

2010 Employee of the Year & Service Award Recipients p. 2&3

How VVEC Restores Service During Major Outages

The weather has a big impact on life in northeastern Oklahoma. It can also have a big impact on your electric service. It affects how much electricity you require to keep your home or office comfortable, and sometimes it makes it difficult for VVEC to deliver electricity to you.

When severe weather causes major outages, you may wonder how VVEC personnel restore your electric service. Rest assured, there is a method to what may appear to be madness to you.

The first step in restoring service is to determine where the damage is, and what the exact cause is, then we begin prioritizing repairs so we can restore service to the largest number of consumers the quickest.

Step 2 is to make sure we have electricity to deliver to you. Our power supplier, KAMO Power, repairs any damages to its transmission lines and substations, which deliver 69,900 volts of power through transmission lines to VVEC's 24 substations.

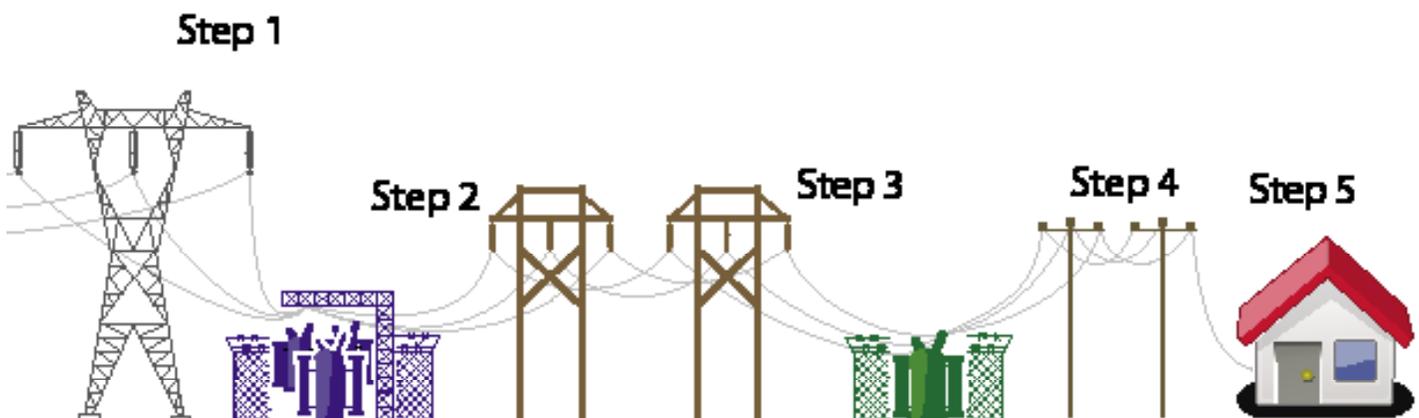
After repairing any damages to equipment in our substa-

tions, Step 3 is to concentrate on our main distribution lines. During this process we may find trees blown onto lines, broken utility poles or damaged equipment on the poles, or broken or downed electric lines.

Once all the distribution lines and tap lines are repaired, we begin Steps 4 and 5 where we begin working on individual service lines. These are the lines that typically bring power to only one or two locations, such as homes or businesses.

Any time you have an interruption in your electric service, please call us and report it. Don't assume we know you don't have power. It helps if you can give us your account number, which is printed on your monthly electric bill.

Restoring power after a major storm can be a big job. Although we can't always restore everyone's power in an hour or two, you can be assured we're working as quickly as possible to get your lights back on as soon as possible. 



Employee of the Year

Randy Parsons

VVEC Board of Trustees

- District 1 - **Jim Brackett, 720-4531**
- District 2 - **Jack Bogart, 371-9587**
- District 3 - **Vernon Lewis, 341-5225**
- District 4 - **John Hibdon, 847-2320**
- District 5 - **Jimmy Lambert, 760-7029**
- 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

Editor - Kay Rabbitt-Brower



Loyalty and generosity are two of the main reasons VVEC employees honored co-worker **Randy Parsons** as the cooperative's 2010 Employee of the Year.

The identity of the Employee of the Year honoree is revealed during the Christmas party each year. Employees, trustees, and their families gather for a family-oriented event and holiday meal before management hands out service awards.

Parsons, who came to work at VVEC in July 1990, is currently a construction foreman.

"He is our most experienced foreman," says Randy Riddle, manager of operations and technical services.

"He supervises a construction crew and has trained, or helped train, many of the young linemen we have working for us today. Randy was voted Employee of the Year because of the knowledge he shares with his co-workers, his patience with the younger ones, and the loyalty he shows toward his crew members."

Randy and his wife Trish have been married since 1984 and are the parents of Tonya, who recently graduated from RSU in Claremore, and Stacey, who is attending vo-tech in Bartlesville. 

Winter Residential Rates

October through March usage,
November through April billing

Customer Charge \$20.00

Energy Charge

1st 1,000 kWh \$0.0731/kWh

Over 1,000 kWh \$0.0671/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.

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.



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.

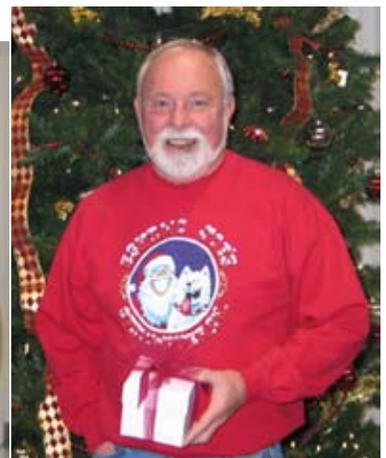
VOLUME 70 • NUMBER 2 • FEBRUARY 2011

Dedication & Gratitude



Service award recipients are (1) 20 years, Randy Parsons and Donnie Whisenhunt; (2) 25 years, Keith DeLozier and Chuck Huerter; (3) 30 years, Robin Richardson; (4) 10 years, Linda Swain, Aaron Limbocker, and Jeff Jones; (5) 15 years, Kimberly Loffer.

Receiving 5 year pins are (left to right) Tracy Horner, Stacey Breshears, Lori Prock, and Jason Adair. Also getting his 5 year pin is Dennis Lenox (far right.)



Equip Your Home for Power Outages Before They Happen

Electric service is one of the most reliable services you can purchase, and VVEC works very hard to minimize power outages through its many preventative maintenance programs. Some up-front planning can help you and your family stay safe and more comfortable when the power goes out.

Equip your home with the following emergency supplies:

- A flashlight, battery-powered lamp or lantern, and extra batteries.

- Candles and matches.

- A battery-powered radio with extra batteries.

- Easily accessible emergency phone numbers for your utility companies, emergency responders and doctors.

- A telephone connected directly to the phone jack (cordless phones need electricity to operate.)

- Blankets, sleeping bags and warm clothes.

- A three-day supply of drinking water and non-perishable food.

- A cooler for storing frequently used foods. (For information about food safety, call the USDA Food Safety Hotline at 1-888-674-6854 or visit www.fsis.usda.gov/Food_Safety_Education/index.asp.)

- A manual can opener.

- An alternative cooking source.

- Firewood, if you have a fireplace or woodstove.

- Playing cards, board games, puzzles and books, which can make a power outage more tolerable.

- Please install surge protectors on any sensitive electronics and appliances.

- Make sure to buy surge protectors that have a warranty for your connected load.

- If you own and operate a genera-

tor, you are responsible for making sure electricity from your unit cannot “back feed,” or flow into VVEC’s power lines. For safety’s sake, be sure to use your generator correctly; hire a licensed electrician to install a transfer switch that distributes power from the generator to your home’s circuit box. A double-pole, double-throw transfer switch is required to keep your generator from backfeeding onto VVEC’s system. The switch also keeps VVEC’s power from re-energizing your house while your generator is running.

Outages can occur anytime. Report them to VVEC by calling (918) 371-2584. Our service personnel stand ready to respond all day, every day. 

RECIPE

Steak Balsamico With Mushrooms

- 4 (6-oz.) flat-iron steaks (about 1 1/4 inches thick)
- 1 1/4 tsp. salt, divided
- 3/4 tsp. freshly ground pepper, divided
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 (8-oz.) pkg. sliced fresh mushrooms
- 1/2 cup balsamic vinegar

Rub steaks with 1 tsp. salt and 1/2 tsp. pepper. Cook steaks in hot oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat 4 to 5 minutes on each side or to desired degree of doneness. Transfer steaks to a serving platter, and keep warm.

Add garlic to skillet; sauté 30 seconds, stirring constantly. Add mushrooms and remaining 1/4 tsp. salt and 1/4 tsp. pepper to skillet; sauté 3 minutes. Stir in vinegar; cook, stirring frequently, 3 to 5 minutes or until mushrooms are tender. Spoon mushroom mixture over steaks, and serve immediately.

