



WATTS CURRENT

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative



April 2011

Tornadoes Cause Damage

On Saturday April 9, tornadoes tore through and caused damage near Odebolt, Early, Nemaha and Schaller. Immediately after the storm, approximately 500 members were out of power with most members having their power back by Sunday afternoon. All RVEC members had their power restored by Monday evening. RVEC had over 40 linemen helping to restore power. Crews came from Prairie Energy Cooperative, Guthrie County REC, Midland Power Cooperative, Calhoun County REC, Harrison County REC, Humboldt County REC and WIPCO to assist with storm repairs.

The stories that have come out of the storm are remarkable. Keith Mentzer, former director of Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative, lives northeast of Odebolt and had his rural home hit by two tornadoes. CEO Jim Bagley reported that Mentzer and his wife arrived home just before the storm hit. As Mentzer checked his shop building, the tornado suction pulled him into the building. Before he could completely recover, the second funnel hit. Neither Mentzer nor his wife was injured, but their home and the outbuildings have been deemed a total loss by the insurance company.

RVEC had been using T&D Solutions based out of Texas and Missouri to rebuild distribution power line damaged by previous winter storms. The contractor's employees have been renting a rural house on RVEC's lines. Mitch McKeever, RVEC's line superintendent, called the employees Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. to make sure they were listening to television forecasts. When the tornado hit shortly after, the last man to take cover in the basement was blown down the steps. The tornado broke all of the house's windows and blew the roof into T&D's trucks, destroying the equipment. The contractors are helping with storm repair, using two extra RVEC trucks. None of the 23 miles of new line that T&D recently built was damaged in the storm. 6-S-29-E

To view some of the storm damage go to www.rvec.coop click on your cooperative and photo albums.

RVEC strongly encourages member-owners and the public to report any safety concerns, downed power lines and low hanging wires immediately to RVEC.

RVEC appreciates your patience during this storm and want to thank the members-owners who assisted them in any way.



Damage to T & D Solutions trucks.



Several poles down from tornadoes.



Line crews making repairs.

— CEO Comments —

As spring moves on, we continue our rebuilding efforts from the 2010 ice storm. We currently have two contractors rebuilding over 200 miles of line. T&D Solutions is busy working in the northern part of our system while Karian Peterson Power Line Contracting is hard at work in the southern area. We anticipate having contracts out for another 200 miles in mid-May. RVEC crews are currently rebuilding 16 miles of power lines in the Breda area. We started with a total of 707 miles of line to rebuild.

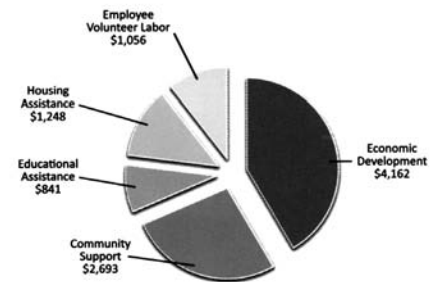


Our progress has been hampered by restrictions put on us by the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) and FEMA. SHPO has required us to perform time consuming archeological studies on our current right-of-ways, including road right-of-ways. This was not required in previous ice storms, and really slows down the recovery process. Imagine if you had to perform archeological studies every year prior to planting crops in your own fields, which is basically what we were tasked with. Luckily our area State Representatives and State Senator lead an effort to put commonsense back into the process, and were successful in getting a bill passed that puts oversight on the bureaucrats who imposed these harsh requirements on us. I would like to thank Representative Muhlbauer, Representative Worthan and Senator Kettering for their leadership in the effort to change this law! 13.27.02



Concern for community is one of our founding principles

SPENDING FOR COMMUNITY PROGRAMS (Thousands)



Iowa's electric cooperatives contributed more than \$10 million to business and community investments such as these during 2009.

- **Economic Development** – membership in organizations, key accounts activity, industrial parks, value-added agriculture and tourism
- **Community Support** – job training assistance, community recreation, charitable donations, and police, fire and ambulance
- **Housing Assistance** – new housing developments, housing rehabilitation, wiring help and energy-efficiency donations
- **Employee Volunteer Labor** – uncompensated hours at the employee's hourly earnings rate
- **Educational Assistance** – K-12 school and college/university programs, scholarships, youth organizations, county fair activities, electric safety awareness and plant tours

Property Taxes Paid

Property taxes are used to help fund such important things as education and city and county government. You might not be aware of it, but your Cooperative pays property taxes. Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC) receives a tax bill for the poles, wires, transformers, etc. out on the line and another tax bill for the office and warehouse. RVEC pays taxes in nine counties that we serve. 19.10.02

The following is a breakdown of the property taxes paid in 2010.

County	Taxes Paid
Audubon County	\$ 3,147
Buena Vista County	\$ 146
Calhoun County	\$ 626
Carroll County	\$ 42,367
Crawford County	\$ 55
Greene County	\$ 2,747
Guthrie County	\$ 328
Ida County	\$ 79
Sac County	\$ 22,275

Happy Graduation!!

The directors and employees of RVEC would like to congratulate the 2011 graduates. May your future be everything you want it to be!

RVEC WILL BE
CLOSED
MAY 30TH FOR



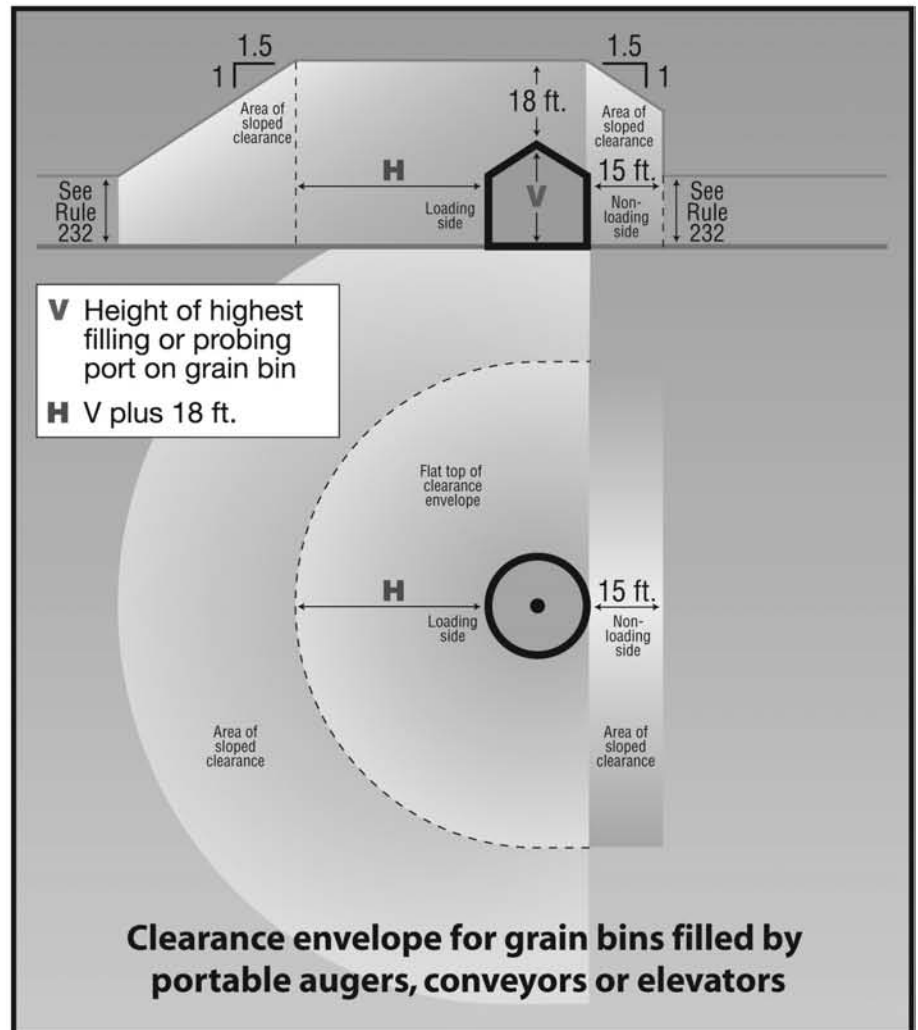
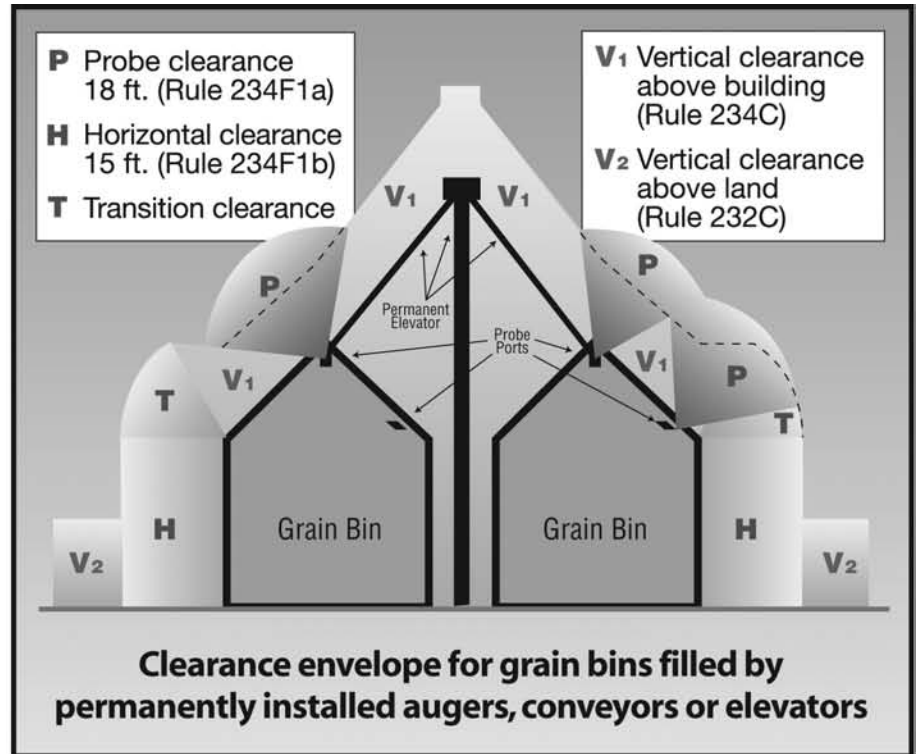
Grain Bin Clearance Notice

When you start to plan for a new grain bin, please contact Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC). RVEC and Corn Belt Power Cooperative will provide assistance in planning for a safe environment for everyone working and living around grain bins. The State of Iowa requires specific clearances for electric lines around grain bins, with different standards for those filled by portable and permanent augers, conveyors and elevators. 3-S-13-E

RVEC and Corn Belt Power Cooperative are required by the Iowa Utilities Board to provide this annual notice to farmers, farm lenders, grain bin merchants, and city and county zoning officials. If you have any questions concerning clearance regulations, please call RVEC.

According to the Iowa Electric Safety Code found in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 199-25.2(3)b. An electric utility may refuse to provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing electric line which does not provide the clearances required by The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) C2-2007 "National Electrical Safety Code," Rule 234f. This paragraph "b" shall apply only to grain bins loaded by portable augers, conveyors or elevators and built after September 9, 1992, or to grain bins loaded by permanently installed augers, conveyors or elevators built after December 24, 1997. (As adopted by the Iowa Utilities Board) 22.29.05

To the right are drawings of the specific clearances required for both scenarios. If you have any questions concerning the drawings, please contact RVEC.



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WATTS CURRENT

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RVEC Honored for Economic Development Leadership

Impacting communities and sustaining economics through local partnerships are at the foundation of Iowa's consumer owned utilities. Iowa Area Development Group (IADG) annually recognizes their electric utility sponsors for outstanding commitment, contribution, and participation in business development projects and local community initiatives.



L to R: Jim Vermeer, Vice President of Business Development for Corn Belt Power Cooperative; LaVerne Greving, RVEC Director; Jim Bagley, RVEC CEO; and Rand Fisher, President of IADG

At Corn Belt Power Cooperative's annual meeting in Fort Dodge, Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC) was recognized for our economic development accomplishments and commitment to our local communities. With the success of these development projects, the rural electric cooperatives and municipal electric systems are making a significant contribution to the quality of life and the economy of Iowa. 11-S-12-H

RVEC has been instrumental and supportive of numerous development projects in north central Iowa for many years. In recognition of their leadership and support RVEC was presented with an Impact Award for community development. RVEC partnered with the Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) and their student builders program to construct two houses in the Glidden High View residential subdivision. One home is already sold and the second house is nearly completed. RVEC worked with Corn Belt Power Cooperative as well as the Homeward program to provide home building skills and improve housing availability in Glidden.

IADG is the marketing and business development office for Iowa's member-owned rural electric cooperatives and select municipal electric utilities. IADG has assisted with over 1,600 successful business expansions and start-up projects. This growth represents capital investment of more than \$5.6 billion and 40,000 jobs for Iowa. The Iowa Area Development Group was established in 1985 to promote and strengthen rural Iowa development opportunities.

Spot Your Number

Read Watts Current and watch for your location number. If you spot it, call RVEC by the 20th of the month and you will receive an electrical bill credit for \$10.00.