



WATTS CURRENT

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative



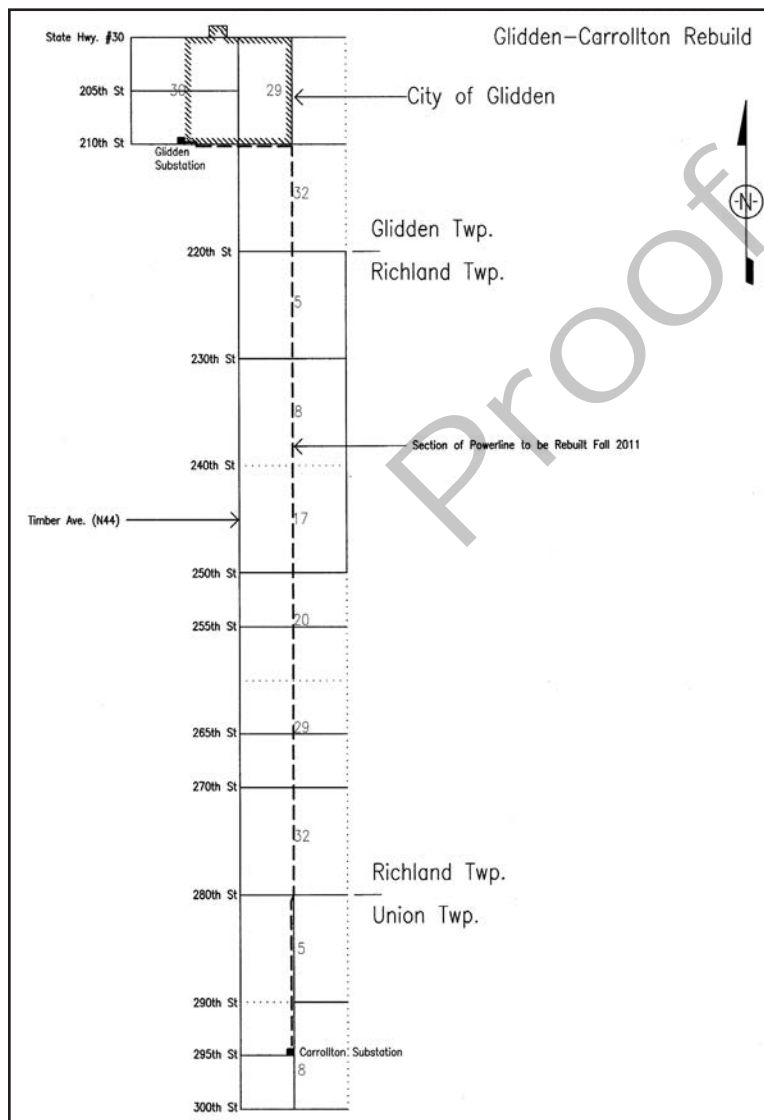
October 2011

Powerline Rebuilding Project Will Increase Reliability

Transmission crews from Corn Belt Power Cooperative, power supplier to Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC), will soon begin work to strengthen a 10-mile section of transmission line that runs south of Glidden.

Due to age, load growth and ice storm damage, the 69-kilovolt transmission line needs to be rebuilt to maintain reliability of power supply to members of RVEC. Corn Belt Power was awarded a \$1.4 million hazard mitigation grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to replace the conductor on the line. 3-S-3-D

Work will begin this fall as soon as the crops are harvested and will take approximately six weeks to two months to complete. Crews will add new poles to shorten the spans where necessary and install heavier conductor as they rebuild the line, making the structure sturdier and increasing the capacity of power the line can transmit.



The powerline to be rebuilt is located mainly in center of sections of farmland, east of Timber Avenue, County Road N44. Its location will require crews to be in the fields to complete the work, although linemen will work from the ditch wherever possible. Should any damage occur to landowners' property due to the reconstruction of the powerline, Corn Belt Power will be in contact with owners after the completion of the project to award any compensation due.

Educational Certificate Awarded

LaVerne Greving was recognized at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Regional Meeting for Regions 5 and 6 in Minneapolis, Minnesota for his dedication to continuous education. Greving completed NRECA's Board Leadership Program, which "offers advanced issue and skill-based courses for directors. 4-S-19-G



Above, LaVerne Greving, RVEC Board President received his award from Glenn English, NRECA CEO.

Co-op Reps ask for Balanced Energy Policy

Close to 30 representatives of Iowa's electric cooperatives traveled to Washington, D.C. to deliver a message: we need a balanced energy policy that protects both the economy and the environment.

Co-op directors and employees met with all five Iowa congressmen and both senators to encourage a cautious approach to implementing numerous new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations. Co-ops asked that the EPA be required to take the cumulative cost of new rules into account during the rulemaking process. Iowa's congressional leaders were urged to support the Coal Residuals Reuse and Management Act, which would allow the continued recycling of coal ash to pave roads and make drywall. Co-ops also asked for approval of the Transparency in Regulatory Analysis of Impacts on the Nation Act, which would calculate the cost of new EPA regulations.

During meetings in their offices, legislators were asked to preserve funding for the Rural Utilities Service, Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program, Power Marketing Administrations and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. These programs help cooperatives continue to deliver affordable, reliable electricity to rural areas, yet have little effect on the federal budget. Additionally, lawmakers were urged to request that the Rural Utilities Service establish guidelines for the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office to follow when making requirements for surveying project areas. 19.24.03

Lastly, Iowa's federal legislators were updated about all of the energy efficiency, renewable energy and economic development efforts that electric co-ops in Iowa put forth to enhance the quality of life for the members they serve.



L to R: Daniel Webster, RVEC COO; Congressman Steve King and Jeff Cranston, RVEC director

Don't Shoot!



Safety and power reliability are top priorities at Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC). Each year, many power providers experience outages caused by people, either intentionally or inadvertently, shooting at important power equipment such as utility poles, line insulators, transformers and transmission towers. Even

worse than the outages, is the potential for bodily injury caused by shooting at live electrical equipment. Not only could the shooting result in injury or even death, it also presents a risk to RVEC's line crews who must repair the damages and to member-consumers who rely on the delivery of safe power for health care needs.

Shooting at power equipment is also vandalism and could result in fines and/or jail sentences. 23.30.05

If you are hunting or target shooting, we ask that you please take caution not to shoot at any utility facilities. Further, if you notice this type of vandalism on Cooperative lines, please contact the office.



Look Up, Look Down, Look Out!

- For a safe harvest, be extra careful and stay alert for hazards.
- Keep an eye out for overhead power lines and electrical equipment on and under the ground.
- Be especially careful with tall equipment such as combines and grain augers.

Iowa's electric cooperatives want you to have a safe and productive harvest!

**RVEC Puts
Safety First!**

Do You have a Stray Voltage Problem?

Electrical supply systems delivering power to farms, homes and businesses are grounded to the earth to make them as safe possible and to ensure reliability. Proper grounding of these electric systems is necessary. When not properly grounded, animals can respond to the voltage differences between two points, a condition commonly referred to as 'stray voltage.'

Stray (extraneous) voltage occurs when electric current finds a pathway out of your electric system into the ground, pipes or other conductive material. Your livestock may exhibit reluctance to enter a barn or other area, nervousness, reduced water or feed intake, low milk production, uneven or incomplete milk out, increased mastitis and/or somatic cell count. You may experience stray voltage as a tingling when showering or touching a faucet.

Potential causes of stray voltage include:

- ◆ faulty, improper or outdated electrical equipment and wiring
- ◆ bad water heater or livestock waterer elements
- ◆ poor grounding conditions 14-S-12-E
- ◆ dirty or damaged electrical boxes and devices
- ◆ unbalanced 120 volt loads
- ◆ under sized neutral conductors
- ◆ poor connections on neutral or ground
- ◆ incorrectly grounded trainers or fences

Less likely sources are heavy loaded power lines, or power loads at neighboring farms. If you suspect stray voltage, immediately contact Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC). Remember – Safety First, Always!!!

RECare

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC) has established RECare, a program of members helping members. RECare provides funds to be distributed by local community action agencies to help pay winter heating bills and to assist in weatherization of homes of low-income consumers.

You may make a one-time contribution or you may make a monthly pledge that will be added to your monthly electric bill. You may also make a contribution part of a matching fund, if there is a matching fund available. Please inform the RVEC as to who will be matching your donation so that the appropriate records may be maintained. Even a dollar a month pledge will help others! 14.14.02

Yes, I want to be part of members helping members and contribute to RECare.

___ I will make a one-time contribution to RECare. My check is enclosed.

___ I will contribute \$ _____ per month to RECare. I understand that this amount will be added to my monthly electric bill.

___ My gift is a matching fund gift. The matching fund is to be matched by:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Account No. _____

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Published monthly by
Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative

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Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC)



Veterans Day
November 11th

will be
CLOSED

for

&



Thanksgiving
November 24th & 25th

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.