



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

501 S. Huston Ave, P.O. Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330
866-784-5500
www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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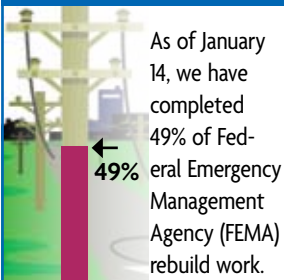
Wayne Revell
Trustee

Robert Webster, Jr.
Trustee

Office Hours
Monday-Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Contact Us
501 S. Huston Ave., P.O. Box 368
Altamont, KS 67330
620-784-5500
www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

FEMA Rebuild Update



FROM THE MANAGER

Outlook for 2011 Power Costs

2010 was a good year for Twin Valley. We did not have any major storms causing large scale outages or damages during the year.

Our Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) rebuild project in the southern portion of our service area is almost 50 percent complete. We did have a unusually cold January and a very hot summer, which resulted in Twin Valley members setting a record peak demand (10,346 kW) and purchasing a record kilowatt-hour (kWh) sales (43,120,996 kWh) during the year. We ended the year with appropriate margins and were able to retire three more years of capital credits that had been allocated to our members back in 1987, 1988 and 1989.

Our largest single expense is our wholesale power costs. Those costs continue to rise each year as the price of fuel (coal, nuclear and natural gas) and the costs of environmental fixes on the power plants go up. Our wholesale power supplier, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo), was able to negotiate a new long term wholesale power contract with Westar in 2008, which will help control our wholesale power costs for the long term.

However, those costs will

continue to increase as Westar has to install new environmental equipment on their existing generation units and as they build new generation plants and new transmission facilities. Last year, our wholesale power costs increased by over five percent for each kWh we purchased.

KEPCo has approved another rate increase for its member cooperatives that went into effect in January 2011. This rate increase is primarily the result of the IATAN II coal fired power plant going commercial on January 1. KEPCo is a part owner of this plant.

The new rate and the higher peak demand that we set last August will increase our power costs approximately five percent this year. At this time, we do not plan to adjust our retail rate schedules, but the increased costs will automatically pass on to our consumers through the Energy Cost Adjustment (ECA) on your electric bill.

We are planning to do a cost-of-service study this year to determine the revenue needed to cover the cooperative's operating expenses and debt obligations and to examine the equitability of rates among the various customer classes.



Ron Holsteen

“Last year, our wholesale power costs increased by over five percent for each kWh we purchased.”

Notice to Members of Twin Valley Electric Cooperative Board Meeting to Consider Rate Change

The purpose of this notice is to inform you that the board of directors will discuss and vote upon a rate change proposal at their February board meeting. This meeting is open to the membership and will be held on Monday, February 28, 2011, at 6 p.m. at the cooperative's headquarters at 501 S. Huston Ave., Altamont.

Energy Cost Adjustment Clause

The cooperative's average cost of power varies monthly depending largely on the fuel cost adjustment from our power supplier. The board of directors will consider adjusting the definition in the existing Energy Cost Adjustment (ECA) tariff to correspond with the new format of the wholesale power contract to ensure that the financial condition of the cooperative is protected from fluctuations in wholesale power costs. An ECA is an additional charge or credit applied to the monthly energy use of a member based on the Energy and Demand Cost adjustments passed through on our wholesale power bills. Unfortunately, wholesale power costs continue to rise, primarily due to the higher costs of natural gas and transportation of coal used to generate electricity.

What can You do Reduce Your Bill?

Wholesale power costs are greatly influenced by the amount of power used by members on the hottest days during the summer months. Reducing our power costs is the most significant action that can keep your electric bills low, and you can help by voluntarily shifting some of your electric use to the morning or late evening. This will reduce the amount of power we have to buy "on peak" which will help to lower power costs year round. You could also reduce your home's energy use by conducting an energy audit or by asking us for energy efficiency advice when building a new home.

For more information, contact Twin Valley member services at 620-784-5500 or visit our website at www.twinvalleyelectric.coop.

Notes from Operations



William Worthy

As this boy from Texas enjoys his first Kansas winter, I worry about the reliability of service that you expect from your electric cooperative. Cold and snow... good; cold and sleet or ice... bad; fortunately at the writing of this article, it's just cold and snow. The threat of ice is always there, and we will do our best to keep the lights on for you.

In planning on the possibility of an ice storm outage, we get numerous questions about generators. I would like to take this opportunity to give you some insight that the salesman at the local home improvement warehouse may not let you know. Most generators you see in these stores will give you lights and possibly some electronic gadgets, but not power your entire house.

The bare essentials for a typical natural gas heated home of 2,000 square-feet would require most, if not all, of these items: AM/FM radio, T.V., 10 -100-watt bulbs, refrigerator, freezer, 1/3 hp furnace fan, 1/2 hp sump pump, 1/4 hp garage door opener, microwave, electric water heater, computer system with UPS system, dishwasher, portable electric heater, electric skillet, 2 hp water pump, 1/4 hp attic fan, electric clothes dryer, electric range with 8-inch element and washing machine

The total demand wattage for the above items is 29,825 watts. If you adjust this number using the Average Intermittent Projection Method of 0.67, you get 19,982.75 watts total average demand.

You would need a generator with a minimum running watt capability

of 16,000 watts with a demand watt capability of 22,500 watts. A generator with this capability is not cheap. You could pay anywhere from \$4,000 to \$10,000 for a generator of this capacity. Of course, the more you spend the more bells and whistles you may get. Automatic transfer switches and voltage monitoring all add to the cost.

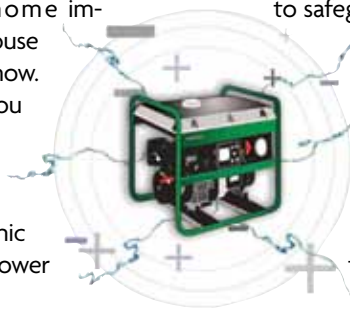
Automatic transfer switches are not necessarily needed, it's just a convenience so you don't have to go outside and throw the switch manually. A manual double-throw switch is the bare minimum to protect you and your cooperative lineman. Improperly connected generators can backfeed primary voltage onto the lines. Meaning, you can put 7,620 volts on the line, which could severely injure a lineman.

We have stringent safety guidelines to safeguard our linemen. If you put the voltage on our lines and we ground our lines like we are trained, our linemen are safe and you now have an expensive paper weight sitting outside your house. A licensed electrician should be consulted to make sure the installation is done properly.

Voltage monitoring protects your fragile electric equipment that cannot handle fluctuation in voltage and harmonics that is common for generators. It constantly checks the voltage to make sure everything stays inside the set parameters.

A few other things to keep in mind. Never run your generator indoors as to avoid the buildup of deadly carbon monoxide. Make sure you have an adequate fuel supply if you are going to rely on this. A generator of the size described above could use 3-5 gallons of diesel an hour. If you plan on having fuel, other than propane or natural gas on hand, be safe in the storage of the containers.

I hope this gives you some insight on generators, and as always, call us if you have any questions.



Attention High School Juniors

Don't Miss this FREE Trip of a Lifetime!

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., will send one high school junior to the "Government in Action" Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., and one to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO.

To Qualify

The applicant must be a high school junior living within the cooperative's territorial boundaries and the child of a Twin Valley Electric member.

To Apply

Applicants will be expected to study and take a quiz over information sent by Twin Valley regarding electric cooperatives. There will also be a short interview to pick the winner. All participating students will receive a prize.

To apply please complete, sign



Kansas delegates will attend Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp July 9-15, 2011.



Students from Kansas join more than 1,500 youth in Washington, D.C., this year's Youth Tour is scheduled for June 9-16, 2011.

and return the application below to Twin Valley, PO Box 368, Altamont, KS 67330.

Youth Tour Selection Process

Applicants must complete an application and return it to the cooperative office by March 16, 2011. Finalists will be quizzed and interviewed by a panel of judges at the cooperative offices on April 1, 2011.

For More Information

For more information contact Jennifer at 866-784-5500.

Take Advantage of these Local Discounts with Co-op Connections

- ▶ **Clemens Bridal**—10% discount store wide on cash & carry
- ▶ **Larry Allen Motor Car Company**—5 quart oil & filter change—safety check for only \$28.95 valued at \$68.65
- ▶ **Oswego Veterinary Clinic**—10% discount on goods and services (excludes dog food)
- ▶ **Parsons Fine Jewelry**—10% discount on retail purchase when paid in cash
- ▶ **Slane's Floral Shop**—10% discount store wide on cash & carry
- ▶ **Slane's Wedding Gowns**—50% discount cash & carry (must have appointment)



MY APPLIANCES AREN'T THE ONLY ENERGY STARS IN MY HOUSE.

I am, too. Because now I know how to get the most out of them. By simply using more efficient settings on my ENERGY STAR® qualified appliances, I'm really helping the savings grow. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

Application for Youth Tour Contest—Due March 16

Name of Applicant _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Birth Date _____ Twin Valley Account # _____

Name of Parents or Guardians _____

Parents' Phone Number _____

School _____

I agree that all information supplied in this application is accurate and true.

Signature of Applicant _____

I hereby grant permission for the above named applicant to enter the 2011 Youth Tour competition sponsored by Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Parsons Fine Jewelry Offers Glittering Gifts

If you're looking for the perfect gift for Valentine's Day look no further. Parsons Fine Jewelry has a great selection. Parsons Fine Jewelry was opened in June 2005 by Twin Valley members **KIM AND BO HEDRICK**. Together they have three children, Zachary and Cory Hight; and Madison Hedrick.

Kim worked for Boles Jewelry in Parsons when she was offered the opportunity to purchase the store. It didn't take Kim long to decide to make the purchase. Under Kim's ownership, Boles Jewelry became Parsons Fine Jewelry in 2005.

Parsons Fine Jewelry has something for every one and every budget. They have gifts from \$10 to \$10,000. The store offers a wide variety fashionable and trendy items of all styles. Diamonds, gemstones, pearls, sterling silver, watches, costume jewelry and anything else a girl could want. They also offer jewelry cleaning and repair.

Running a little short on cash for that present this Valentine's Day? Parsons Fine Jewelry also purchases scrap gold. **Twin Valley members who show their Cooperative Connections Card will receive a 10 percent discount on any retail purchase paid in cash.**

Parsons Fine Jewelry received the 2010 Business Appreciation Award of Merit in recognition of its contribu-



Kim Hedrick, owner of Parsons Fine Jewelry, offers a selection of necklaces to a customer.

tions to economic development, community service, and leadership in Kansas.

You can find Parsons Fine Jewelry located at 1722 Main in Parsons, they are open Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you have any questions you can contact Kim at 620-421-2180.

Twin Valley Electric is always looking for interesting hobbies or businesses to feature for the Community Spotlight. If you or someone you know would like to participate, please contact Twin Valley Electric at 620-784-5500.



Co-op Connections Card carriers can receive 10 percent off beautiful items like these.



Parsons Fine Jewelry, offers a wide variety of diamonds, gemstones, costume and fine jewelry.