

If Your Meter is on the Pole, Call VVEC Instead of Okie p. 3

## Electric Rates to Increase 1 Percent Beginning with July Bills

Due to an increase in the cost of doing business, VVEC has increased electric rates by one percent.

"All bills mailed after July 1 will include the increase," says VVEC Director of Finance Clyde Willard. "This includes the customer and energy charges, and affects all rate classes."

He goes on to point out that a residential consumer who uses 2,000 kiloWatt hours (kWh) a month will see an increase of less than \$2. Residential consumers using 4,000 kWh a month will see an increase of less than \$4.

Small commercial accounts who use 2,000 kWh a month will also see an increase of less than \$2; and small commercial accounts using 4,000 will see an increase of less than \$4.

The accompanying chart details the increase.

Willard goes on to say VVEC trustees and management team work diligently to keep costs down, but an increase in everything from gasoline to supplies has forced the co-op to require the rate increase.

The last increase was in 2008.

Old Residential Rates (Summer)		Old Rate	New Residential Rates (Summer)		New Rate
		2,000 kWh			2,000 kWh
Customer Charge		\$20.00	Customer Charge		\$20.20
1st 2,000 kWh @ \$0.0801		160.20	1st 2,000 kWh @ \$0.0809		161.80
Over 2,000 kWh @ \$0.0851		--	Over 2,000 kWh @ \$0.0860		--
PCA \$0.005 (Average)		10.00	PCA \$0.005 (Average)		10.00
Gross Receipts Tax (2%)		3.80	Gross Receipts Tax (2%)		3.84
<b>Total Bill</b>		<b>\$194.00</b>	<b>Total Bill</b>		<b>\$195.84</b>
			Dollar Increase		\$1.84
			Percent Increase		0.95%

Old Small Commercial Rates (Summer)		Old Rate	New Small Commercial Rates (Summer)		New Rate
		2,000 kWh			2,000 kWh
Customer Charge		\$25.00	Customer Charge		\$25.25
All kWh @ \$0.08157		163.14	All kWh @ \$0.08239		164.78
PCA \$0.005 (Average)		10.00	PCA \$0.005 (Average)		10.00
Gross Receipts Tax (2%)		3.96	Gross Receipts Tax (2%)		4.00
<b>Total Bill</b>		<b>\$202.10</b>	<b>Total Bill</b>		<b>\$204.03</b>
			Dollar Increase		\$1.93
			Percent Increase		0.95%

## Testing Period Successful; TWACS Meter Installation Begins in Three Substations

During the first week of May, VVEC contractors began installing the Two-Way Automated Communication System (TWACS) meters. This follows a successful installation, testing and training period in April.

(Continued on page 4.)

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**Office hours**

7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.,  
Monday through Friday

**Editor** - Kay Rabbitt-Brower

**VVEC offices will be closed**

**Wednesday, July 4 for the Independence Day holiday. Please call (918) 371-2584 to report an outage.**

**Summer Residential Rates**

April through September usage,  
May through October billing

Customer Charge                      \$20.00

**Energy Charge**

1st 2,000 kWh      \$0.0801/kWh  
Over 2,000 kWh    \$0.0851/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.

# Time to Mow the Yard and Maintain the Right-of-Way

If you are already mowing your yard, then you know foliage is growing.

The foliage growing in our rights-of-way can cause problems for members and the co-op. This is the time of year when we focus on maintaining our right-of-way; when foliage is at the proper stage for us to begin our herbicide spraying program.

VVEC Brush Coordinator Lon Lambert says beginning in June and continuing for the next five to six weeks, contract crews will be spraying almost 1,000 miles of right-of-way on lines coming out of seven substations. Those include Javine, Childers, Skiatook, Tallant, Prue, Verdigris and part of Sequoyah.

“They will be spraying low-volume herbicide,” explains Lambert. “They will be wearing back-pack sprayers, administering a light coat-

ing on small brush. It is very controlled.”

He says the men will walk the rights-of-way, and can spray several miles quickly.

“We won’t spray any trees such as Red Buds, or any ornamental shrubs.”

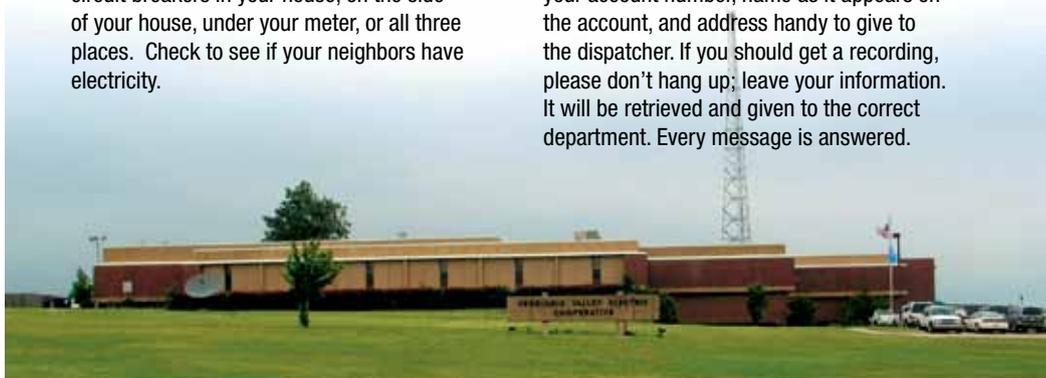
“Maintaining our right-of-way saves the co-op millions of dollars,” says VVEC General Manager Alice Houston. “Foliage grows back quickly after cutting. But spraying herbicide on that foliage slows that growth, keeping us from having to return as soon.

“The real value of clear, maintained right-of-way is evident when severe weather strikes and our members don’t lose electric service due to trees and brush in the lines.”

If you have questions about this program call Lambert at (918) 371-2584, ext. 6208.

## 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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# Call VVEC, Not Okie, if Your Meter is on the Pole

Adding on to your home, landscaping projects, in-ground swimming pools are all projects you want completed quickly and smoothly. You know to call Okie so utility companies can mark the location of their lines in your yard, allowing your projects to be complete without an interruption of any of your home's services.

But if your VVEC meter is located on one of our utility poles, you will need to call us instead of calling Okie.

"As a service, we will mark the member's underground lines if the meter is on the pole," explains VVEC Serviceman Mike Dickey.

He goes on to say a VVEC serviceman will be on site to mark the lines within 48 hours of receiving the request from a member.

He says the serviceman will use red paint to mark the location of the underground electric line making it easy for anyone working in the yard to know where not to dig.

If you need to have your lines marked on your property, and your electric meter is located on the pole, please call (918) 371-2584 and ask to speak with the dispatcher. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.



*VVEC Serviceman Mike Dickey marks a member's underground electric lines with red paint so the member's in-ground swimming pool can be installed without cutting the line and interrupting electric service. Members can dig up to two feet on either side of the red line.*

#### Remember...

If your electric meter is on your home, call **1-800-522-OKIE** (6543), 48 hours before beginning your project.

If your electric meter is on the pole, call the VVEC dispatcher at **(918) 371-2584**, 48 hours before beginning your project.

# TWACS Meter Installation Begins

(Continued from page 1.)

VVEC Manager of Operations and Technical Services Randy Riddle says the installations will occur in the Elm Creek, Owasso and Keetonville substations before moving on to the Sequoyah, Verdigris and Collinsville substations in late June or early July.

“At that time, the TWACS meters will have been installed on about 15,000 meters, or roughly half of our meters,” says Riddle. He goes on to say, “By the end of the year, we will have about 2/3 of the installations complete. But the final 1/3 will be in more rural, less densely populated areas, so it could take nearly as long to install

the final 1/3 as it takes to install the first 2/3.

TWACS meters are state-of-the-art and operate by sending a signal over existing power lines from the meter directly to the co-op, providing low-cost, highly-reliable, two-way communication. They offer several advantages, not only to the member, but to the co-op as well. Not the least are, pre-paid purchase of electricity; being able to detect and verify outages, map outage locations, and poll meters to make sure service has been restored following an outage; detect meter tampering; and connect and disconnect from the office.

Riddle says it will take just a few seconds to remove the meter and install the TWACS meters, but some members may discover blinking appliances and electronics. He adds a door hanger will be left at the home of members who are not at home when the contractor arrives.

Riddle adds contractors will be driving HD Supply trucks, but the vehicles will note they are working for VVEC, and all employees carry photo ID.

Also, Saturday appointments may be possible for locations where we do not have access to our meters.

Anyone with questions can call Riddle at (918) 371-2584.



## RECIPE

### Barbecue Grilled Potato Skins

- 3 russet potatoes, scrubbed
- 4 slices cooked bacon, crumbled
- 2 Tbsp. butter, melted
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 3/4 cup Cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup barbecue sauce, warm
- 1/2 lb. pulled pork
- Sour cream, for topping
- 2 Tbsp. snipped chives, for garnish

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Bake potatoes on middle rack until fork tender, about 1 hour. Remove from oven and let sit until cool enough to handle.

Bake 4 strips of bacon on a small sheet pan in the oven for 15 minutes. Crumble bacon when it's cooled.

Preheat grill to medium heat.

Cut potatoes in half, lengthwise, and spoon out the flesh, leaving a half inch shell.

Melt the butter in saucepan and add minced garlic. Brush potatoes with the butter and garlic mixture. Flip over and butter the bottoms.

Place potatoes on grill and cook until crisp, about 4 to 4 1/2 minutes on each side and remove from grill.

Divide the cheese, barbecue sauce and pulled pork among the potatoes. Top potato skins with sour cream, crumbled bacon and chives for garnish.