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# Winter Arrives with a Vengeance

Ice Storm Causes Over Half of VVEC Members to Lose Electricity

**A**s ice began coating tree limbs and weighing down power lines Saturday, Dec. 8 VVEC members throughout the co-op’s five-county service territory began losing electric service. At the height of the season’s first storm, more than 1,700 utility poles would need to be replaced, and over 12,000 of the co-op’s 24,800 members would experience outages.

Almost one-half million Oklahomans were affected by the storm which authorities are calling the worst ice storm in the state’s history.

Electric utilities, including OG&E and PSO/AEP, the state’s two largest utilities, along with electric cooperatives, and municipal systems, suffered extensive outages, but with two-thirds of our system damaged, VVEC was the hardest hit utility.

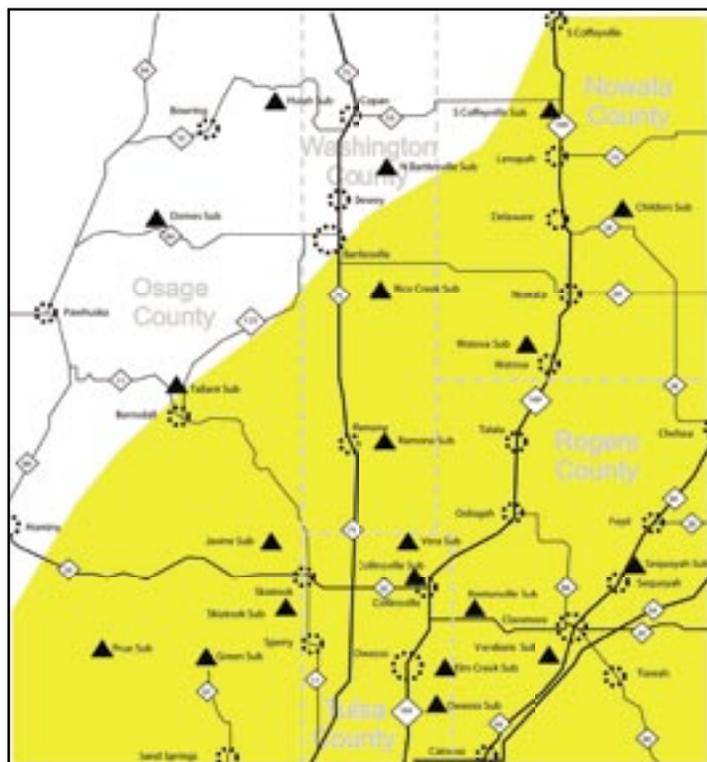
About one and one-half inches of ice coated trees and encased power lines.

“Ice storms are the most detrimental of Oklahoma’s severe weather,”

says Randy Riddle, VVEC’s manager of operations and technical services. “These storms usually cause widespread damage that requires the most time and effort to repair.”

As the severity of the storm increased, so did our repair efforts. But it quickly became apparent additional help was going to be needed.

*Continued on page 3.*



*The yellow area designates the part of our service territory affected by the ice storm.*

# Helpful Storm Contact Information

**Consumer Hotline** - State Insurance Office - 1-800-522-0071 or [www.OID.state.ok.us](http://www.OID.state.ok.us)

**Oklahoma Damage Assessment Online Form** - [www.ok.gov/OEM](http://www.ok.gov/OEM)

The Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management suggests all residents wanting to report damage losses need to keep all receipts of expenses, take photos, and keep an itemized list of all out-of-pocket expenses.

*The Calendar of Events will return in the February issue. If you have an event you would like to appear in the calendar, send written information to Power Circuit Editor, P.O. Box 219, Collinsville, OK 74021. Include the date(s), time, location, and a telephone number. Information must be received by the 10th of the month preceding the event.*

## VVEC Board of Directors

District 1 - Carl Long, 273-2555  
District 2 - Jack Bogart, 371-9587  
District 3 - Vernon Lewis, 341-5225  
District 4 - John Hibdon, 847-2320  
District 5 - Ken Easterling, 341-3374  
District 6 - Dennis Lenox, 396-1574  
District 7 - Charles Huerter, 333-3107  
District 8 - Ken Howard, 371-4833  
District 9 - Buddy McCarty, 272-5134 or 272-5364

General Manager - Alice Houston

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., Monday through Friday**

Visit us on the Internet at:

[www.vvec.com](http://www.vvec.com)

[www.vvec.coop](http://www.vvec.coop)

## What to do if Your Power Goes Off

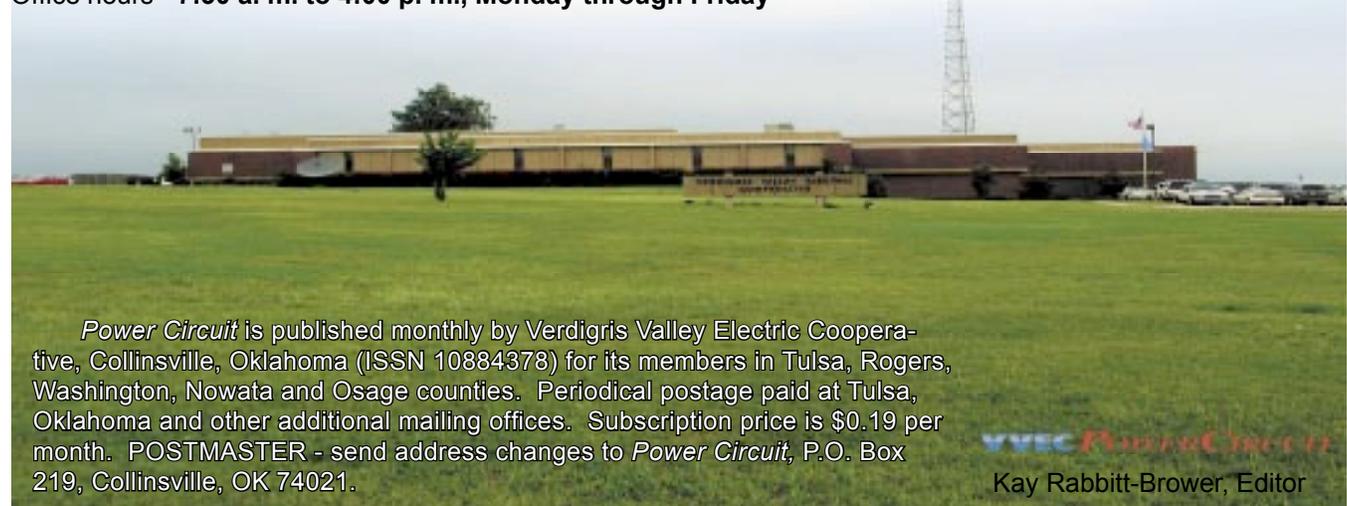
1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers. Every service is different. You may have fuses or circuit breakers in your house, on the side of your house, under your meter, or all three places. Check to see if your neighbors have electricity.
2. Call the Co-op at 371-2584, or 1-800-870-5948 if the call is 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.

## Winter Residential Rates

October through March usage, November through April billing

Consumer Charge	\$12.00
1st 1,000 kWhs	6.170 cents/kWh
2nd 1,000 kWhs	5.570 cent/kWh
2,000+ kWhs	3.070 cents/kWh

A power cost adjustment (PCA) is applied monthly to all bills when the average cost of power the cooperative buys is less than or more than 40.00 mills/kWh.



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VVEC POWER CIRCUIT

Kay Rabbitt-Brower, Editor

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## Ice Storm *continued from page 1.*

Brush and line crews from throughout Oklahoma and across the country arrived at VVEC ready to begin repairing the damage Mother Nature created.

Brush crews started removing fallen trees and limbs, and cutting away debris.

Large line trucks rumbled down country roads, city streets, and major highways removing broken utility poles, setting new ones, attaching electrical equipment, and stringing electric lines.

Working 12 to 14 hour days, more crews traveled to VVEC as they were released from other utilities.

Within a few days of the storm, VVEC had as many as 800 contract personnel, in addition to more than 40 VVEC employees, working across its service territory.

In the headquarters facilities in Collinsville, employees worked around the clock an-

swering the many phone calls and recording members' outage information.

"Our telephone system was overwhelmed with the large number of calls we received," says Kathy Calico, VVEC spokesperson.

Although the phones were answered continually, members who had difficulty getting through became frustrated.

"We understand their frustration and certainly apologize for it," says Calico.

She goes on to say the co-op's board of trustees has approved a new outage response system, but it cannot be implemented until the telephone system is updated in Collinsville.

Each day, crews were able to restore service to more members, and by the time this newsletter went to press, all members were expected to have service by Dec. 23.

"This has been a horrific storm for all of us," says VVEC General Manager Alice Houston.

"Ice causes so much destruction, and it is almost always such widespread destruction that requires mammoth efforts to repair.

"Those repair efforts involved a very large number of people working diligently for long hours for several days, and we sincerely thank them for their dedication and commitment," she says.

"And we are genuinely thankful for our members who were patient and supportive throughout that time. We have had so many come by the office to thank us and tell us they knew we were working hard to restore their service. They have extended such kindness. Not only to our employees, but to the hundreds of contractors who came to help. I don't think they realize how much it means to our people to have them take the time to shake their hand or to say thank you. We're fortunate to be able to work for such good people."



Dear VVEC Members,

The storm that blanketed a large portion of Oklahoma with ice Saturday, December 8 has been devastating. More than one-half million Oklahomans have been without electric service, and authorities are calling it the worst ice storm in Oklahoma's history.

Of the many electric utilities affected by the storm, VVEC is the utility that was hit the hardest. More than 12,000 of VVEC's 24,800 members experienced outages, more than 1,700 utility poles have to be replaced, three of our 20 substations were without power, and more than 800 experienced personnel, including contract crews from seven states, have been working 12 to 14 hour days since the storm hit.

Because of the large number of members calling to report their outages, our telephone system was overloaded. Employees answered the phones 24 hours a day, but with thousands of calls coming in at the same time there was no way to prevent members from getting a busy signal.

We sincerely apologize if you were not able to call us to report your outage. Prior to the storm your trustees had approved implementing a new response system, but telephone lines in the Collinsville area must be updated before we can complete the installation.

In this time of crisis, you may be hearing several things that simply are not true, and I want to clarify these issues to help you have an accurate understanding of the situation and our repair efforts.

First of all, at no time during this storm has VVEC been without the inventory or equipment needed to repair the outages. Although we have lost a huge number of utility poles, we have poles on hand to replace them.

Our employees were all called to work Saturday night as the storm arrived. We also summoned contract crews from across Oklahoma, and crews from Kiamichi Electric Cooperative in Wilburton arrived Monday morning to help. By Monday, Dec. 10 crews from Tennessee, Arkansas, and Missouri started arriving. And as crews were released from other cooperatives, they came to help with our restoration efforts, so the number of personnel grew throughout the week. As of Wednesday, December 19 we had almost 500 experienced line and brush crews working to replace poles, remove downed trees and limbs, and string power lines to help get your lights back on.

Repair work on three of our substations – Prue, Green and Skiatook – could not be completed until GRDA and KAMO Power repaired their transmission lines providing service to those substations. GRDA was able to energize the Green and Skiatook substations late Monday, December 17, and to energize the Prue substation by Wednesday, December 19. Bringing those substations online allowed us restore power to members in the western and southwestern parts of our service territory over the next several days.

Another falsehood you may have heard is that we have taken the phones off the hook at our headquarters in Collinsville. I cannot stress enough how incorrect this statement is. Calls are coming into the co-op around the clock, and we have an entire staff of personnel at the co-op answering those calls around the clock.

Several members have expressed frustration because they feel they are not getting consistent, up-to-date information on how hard the storm hit us and how we're working to repair the damage and restore the service.

We have released information to area newspapers, radio stations and to the Tulsa television stations. Our statewide entity – the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) – assisted us by releasing outage information we collected twice daily and reported to them.

Our new Web site was originally scheduled to come online January 1, 2008, but we accelerated that timetable and it came online Sunday, December 16. Work continues on the site because it is not complete, but it does contain up-to-date information on the storm and our restoration efforts.

There is no way to avoid severe weather in Oklahoma, but we want you to know we worked very hard to repair the extensive damage this storm caused, and to restore your electric service. We apologize for any difficulty you may have experienced when trying to call our overwhelmed phone service, and for having to live without your electric service following the storm.

Please know our personnel worked hard to restore your service in the quickest, safest and most efficient manner possible. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,



Vernon Lewis *President, VVEC Board of Trustees*

# Member Appreciation Day

Delicious Christmas cookies, warm spiced cider, and a bright blue VVEC tote bag all wrapped in holiday spirit greeted members who came to enjoy our annual Member Appreciation Day Friday, Dec. 7.

During the holiday season each year, we invite you to our headquarters so we can thank you for the opportunity to serve you throughout the year.

More than 380 members enjoyed the holiday refreshments, along with visiting with friends and neighbors, strolling through the Co-op Store to learn more about the stoves and electric fireplaces we offer, and registering for the \$50 bill credit we gave away.

Paul Hammons of Tulsa is the lucky winner of the bill credit.



# A New Look!

## Our New Web Site Comes Online, Coincides with Changes to Power Circuit

It's a new year, and a new look for us! We've made some changes to our Web site and *VVEC Power Circuit*, our

monthly newsletter, and we hope you like them.

Not only are the changes designed

to be more visually appealing, but soon it will be easier and more convenient for you to get information about your account or to learn about what's going on at your cooperative.

At [www.vvec.com](http://www.vvec.com) you can learn about account services we offer, energy conservation, our products and services, youth and community programs, our credit card program, and legislative issues. You can also view current and past issues of *Power Circuit*.

Some information remains the same both on the Web site and in *Power Circuit*, but we plan to make more changes to offer more services and information. So be sure to visit the Web site often and to read each issue of *Power Circuit*.



## Work Continues After Electric Service Returns

Once we get your lights back on, you might think our job is finished. But we still have a lot of work to do.

Mike Hall, VVEC's director of operations, says the co-op's crews will return to outage areas so they can permanently repair what may have been temporarily repaired during outages caused by the December ice storm.

"In these types of outages where we have a large number of members without service and we need to restore that service as quickly as possible, but can't use the traditional route because of poles being broken or damaged or some other problem, we will frequently backfeed power to that area," he says. "When the outage is over, we need to go back to those areas and rebuild the line correctly so the power can be supplied in the proper manner."

Hall says in some cases members may find their electronic devices and appliances blinking when they get home, because the power may have been interrupted while VVEC crews were working on the lines.

"In these cases, the interruption shouldn't be very long," he says. "Usually only about 15 minutes."

He emphasizes these temporary routes and methods of delivering services are safe.

"Our system is built so that we have alternate routes to deliver electricity to any area," he explains.

Hall goes on to explain VVEC is responsible for delivering electric service to the meter. If the meter is attached to a member's home and has been damaged VVEC will supply the meter socket at no charge.

"Members need to call us so we can visit with them about the damage and how we can help them."

Hall says clean up from the storm will take months to complete.

"It's a slow process working through all the changes that were made across our system for the length of that outage."

He encourages members to call VVEC and report any damages they may be aware of such as tree limbs on transformers, or broken tree limbs that have not been removed and could fall onto the lines.

"Now that the ice is gone and we've addressed the immediate problems, we need to be aware of anything on the lines, our equipment or in our right-of-way that could cause problems in the future."

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## From A Friend's Kitchen

# Football and Ice Cream

### CALIFORNIA MEXICAN HOT DIP

- 2 bunches chopped green onions
- 1 small jar chopped green olives
- 1/4 cup finely chopped green bell pepper
- Sliced lettuce
- 2 (15-oz.) cans refried beans
- 1 pkg. taco seasoning or your favorite homemade seasoning
- 1/2 lb. grated cheddar cheese
- 2 pkgs. frozen avocado dip
- 4 Tbsp. sour cream
- 1 small can green chilies

In a small bowl, mix the chopped green onions, ripe olives, green olives, and green bell pepper.

In another bowl, mix refried beans with the taco seasoning.

Layer lettuce slices, bean mixture, vegetables, tomatoes, and



### SNOW ICE CREAM



When it starts to snow, place a large, clean bowl outside to collect the flakes. When full, stir in sugar and vanilla to taste, then stir in just enough milk for the desired consistency. Serve at once.

Mary Ann's last few days on the job were spent helping many of you as you called to report outages due to the December ice storm.

Every time I went by her office she was taking down someone's account number, or explaining that the crews were working to get the lights back on as soon as they could, or was commiserating as a member expressed his or her frustration at being without electricity.

Mary Ann is very much a 'people person,' and people just naturally gravitate toward her. We're going to miss her now that she has retired, and I suspect you'll miss her too. I know for a fact she is going to miss visiting with you also.

I'm not anywhere the whiz in the kitchen Mary Ann is, but I love to eat so that should qualify me to some degree to share a few recipes with you.

I hope you'll enjoy the first one – it will be great for a Super Bowl party.

And following the philosophy that when Life gives you lemons you should make lemonade....when Mother Nature gives you ice and snow... make snow ice cream!

*Kay Rabbitt-Brower  
Power Circuit Editor*



## Classified Ads

### PLEASE NOTE:

Deadline for all ads is the **10th of each month**. Ads will be accepted *in writing only* and are a free service to VVEC members only. Send them to VVEC, to the attention of *Power Circuit* Editor.

Information which is required on all ads includes your account number, name, address, and a phone number.

Ads will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis; time and space permitting. VVEC reserves the right to delete or shorten items or descriptions.

## Everything Goes

Waterbed, mattress, heater, all GC, \$150 OBO, 371-3504, 698-5350.

Hay – 4' wide x 5' diameter round bales, bluestem & Bermuda mixture, \$20/bale, you haul, 341-1612.

Double-deck fort \$400; telescope, \$40; 5-sp. boys bikes; kids 5-in-1 game table, \$50; running stroller, \$50; satellite receiver \$40; 8' hockey table, \$200; 10-sp. bike w/kid seat, \$25; heavy patio umbrella, \$350; Abeka home school curriculum (2nd through 7th), 344-4563.

Treadmill, not electric, EC, \$75; food dryer, \$2.50; potty chair for invalid, EC, \$50, 396-1696.

Hay – Bermuda, prairie & mixed grass round bales, new wrap over edge, Bermuda w/lespedeza small square, 272-1098.

Topsoil, we load your pickup, \$20; seasoned ash firewood, \$55/rick, you haul; used 16-gal. oil/water tanks, 2 300-gal. tanks, 371-6238.

MTD riding mower, 20 hp, 46" cut, needs work,

\$150; seasoned firewood, 18"-22", you pick up, \$65/rick; 1000 Total Gym, GC, \$75, 263-1794.

Lexmark Z645M color printer, never used, not Vista compatible, \$30; Oster juicer, EC, \$20; Rival crockpot w/removable crock, round, EC, \$15; Kenmore vacuum food sealer, EC, \$30; assorted Stanley home products, 645-7530.

Hay – 4'x5' good prairie hay bales, in barn, \$25, 272-3212.

Hay – 4'x5' Bermuda, 4'x5' bluestem, net wrapped, 950 lbs. \$25/bale, 275-4215, 232-1657.

Upright Smith & Barnes piano, GC, \$250, 343-5354.

Hay – mixed square bales in barn, 4'x5' mixed round bales, 814-4944.

Never worn, men's size 10D patent leather dress shoes, \$10; 5 pc. wood dinette, \$150; rug stretcher, \$45; 9-drawer wood dresser, no mirror, \$45, 371-4880.

Tecnica TCS ski boots, size 9B, new, \$150, 697-5792, 697-1236.

Wood dinette, 42"x59", 4 chairs, 1 bench, GC, \$100; 2-burner propane cooker, \$35; New Wolverine boots, size 10M, steel toe, slip on, \$90, 272-2640.

FREE – horse manure, easy to load, 371-4159.

Cherry dining room table w/6 padded chairs, GC, \$450, 371-5391.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. leather jacket, \$85, 346-7562.

Rear wheel drive set of Buick Rallye wheels, \$10 ea.; electric coffin w/talking skeleton, \$200; metric body dirt track race car cage, \$175; 3 2-sp. PowerGlides; Dodge mini-van rear seat, GC, \$100; Chevy small black heads, \$50/set; 3 yr. & 4 yr., Kenmore Elite Electric dryer, \$100; 12' galvanized gate, \$25, 639-6824.

PetMate pet carrier, 20"x20"x28", EC, \$15; garden tiller wheels, 13x5.00x6, \$5/pr., 371-5971.

300-350 cinder blocks, 50¢ ea., 396-2875.

FREE – Smith & Barnes upright piano, over 100 yrs. old, plays well, needs to be tuned, you move, 341-5627.

Hay – Square bales, \$4, you load, 504-6264.

Two Cooper 15 Weather Mosher S/T mud & snow tires, P-215/70R, w/4 alloy Cougar wheels & hub caps, \$100, 341-8318.

Hay – bluestem premium horse hay, new crop, 4'x5' round bales, in barn, delivery available, 6 bales per load, 724-4674.

Wedding dress, veil, slip, size 6, \$600; 30'x50'x8' red steel building, \$4,000; Mariner 5 hp outboard motor, \$600; Christmas tree shaker, \$1,000; about 50 yds. lt. brn. Stainmaster carpet, \$400; dresser & mirror, GC, \$50; oak dining room table, 2 chairs, \$100, 371-6595, 906-5228.

Apache thornless blackberry plants, 5/\$20 or \$4.50 ea., 333-1447.

Hay – fescue 5x4.5 lg. round bales, 900# protein 9.8%, \$30/bale, 273-2083 after 6 p.m.

Firewood – mostly ash & oak, \$50/rick, \$65 delivered, 342-0200.

Burgundy rocker/recliner, GC, \$50; 90-100 pc. Wilton Armetale collection, \$750; John F. Kennedy memorial framed picture, 2 coins, 4 stamps, speech and inaugural coin, \$150; Hummel annual plates, 1971 first edition thru 1978, \$1,000, 341-6755.

Oak 42" round inlaid pedestal dining table; 3 Ethan Allen solid maple swivel mates chairs, \$50 ea.; ladies 14K yellow gold diamond wedding set, w/.53 carat, VS2 clarity G-color Marquis-cut diamond, \$2,500, 706-9791.

Two lots in Floral Haven Cemetery, \$3,400, 437-1576.

Set of aluminum 10" wheels for Chevy pickup, 5 hole, 697-6112.

Christmas dishes – Debbie Mumm, Sakura

Snowman, complete service for 13, w/serving pieces, platters, canisters, cookie jar & misc., pieces, some never used, EC, \$350; black leather motorcycle jacket, size large, worn once, \$50, 371-9385.

British 303 rifle, 10 round clip, GC, \$130, 396-4146.

Concrete blocks, \$1 ea.; 3/4-ton pickup topper, \$250; 3/4-ton pickup camper, \$500, 234-0481.

Four school desks, 18 school chairs, 2 for \$10 or 1 for \$7, 376-1947.

Two 12-ga. Ithaca model 37 shotguns, \$300 ea.; 16 ga. Ithaca model 37 shotgun, \$300; 20 ga. Ithaca model 37 shotgun, \$300, 1/16 scale Ertl die cast tractor collection, 39 pcs., new in box; old blacksmith forge, \$100, 341-6975 after 5 p.m.

Quadra-Fire Santa Fe pellet stove w/thermostat, EC, w/12 bags of pellets, \$1,250; 2 wood dinette chairs, EC, \$10 ea.; Hotpoint dryer, needs belt & cord, \$25; 8 fruit pictures in 8x10 frames w/glass, \$20, 475-2245, 855-8551.

Mens ski boots, size 11, EC, \$25, 272-7298.

Two P235 15 studded snow tires, less than 500 miles on them, \$200, 396-3829.

SIG P225 9 mm handgun, night sights, EC, \$600, 336-0949 after 7 p.m.

Electric smoker & bag of wood chips, \$39; turkey LP cooker, \$19; Waterski small wet suit, \$39; Truck ski water skis, \$49; Motorguide trolling motor, \$65; Wilson golf bag w/stands, \$10; horse halter, lead, 2 feed tubs, \$25, 283-2777.

Two twin beds w/headboards, box springs & mattress, \$75 OBO; 15' steel Doughboy above-ground swimming pool, w/all equipment, \$250, 255-6399.

Hay – 4'x5' round bales, \$25 ea., or 5 of \$100, 371-1843.

7'x8' tread plate steel flatbed for pickup, 720-7831.

Frigidaire Gallery electric washer & dryer, 272-6068 after 7 p.m.

Remington 30-06 model 700 LH w/new scope, new bolt action, EC, \$450; SKS-ports auto rifle, 7.62x39 GC, w/ box shells, \$275, 338-2766.

Ruger .223 Mini 14 stainless ranch rifle, EC, \$560, 557-0345.

Whirlpool washer, GC; Kenmore gas dryer, \$165, 272-1044.

Carolina Furniture Works bedroom suite, GC, \$500; dinette w/6 chairs, EC, \$150; raw pine single bunk bed set w/mattresses, EC, \$225; Bassett recliner, GC, \$75; wedding dress w/long train & slip, size 7-9, GC, \$175; basketball goal, GC, \$50, 371-9790.

FREE – polyester material, 371-2048.

Chest freezer, \$150; refrigerator, \$100; Futon, \$50; 1940s Singer sewing machine in cabinet w/stool, \$150; 1930s Singer sewing machine, \$50; compost tumbler, \$100; Romance novels, free; gallon-size glass pickle jars, free, 273-3800.

Low Boy tires, (8) 215/75R17.5, 16 ply, no flats, \$400; tires/aluminum wheels (4) Ford Super duty, 1999-2004, Toyo 55 LT 265/75/R16, 10 ply@50%, \$400; chrome front bumper for Ford F series, no damage, \$200, 273-1598, 695-9359.

Hay – good horse & cattle hay, 4'x5' net wrapped round bales, reduced price, 341-4103.

Hay – 4'x5' round bales, 531-2665.

Two deer stands & 2 feeders, (#200), \$250; 4 8-ply 16" tires, 50% tread, \$100, 371-9352, 693-0682.

Large capacity washer & dryer, EC, \$300, 342-2715.

Wood burning fireplace insert, less than 4 yrs. old, \$350; handmade wood gun cabinet, \$40, 625-9412.

Beautiful leather Western

saddle, \$600, 536-2124, 231-6052.

## Cars & Trucks

1998 Oldsmobile Aurora 4-dr. sedan, 128K miles, loaded, new tires, transmission overhauled w/warranty, new alternator, radiator flushed w/new anti-freeze, \$7,000 OBO, 371-3233.

1991 Mercury Capri convertible, 56K miles, \$2,500 OBO, 343-6198.

1988 XLT ext. cab Ranger, no run, straight body, clean, bed liner, rails, headache rack, tool box, \$600, 830-0809.

1986 Ford LTD 4-dr., 255-6399.

1993 Ford Ranger, V6, 4.0 liter, 5-sp., AC, cruise, minor body damage, 371-2654.

1993 Lexus SC300 coupe, auto, sunroof, leather, ABS, all power, EC, \$7,500, 336-0949 after 7 p.m.

1987 Dodge pickup, runs great, 4-sp., manual transmission, \$1,000, 536-2124, 231-6052.

1998 Chevy S-10 ext. cab pickup, V6, auto, power steering & brakes, AC, AM/FM/cassette, bed liner, 68K miles, \$6,500, 695-5149.

1996 Mercury Village van, all power, rear air, removable bench seat, FWD, new front tires, non-smoker, garage, kept, GC, \$3,899, 272-7298.

1997 Dodge Caravan Sport, rebuilt transmission, recent electrical tune-up, fuel pump & filter replaced, 3.3 liter engine, good tires, clean, runs great, \$1,995 OBO, 371-3959.

2005 Ford Freestar SE fan, 34K miles, blue, \$13,800, 833-1133.

1985 Suburban Silverado pickup, 4x4, rear air, Nerf bars, brush guard, red & white w/tan interior, GC, \$3,500, 851-6988.

1999 Olds Intrigue, PW/

PL, spoiler, 25-27 mpg highway, 146K miles, runs good, \$2,800, 706-4829, evenings.

1994 Chevy Silverado Z71 4x4 pickup, high miles, but priced to sell, great truck, \$4,500, 273-8155.

2002 Honda Civic LX couple, red, auto, 74K miles, keyless entry, 1 owner, \$8,500 OBO, 274-4410.

1984 Ford 1-ton truck w/utility bed & ladder rack, \$2,500, 335-6604.

1989 Ford 3/4 ton pickup, black, AC, needs Freon, good tires, 1 owner, runs good, \$2,000, 341-6871.

1995 Chevy Corsica, needs air compressor & passenger window, \$500, 245-2372.

Wrecked 1988 S-10, good for parts, or could be restored, 371-6238.

1992 Isuzu Rodeo, 2 WD, new transmission, radiator & water pump, new tires, stereo, \$1,850; 1994 Chevy Corsica, new radiator, water pump, brakes & battery, \$1,700, 639-6823.

1982 Chevy 3/4-ton panel van, 350 motor, rebuilt, about 5K miles, rebuilt transmission, new exhaust, Rallye wheels, no rust, carpet interior w/vinyl headliner, Kenwood stereo, needs new windshield, \$1,350, 630-0491, 706-0969.

1972 Chevy pickup, 531-2665.

## Equipment

2001 90cc Arctic Cat 4-wheeler, needs work, \$500, 625-9412.

Large oxygen & acetylene bottles, full w/paper work, torch, gauges & 50' hose, \$550; Craftsman belt-drive table saw, \$225, 371-9352, 693-0682.

Two-horse trailer w/extra set of tires, floor is like new, \$815, 371-9608.

David Brown 35 hp tractor, looks & runs good, 273-2515.

DeWalt 12-volt drill, model DW953K, batteries, charger & case, \$50, 371-5971.

Ford 9N tractor, old but works good, \$850, 371-5391.

Featherlite 3-horse slant trailer, removable rear tack, front dressing room, AC, good tires & axles, GC, \$9,500, 688-0753.

614 Dugan gooseneck stock trailer, bar top, 8,000-lb. axle, GC, \$2,500, 846-2392, 694-0980.

12-foot tandem wheeled disc w/cylinder, \$500, 371-4682.

Tractor, 4x4, 30 hp diesel, good rubber, GC, \$3,500 OBO, 214-3466.

Two-horse, 16' trailer, tack room, good rubber, \$2,250, 371-5377.

1967 John Deere 95 hp, recent overhaul, w/or w/o loader; 32' gooseneck hay trailer, self-dumping, lights, brakes, 371-9264.

John Deere 450 dozer, GC, reduced price, 341-4103.

2000 30' gooseneck trailer, 2 axle, single wheel, straight deck, GC, \$3,500, 341-7465.

Metal pipe – 2 3/8" OD, 78¢/ft.; 30 21' pipes; 28' of 4 1/2" OD, \$6/ft.; more than 1,500' of 3/8" guy wire cable on spool, \$210, you haul, 342-0571.

New horse training pedestal, \$279, 694-7004.

2004 Sooner stock trailer, 3 compartments, 24'x6'11", EC, \$12,000, 371-9841.

## Livestock

Goats, cockatiels, love birds, ducks, turkeys, chickens, 396-4384.

Outstanding Brangus bull calves for breeding bulls, 336-1376.

Brangus bulls & heifers, excellent quality, very gentle, low birth weights, big wean-

ing weights, delivery available, 371-9094, 695-2357.

Double-registered Paint & Pinto black & white filly, 18 mos. old, leads, loads, stands for farrier, beautiful, \$800; double-registered Paint & Pinto, black & white stud colt, 18 mos. old, leads, loads, stands, super gentle, \$1,500, 536-2124.

Young rooster, \$5, 336-8324.

Grain-fed calves, ready to butcher, 443-2277.

Turkeys, \$25 ea.; pure-bred Bantams, 273-2515.

Roosters, 341-5463.

One kids horse, 1 adult horse, don't have time to ride, need to go to good home, \$800 for both, 273-8155, days, 273-2713, evenings.

Buffalo to eat or breed, \$600, 520-2755, 287-1210.

## Pets

FREE – AKC Brittany, male, 18 mos. old, great pet, loves to play ball, to good home; 5-mo.-old Brittany male, sound conditioned, points, retrieves, \$250, 625-9412.

English Bull Terriers, 2 litters expected this winter, 1 in time for Christmas, puppies w/champion blood lines, well socialized, up-to-date shots, health guarantee, [www.turboterriers.com](http://www.turboterriers.com), 371-9608.

Manx kittens, \$100; dwarf rabbits, new hutches & cages, 273-2515.

FREE – Female Brittany, 1 yr. old, spayed, ready to hunt, 371-5971.

Registered mini Dachs-hund puppies, 288-6971.

FREE – Border Collie/St. Bernard mix, female, spayed, 2 yrs. old, great w/kids & animals, needs good home w/room to roam, 336-8324.

Song Canaries, yellow & red factor, singers - \$45, hens - \$35, cages available, 336-8498.

## Real Estate

Five BDR, 3.5 BA, 3-car oversized garage, lg. covered patio, swimming pool, 1.9 acres, Chestnut Farms, \$342,900, 557-4794.

RENT – 2 BDR, 1 BA, brick home, storm cellar, storage bldg., carport, 2 lots, fenced yard, 10 miles from Skiatook Lake, no deposit, no pets, 346-7562.

Ten beautiful acres, Birch Lake Estates, owner may carry note, 637-9012.

Mobile home, 28'x44' on 7.5 acres w/cattfish pond, 22'x30' attached garage, 10'x19' screened porch w/utility added on, \$145,000, 396-3829.

Two story, 3,000 sq. ft. home on 1.5 acres in Claremore, 283-2777.

Thirty acres, good hunting, nice view, Nowata County, 55 minutes north of Tulsa, \$49,500, 440-4294.

Three BDR, 2 BA, 16'x80' mobile home at Mazie Landing Resort, lg. front deck, CH&AC, 637-9012.

1999 16'x80' Fleetwood mobile home, 3 BDR, 1 BA, CH&AC, total electric, call for appointment, 273-1308, 273-8188.

One lot at Flint Ridge near Kansas, OK, 272-6068 after 7 p.m.

2.5 to 80 acre tracts, no rocks, some trees, ponds, views, rural water, VVEC electric power, phones, no zoning, low taxes & fire insurance, north of Talala, off US. Hwy. 169, will divide & can carry (WAC), \$3,850/ac., 697-7144.

Eighty acres, 4 ponds, hay meadow, pasture, woods, fences, 3 BDR, 2 BA house, garage/shop, 30'x50' barn, corrals, Nowata Co. Rd. 406, \$3,200/acrec, 273-3726.

## RVs & Boats

New 2008 black Harley Davidson Sportster 883, \$7,250 OBO, 439-6869, 857-5238.

2004 Honda VTX 1300S, garage kept, windshield, highway bars, foot pegs, backrest, luggage rack, light bar, 1,700 miles, \$6,700, 371-6244, 406-7261.

1981 Suzuki GS1100 motorcycle, 26K miles, garage kept, black w/red, Kerker header, Lockhard oil cooler, SS brake lines, O-ring chain, DOHC 16 valve, adult owned, EC, \$1,850 OBO, 521-2372.

1998 37' Fleetwood Discovery, diesel, Class A motor home, 52K miles, 1 slide, awning, w/d, satellite, new tires, EC, \$59,900, 630-5147.

Alumacraft 17' canoe, 3 Carlisle aluminum shaft paddles, \$600, 214-6163.

2006 Honda TRX 400FA 4-wheeler, ext. warranty, GC, \$4,750, 273-2083 after 6 p.m.

1983 Kingfisher 15' bass boat w/1981 70 hp Evinrude, lots of extras, \$3,000, 371-9608.

2000 Miller XMT 304CCCV, 230-575 Autoline, \$1,700, 396-4146.

## Services

Diesel & auto diagnostics & repair, heavy equipment, trucks, tractors, hydraulics, brakes, roadside assistance, pickup & delivery available, 706-1925.

Need health insurance? Specializing in self-employed & individual coverage, hospitalization for Diabetics & other pre-existing conditions, major medical, dental, coverage for Seniors, no obligation, free quotes, 231-1433.

Will haul off old tractors, cars, trucks & junk for free, 536-4215.

Piece work and/or equipment repaired commercial

or farm, portable services available, free estimates, 607-0717.

Livestock hauling, 6'x32' trailers, in & out of state, cargo insured, horse vans, garage door repair, 24/7, 814-4944, 814-4929.

Horse boarding in Bartlesville area, 440-3542.

Carpet repair, stretching & installation, 396-4020.

Home repair, remodel, add-ons, & decks, includes daily clean up, references available, reasonable rates, free quotes, 396-2004, 396-7437.

To buy or sell AVON, 637-7621.

Brick mason & rock work, fireplace chimney sweep, mail boxes, will haul off trees, limbs, 697-6112.

Auction service - consignment, estate, farm, liquidation, fund raising, 371-5211, 698-6214.

Carpet installation & repair, 40 yrs. experience, vinyl, faux wood, excellent service, 343-1845.

## Wanted

Old colored glass costume jewelry, 536-4215.

Good used front-end loader for Ford tractor, 335-2558.

Lead shot #8 or #7.5; Remington 870 26" I.C. shotgun barrel; Franchi shotgun AL48, 26" I.C., 371-5971.

Sickle mower, 7' or 8', GC, 150-gal. sprayer, GC, 342-1199.

1989-1994 Toyota pickup body only, 4 cylinder, manual, no motor or transmission, must have good title, be in good shape, reasonable, 333-3974.

Disk, 5.5' or 6' w/3-pt. hookup that will fit a 9N Ford tractor, 255-3225, 515-0577.

Late model John Deere 9' sickle-bar mower, 255-6475, (620) 252-5479.

# Why don't I have Electricity When my Neighbors do?

“Why don't I have electricity when my neighbor does?”

That is a question we are asked frequently during an outage.

It can be baffling to look out the window from your dark home and see the home of your neighbor across the street all lighted up. And it is only natural for you to wonder why.

Before you begin to think something is wrong with our system, or that we are intentionally not restoring your service, let us explain that we have designed it that way.

VVEC System Engineer Karl Keeton explains our system is designed so that each area has multiple routes of delivering electricity to it.

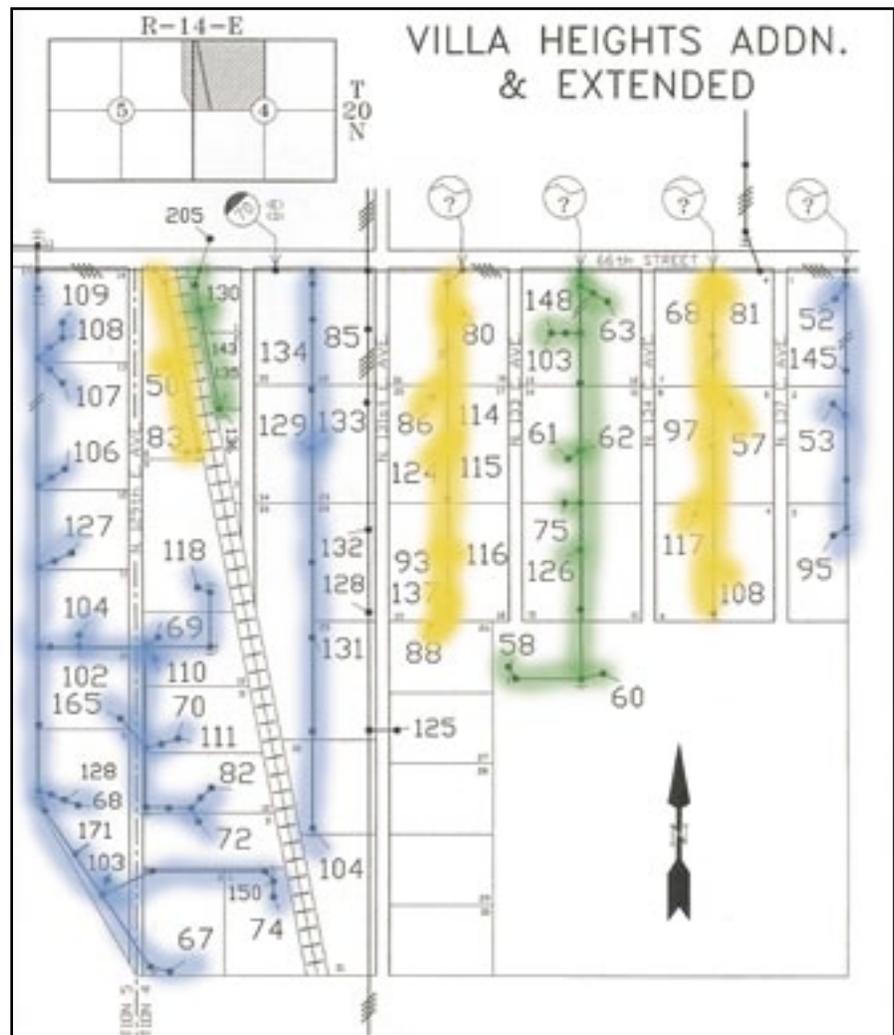
“We divide the load into more manageable portions,” he explains. “Sometimes the load is considerably too large for one phase, so we build multiple feeds into the area so we can provide better service.”

He goes on to say by sectionalizing areas into smaller, more manageable portions, we can keep an entire area from losing service when an outage occurs.

“Outages occur for a variety of reasons,” he says. “Everything from traffic accidents, to squirrels or snakes getting onto equipment, to the equipment malfunctioning, to severe weather. By delivering electricity through multiple feeds and sectionalizing the area, we can determine the problem, correct it and restore service quicker.” He adds this usually contains the area affected by the outage so that a smaller number of people are affected.

Keeton says because of the way electricity is delivered people living near one another may get their electric service from different sources.

“Frequently people living on different sides of the same street or rural road may not have the same power



*Each of the taps from the three phases supplying electric service to the residents of Villa Heights subdivision is shown in a different color.*

source. So as we restore service to a particular area, we may have one feeder or tap back on, before another one. So yes, someone's neighbor can get their electric service back before someone else does.

The above map demonstrates Keeton's explanation. The map is of the Villa Heights residential sub-division near Owasso.

There are eight different taps – highlighted in different colors – from three phases coming into the sub-division.

Residents of this sub-division receive their electric service on a tap separate from the one feeding their neighbors across the street.

“So, yes it can be frustrating when a member is without electricity and sees that his or her neighbor has power,” he says. “But the reason is because the electricity has different routes into that area, and that it is designed that way so that power is delivered in a reliable way and to allow us to respond more quickly during an outage,” says Keeton.

# Fact or Fiction?

During times of severe weather like we experienced with the December ice storm, you may get a wide variety of information concerning your cooperative. Some of what you hear is probably true; quite a bit is not. That is why we have compiled the information on this page – to help you know what is true and what is not.

## TRUE:

- ▶ **More than 1,700 utility poles were broken; over 3,000 miles of power lines, or about 2/3 of our system, were affected; between 12,000 and 14,000 members were without service at the peak of the storm.**
- ▶ **There were no fatalities among our workers; only minor accidents and those injured returned to work.**
- ▶ **Our phone system is outdated.** *A new, state-of-the-art response system has been approved by your board of trustees and we are working to implement it as soon as phone lines in the Collinsville area are updated.*

## FALSE:

- ▶ **We were not answering the phones and chose to take them off the hook.** *This is simply not true. Our employees began answering outage calls Saturday evening and personnel were at the office answering phones 24 hours a day until power was restored Dec. 23.*
- ▶ **We did not have enough employees or contractors – whose help we allegedly refused – to get the job done.** *We brought in every employee we have, and of course, we brought in contract crews and dispatched them throughout our five-county service territory. We had 800 construction and brush personnel from seven states working with our more than 40 employees.*
- ▶ **We did not have enough money to buy materials or pay contractors.** *This information baffles us. VVEC is a financially solid and stable business that is guided by trustees who plan for such situations. So, there was never any question of whether or not we could buy the needed inventory and materials, or if we could pay the contract crews.*
- ▶ **Contact crews were not called in until late in the recovery, or were released before all affected members had electricity.** *We started calling contractors as soon as we began calling in our own crews. Additional crews came to VVEC from throughout Oklahoma and across the country throughout the outage period, so that at one time we had more than 800 construction and brush personnel working on the restoration efforts. None of the crews were released until the power was back on.*
- ▶ **VVEC is lax on right-of-way clearing.** *VVEC works year-round to clear and maintain our rights-of-way. We do it so power isn't interrupted during normal and abnormal circumstances such as the ice storm. Also, maintaining the right-of-way is part of our responsibility in delivering electric service to you and is not an additional charge like it is with other utilities. With 1 & 1/2 inches of ice, many poles broke simply from the weight of the ice at the top of the pole.*

▶ **VVEC ran out of material, poles and fuel.** *VVEC had sufficient inventory to address the cooperative's needs in restoring service and there were no delays in restocking.*

▶ **Service would have been restored quicker if VVEC were still under Oklahoma Corporation Commission regulation.** *Our procedures have not changed since our membership voted to remove us from Corporation Commission regulation.*