



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

## TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# NEWS

### Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Ron Holsteen General Manager

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### Office Hours

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

### Summer Rate in Effect

We would like to remind our members that our summer rates went into effect on your July bill. These rates are in effect from June 1 to September 30. If you have any questions, please call the cooperative office.

### Holiday Closing

Our office will be closed on Monday, September 7 in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

### FROM THE MANAGER

## FEMA Restoration Underway

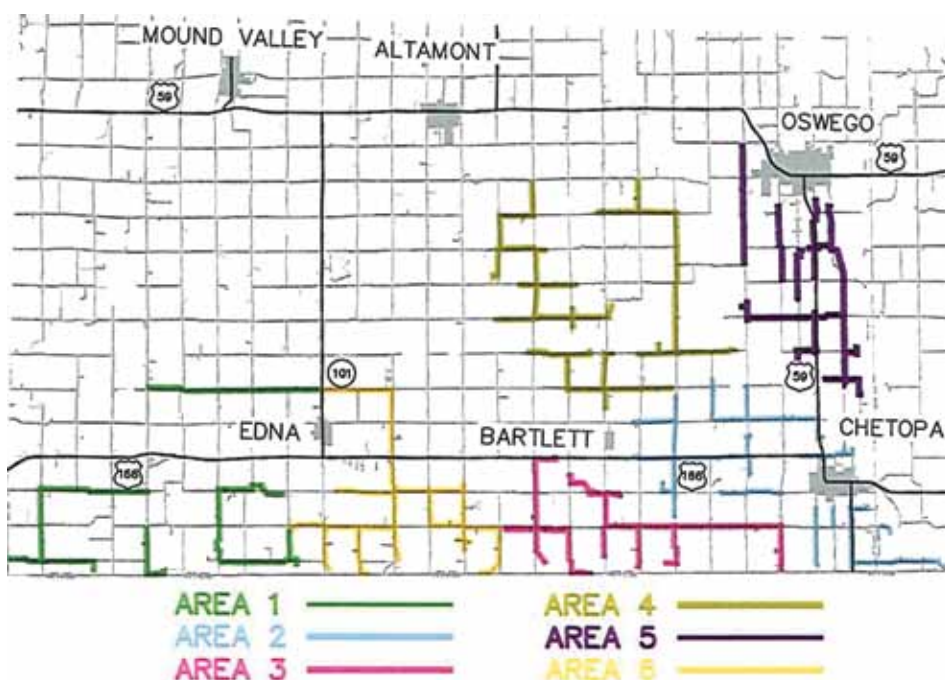
The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved funding for rebuilding of approximately 150 miles of line that was damaged in the December 2007 ice storm that is located in Twin Valley Electric Cooperative's territory.

We will be rebuilding those lines using Twin Valley's current construction standards. The new line will have taller and heavier class poles, larger conductor and the span between poles will be decreased. The current standards are designed to withstand ice loading of ½ inch, which is common in our area. The increased pole height



Ron Holsteen

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This map shows the areas in Twin Valley's service territory that will undergo construction to repair damages in the future.

## FEMA Restoration Underway

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provides greater clearances for the larger farm machinery that is being used today.

Our consulting engineers, Allgeier & Martin Associates of Joplin, MO, will have crews re-staking all of the line to be rebuilt. The staking crews then develop a staking sheet for the construction crews to follow as they rebuild the lines. The staking crews will stake the lines several weeks in advance before the rebuilding of the lines actually begins.

Once a line has been staked, Twin Valley will clear any trees or shrubs from the right-of-way where those new lines to be built. It is very important not have any trees or undergrowth that will interfere with stringing of the new conductors.

Once the right-of-way has been cleared, our crews will dig all new holes for the poles. No existing poles will be used because of the new span length that we now use. We will be using two CAT compact track loaders to dig the holes since the majority of construction is in an area with a lot of rock. Once the holes are dug the poles will be laid out in the ditches and they will be framed.

The construction crew will follow setting the poles and stringing the wire. All of this work will be done with the existing line staying energized as much as possible. We will try to keep any service interruptions to a minimum. Once the new line has been energized, the old existing line will be retired and removed.

Landowner's will be given first chance to take possession of the old poles that are retired and not being re-used by Twin Valley. However, the landowners will need to sign a release form for any poles they want to keep and will be responsible for removing them from the right-of-way in a timely manner.

The work for this project has been broken down into several small projects. We have developed a plan as to when each project is to be completed. We anticipate that this work will take approximately three years to complete.

All of this work is planned to be completed using Twin Valley employees. The only exception that the staking crew and the right-of-way line clearance, which will be handled by contractors.

We thank you in advance for your patience during the construction process.

## Clearing the Way

Before construction can begin, right-of-way must be cleared. The photos below illustrate the right-of-way clearing process.



**1** Operator Jodie Zwahlen with Zwahlen Dozing operates a 322B Caterpillar trackhoe with a tree saw to eliminate line clearance problems.



**2** The trackhoe removes all trees and vegetation without damaging existing fences.



**3** The line was cleared of excess vegetation within 15 minutes and ready to replace.



**4** All vegetation has been removed from the right-of-way. This stretch of line is ready to be replaced.

## Leistikow Retires from Twin Valley Board

Norman Leistikow retired from the Board of Directors of Twin Valley during the May board meeting. Leistikow has moved into Parsons with his wife, Marion.

He served on the board for nine years and also held the position of Board Secretary. During the June Board meeting, there was ice cream and cake served to celebrate his commitment to the cooperative.

Leistikow was a dedicated Director and enjoyed representing the membership. Twin Valley's Board and employees will miss his presence on the Board, but wish him the best in retirement.



Leistikow enjoys a cake at his retirement party.

## Twin Valley Members May Experience Peak Alerts

Twin Valley Electric has been notified by our electric supplier, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative Inc., (KEPCo), that it may become necessary to call a Peak Alert during the months of July and August.

KEPCo will closely monitor weather conditions and only issue a Peak Alert when it is in the best interest of all concerned. Below are some frequently asked questions.

**Q** What is the benefit of acting to conserve energy during a Peak Alert?

**A** There are a number of benefits for the cooperative as a whole and for individual residents and businesses. Twin Valley will be able to keep the rates stable if we take action when a Peak Alert is announced. This is because electricity must be produced on demand, and during peak demand periods additional generators are required. These generators are more costly to operate, and, therefore, they drive up energy costs.

**Q** Does a Peak Alert signal a power shortage?

**A** Not necessarily. It's possible the peak in demand could be an isolated event. Power shortage would likely come as the result of an entire region running at high demand for an extended period.

**Q** I'm at work during the heat of the day, so why is it important for me to conserve when I get home late in the afternoon?

**A** Believe it or not, energy use in our community often peaks after typical work hours (after 5 p.m.). This is because most residents leave work at roughly the same time, and they all begin using power when they get home. That's why conserving until the end of the alert is so important.

**Q** How do I know a Peak Alert has been issued?

**A** When a Peak Alert has been issued, it will be announced on the Radio Results Group stations 98.9 FM, 104.1 FM, 98.1 FM, and 690 AM. The Peak Alert button will also appear on our web site [www.twinvalleyelectric.coop](http://www.twinvalleyelectric.coop) when an alert has been issued.

**Q** What are the best ways to conserve energy during a Peak Alert period?

**A** Every little bit helps, and no single action is too small. Here's a list of a few steps you might take when a Peak Alert day occurs:

- ▶ Set your air conditioner thermostat no lower than 78 degrees and your dehumidifier no lower than 78 percent.
- ▶ Use electricity for laundry, running the dishwasher, ironing, cleaning, etc., in the early morning or late evening.
- ▶ Avoid using the oven during the heat of the day.
- ▶ Close your drapes to block the sun's heat rays.
- ▶ Unplug unnecessary electric appliances and equipment.
- ▶ Turn off decorative lighting.
- ▶ Keep exterior doors closed as much as possible.



The Peak Alert button will also appear on our web site [www.twinvalleyelectric.coop](http://www.twinvalleyelectric.coop) when an alert has been issued.

Energy Commandment No. 4

# “Thou Shalt Cool It”

BY DOUG RYE

During the summer months, the temperature rises and attics become much hotter. Well, I say, “cool it.”

The worst-case scenario for home energy efficiency is to have a roof without shade, inadequate attic insulation and ductwork in the attic.

The attic could easily be 140 degrees on a hot summer day. How would you like to sit in that attic and try to make homemade ice cream? Most likely you would keel over before the ice cream was ready. Now do you understand why it is

better not to place any part of your cooling system in the attic? For years I have been teaching this but most still install the cooling system in the worst possible environment.

So, let's look at a solution. If you will install a radiant barrier on both the roof rafters and the west or southwest gable end of the attic, you can reduce the 140-degree temperature by about 30 degrees. From a cooling cost standpoint, this is huge. The attic is 30 degrees cooler, the insulation is 30 degrees cooler and the ductwork is 30 degrees cooler.

Basically, this radiant barrier is a strong, reinforced aluminum foil and should be installed on the bottom of the rafters. It comes in 1,000-square-foot rolls. Check with your local home center for availability or call me at 501-653-7931 and I will help you. For new construction, the radiant barrier can simply be a part of the roof decking.

I look forward to writing this column every month. And I think that you can tell my heart is in it. Many of you have told me at my seminars, on my radio show and at my office, that you have implemented my suggestions and that they work. Actually, I never even think about them not working because they always do. They always have a payback



By installing a radiant barrier on the rafters in your attic, you can reduce the 140-degree temperature by about 30 degrees and save money.



“How would you like to sit in that attic and try to make homemade ice cream?”

and once again, they are good investments.

About a week ago, my wife and I were in our favorite sandwich shop to order a toasted turkey sandwich. A family of four was in line ahead of us. The wife just kept looking at us and finally she just blurted out, “Are you Doug Rye?” To which I replied, “Does that scoundrel owe you money, too?” She grabbed her husband's arm and said, “Honey, Doug Rye is here, right behind us.” I have to admit that I like it when this happens. He shook my hand and told me that he was so glad that a subcontractor suggested that he order the Doug Rye New House video before they started construction. He and his wife watched the video every night for several nights to be sure that their house was built correctly.

Actually, his words were, “We did it and it worked.” He then thanked me. Isn't that great? I was able to help another family, just like I help you with these columns. Now, I was hoping he would offer to buy me a sandwich with the money he saved. Oh well ... I guess I better “cool it.”

**Doug Rye, is a licensed architect and the popular host of the “Home Remedies” radio show. You can contact Doug at 1-888-Doug-Rye. Source: Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Corporation.**