really good at operating their transmission systems. And Associated doesn't have to worry about the quality or challenges with respect to transmission — our six transmission cooperatives take care of that. Our role is to provide generation, which is Associated's core competency and what we focus on to provide value to the system.

With all of the challenges ahead, do you think the future is bright for electric cooperatives?

David: Absolutely. Electric cooperatives are well-positioned not only to survive but to continue to thrive as we meet the challenges ahead. The business model for electric cooperatives works. When the customer and the shareholder are the same person, goals are in alignment. At an investor-owned company, there is a natural conflict between the customer's electric costs and the shareholder's desire for a maximum rate of return on their investment.

The customer is paying to make a shareholder happy, and the customer will always pay more in that scenario. In our case, the members are our shareholders and they want affordable, reliable and responsibly produced electricity. That alignment of mission and values between those we serve and the three-tiered system is the secret to success today and, I believe, well into the future.

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 County	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

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.

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.
- Download the SmartHub app at www.smarthubapp.com to report outages from your smartphone.