



NINNESCAH RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Watts Ahead

Ninnescah Rural Electric Co-op, Inc.

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In Case of an Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, please call 800-828-5538. The office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday–Friday. After hours, calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to our on-call personnel.

Sustaining a Reliable Electric System

We've all heard the phrase, "Don't put all your eggs in one basket." This popular adage is often used in conversation or a story when someone is about to do something foolish or risky. If they heed this advice, it means they did not commit to "one basket," but instead hedged their bets with multiple options.

This strategy is how I describe Ninnescah Electric's common sense approach to the current energy transition. We know that consumer interest in renewable energy continues to grow. We've seen this trend here in Kansas.

Recent innovations and advances in renewable energy technologies have led to sharp decreases in costs, making renewables more feasible, accessible and scalable. Today, 64.4% of our power supplier's fuel mix is comprised of non-greenhouse gas emitting energy. This includes a mix of nuclear, hydro and wind energy.

Nationally, there is increasing reliance on renewable energy sources at the same time that we're seeing fossil fuel plants taken off-line, often ahead of schedule. Additionally, there is more pressure on the electric grid due to the increasing frequency and intensity

of severe weather events and rising electricity demand.

Competing Pressures

So how do we reconcile these challenges of grid pressure and a changing fuel mix? Solar and wind energy are certainly beneficial for the environment, but they are limited resources because the sun does not always shine, and the wind does not always blow. Our primary responsibility is to provide electricity 24/7 to you and our community. To do this, we need reliable sources of power that will meet all the peaks and valleys of on-demand energy in our connected world.

So where are we netting out? That's where our familiar adage comes into play. While utilization of renewables is increasing, we still need to incorporate other forms of energy in the mix to ensure reliable service. Remember, solar and wind are intermittent power sources. This fact coupled with the growing demand for renewables creates its own challenges.

That's why we spread our eggs into multiple baskets. There is great value in maintaining a diverse mix of fuel sources — fossil fuels and renewables work together to ensure reliability

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

This planting season, include energy efficiency in your landscaping plans. Adding shade trees around your home can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 6 degrees. To block heat from the sun, plant deciduous trees around the south side of your home. Deciduous trees provide excellent shade during the summer and lose their leaves in the fall and winter months, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

SOURCE: WWW.ENERGY.GOV



Help Us Locate These Former Members

Below is a listing of members who have retired capital credits owed to them, but for whom we no longer have valid mailing addresses. If you recognize a name on this list, please alert the member (or member's heirs) so they can begin working with the cooperative to claim the capital credits. Please have them contact our office at 620-672-5538 or 800-828-5538.

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| ALARCON RAFAEL | JOHNSON SHAD |
| ARGONNE NATIONAL LAB | JONES STEVE C |
| BALDING HAROLD | KN ENERGY INC |
| BARKER DENNIS SCOTT | LAKE AMY |
| BEAL CAROL | MURPHY ROGER F |
| BENNETT NORMAN | NGC ENERGY RESOURCES |
| BOKOR KEVIN | PERSELL HOLLIE |
| BROWN BLANCHE | PLOUTZ JUSTIN A |
| BULLER ROGER A | POWELL W T |
| BUSENITZ HAROLD | QUERY ALAN |
| BUSTER CAROL K | REH DOUGLAS V |
| CONCEPT COMMERCIALS INC | RHODES RITA |
| DAVIS STEPHEN G | SCHALLER DENNIS |
| DUNLAP LARRY D | SHORE RAYMOND H |
| ERB DEB | SHUCK RICHY |
| GAMMILL TIMOTHY A | SLIEF FORREST A |
| HADLEY NILES A | SMITH LUTHER |
| HALL RICHARD G | SMITH MAX |
| HARKNESS CHAD | SOELLNER BRIAN |
| HARMS GEORGE | STOVER STUART |
| HAWKINS VERNON L | VAN CAMPEN CONNIE |
| HEATH MICHAEL G | WARREN ENERGY RES |
| HENRY JON P | WEBER COREY |
| HOOK AMY | WESTERMAN CAROLYN S |
| HOUSTON ROY | WOLFE MELISSA J |

Welcome New Members

- Georgie Lee Dawson Trust – *Denver*
- Gary L Catlin – *Council Grove*
- Jesus A Lozoya &/or Melani W Hoffman – *Coldwater*
- Donald O Hornbaker Living Trust &/or Glayds A Hornbaker Marital Trust – *Stafford*
- Troy Chadd – *Goddard*
- Gamble Farms LLC – *Greensburg*
- Jerry Clarkson – *Pratt*
- Terry Clarkson – *Pratt*
- Gary D Slief – *Pratt*
- Devin Suiter – *Macksville*



Lineworker Appreciation Day April 10

Electric lineworkers provide an essential service: They install and maintain overhead and underground power lines that keep electricity flowing. These specialized workers are on call 24/7 in case severe storms or other circumstances cause the power to go out.

Lineworkers work with high-voltage electricity, often at great heights, in all kinds of weather conditions. Maintaining the power grid is physically demanding. To become proficient, most lineworkers go through a technical training program and first learn on the job as apprentices under the careful eye of seasoned lineworkers who have earned journeyman status.

Electric power line installers and repairers held approximately 126,600 jobs in 2021, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Nearly half of these employees worked for electric power generation, transmission and distribution utilities.

Safety Comes First

Lineworkers spend numerous hours in safety training each year and must understand and apply crucial safety regulations.

Protective clothing is required to shield lineworkers since they work around high voltages. Collectively, gear components can weigh up to 45 pounds.

According to the U.S. BLS, electric power line installers and repairers typically:

- ▶ Install, maintain or repair the power lines that move electricity.
- ▶ Identify defective devices, voltage regulators, transformers and switches.
- ▶ Inspect and test power lines and auxiliary equipment.
- ▶ String (install) power lines between poles, towers and buildings.



- ▶ Climb poles and transmission towers and use truck-mounted buckets to access equipment.
- ▶ Operate power equipment when installing and repairing poles, towers and lines.
- ▶ Know and implement safety standards and procedures.

When a problem is reported, lineworkers must identify the cause and fix it. This usually involves diagnostic testing using specialized equipment and repair work. To work on poles, they usually use bucket trucks to raise themselves to the top of the structure, although all lineworkers must be adept at climbing poles and towers when necessary. Workers use specialized safety equipment to keep them from falling when climbing utility poles and towers.

Storms and other natural disasters can cause extensive damage to power lines. When power is lost, line repairers must work safely and efficiently to restore service. We salute our lineworkers who work around the clock to keep the power on. Their safety, as well as yours, is our top priority.



Help us celebrate Ninescah's line crews on Lineworker Appreciation Day April 10.



IT'S NOT A SUGGESTION. IT'S THE LAW.

Life is fast paced, but speeding or multitasking in a work zone is not worth losing your life or taking someone else's.

To help save lives and reduce injuries, follow orange sign directives every time you approach a work zone.

2020 Work Zone Statistics*

CRASHES AND INJURIES

102,000 Estimated total crashes

44,000 Estimated injuries

FATALITIES

857 Total fatalities

244 Fatalities involving commercial motor vehicles

PEDESTRIAN FATALITIES IN WORK ZONES

105 Pedestrians (non-workers)

51 Pedestrian workers

Do your part to help everyone return home safely. **THE ORANGE SIGN IS MEANT FOR EVERYONE.**

*MOST RECENT DATA AVAILABLE

SOURCES: NATIONAL WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK (NWZAW.ORG), NATIONAL WORK ZONE SAFETY INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE, AMERICAN TRAFFIC SAFETY SERVICES ASSOCIATION

Work Zone Awareness Week Sheds Light on Safety

National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 17–21, 2023, is a good time to learn more about work zone safety; however, work zone safety should be observed 365 days a year to save lives.

Cars or trucks that speed through a work zone not only endanger workers on the ground but also workers in the air. Driving too fast or too close to a work truck can put elevated workers in danger by causing their raised bucket to move or sway.

Streets and highways are lined with power poles and electrical equipment, and narrow roadways often require crews like ours to place their equipment in or near traffic lanes. Be alert to utility and other work zone crews for their safety and yours. Besides our crews, you might encounter road workers, other utility crews, tree trimmers or first responders working in or on the side of the road.

According to the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse, 774 fatal crashes and 857 deaths occurred in work zone crashes in 2020. Many other work zone crashes result in injuries. In 2020 alone, 102,000 work zone crashes occurred.

Sustaining a Reliable Electric System *Continued from page 12A*

and resiliency and meet the growing demand for electricity.

Reliability also means repairing and replacing utility equipment to prevent wear-and-tear, ensuring our equipment can withstand severe weather. We are laser-focused on providing our Ninnescah Electric members with reliable, affordable energy. That's why fuel diversity — or placing our eggs in multiple baskets — is essential to reliability.

The Bottom Line

Lowering the overall carbon footprint

To Help Keep Roadside Crews Safe:

- ▶ Keep a safe distance between your vehicle and traffic barriers, trucks, construction equipment and workers.
- ▶ Be patient. Traffic delays are sometimes unavoidable, so allow time for unexpected setbacks.
- ▶ Obey all signs and road crew flag instructions.
- ▶ Merge early and be courteous to other drivers.
- ▶ Use your headlights at dusk and during inclement weather.
- ▶ Minimize distractions. Avoid activities such as texting, operating a radio, applying makeup or eating.

As drivers, we know to move over and slow down for emergency vehicles as required by the Kansas Move Over Law. In 2021, a new section was added to the law to include stationary utility vehicles displaying flashing lights. If you are approaching a utility or emergency vehicle, slow down and, if possible, move over a lane to provide more space for safe operations on the side of the road.

Do your part to help everyone return home safely at the end of the day.

in this country means we're going to electrify more and more of our economy. Solar and wind power are an important part of a broader energy portfolio, but they are not available 24/7. In today's ever-connected world, people need power around the clock.

As our nation increasingly depends on electricity to power the economy, Ninnescah Electric is working to anticipate, plan and respond to market trends and policy shifts. That's how we can power your home and our economy, while continuing to serve as your local energy provider.