

P.O. Box 967, Pratt, KS 67124
620-672-5538
www.ninnescah.com



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 620-672-5538. The office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. After hours, calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to our on-call personnel.

Powered by Purpose

In October, electric cooperatives across the country take time to celebrate National Co-op Month and reflect on the unique advantages of being part of a cooperative. It's also the perfect time to thank you — the members who make it all possible. For us, it's not just a celebration. It's a chance to reaffirm the values that guide everything we do.

Unlike investor-owned utilities, our co-op doesn't exist to make profits for distant shareholders. We exist to serve you — our members, our neighbors and our communities. That purpose is what sets us apart. It's why we were founded, and it's what continues to drive every decision we make.

At its core, being a cooperative means we are member-owned and locally controlled. That's not just a tagline; it's the very heart of our business model. Members have a voice in how our co-op operates. You elect board members who live right here in our service area and understand the unique challenges and opportunities our communities face. Decisions aren't made in corporate boardrooms hundreds of miles away; they're made here at home, by people who care about the same things you do.

This local accountability means we can stay focused on what matters most:

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ryan Choate – *Oklahoma City, OK*

Sarah & Donald Gaalswyk – *Greensburg*

Golden Gas Service Co. – *Tulsa, OK*

Dalton Kenworthy – *Pratt*

Nicholas C. Ricke & Megan B. Nelson – *Zenda*

Austin S. Robertson – *Pratt*

S&H Farm Trust – *Zenda*

Wapiti Petroleum LLC – *Dallas, TX*

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delivering reliable, affordable electricity and providing real value to the people we serve.

We do that by investing in essential infrastructure upgrades and technologies that strengthen our local grid and improve electric service. We work hard to manage costs and keep rates as low as possible — because we know how much rising prices affect families and small businesses in our area. And when storms hit or outages occur, Ninnescah Electric crews are here and ready to respond quickly, because we live here too.

We're also planning for the future. As electricity demand grows due to new technologies and economic development, electric co-ops are

working to ensure we continue to meet those needs with a balanced, reliable energy mix. We know our members care about affordability and dependability, and we're committed to delivering both.

That's the power of the cooperative difference. That's what it means to be powered by purpose.

This National Co-op Month, we encourage you to take pride in your cooperative membership. You're not just a customer — you're an owner, a stakeholder, and a vital part of a larger effort to keep our community strong, connected and energized.

Thank you for the trust you place in us. We're proud to be your local electric cooperative.

TRANSFORMER CONNECTIONS

Each month Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative's lineworkers take part in a safety meeting covering a variety of topics from emergency preparedness to personal protective equipment and everything in between. Regular safety meetings keep the safety of all of our employees top of mind, especially as our

lineworkers handle dangerous electricity every single day. In September, Ninnescah's lineworkers reviewed transformer connections, refreshing their knowledge on various electrical connections and troubleshooting equipment, which helps improve overall safety and reliability.



Mutual Aid in the Electric Utility Industry

And why it matters to you

From trimming trees to maintaining equipment to updating the grid — utilities work hard to reduce the likelihood of a power outage. But when severe weather strikes, power outages can disrupt daily life in an instant. That's when a powerful network of cooperation known as mutual aid springs into action — helping communities recover faster.

It's not unusual to see utility trucks from a dozen different states lined up in a parking lot in the aftermath of a major storm. These lineworkers leave their families and travel long distances to help strangers, working in tough conditions to restore power, safety and a sense of normalcy.

For residents, knowing that help is coming — from near and far — can be a source of comfort during difficult moments.

WHAT IS MUTUAL AID?

Mutual aid is a longstanding system of collaboration in which electric utilities help one another during major, multi-day outages to restore power quickly and safely.

Think of it like neighbors helping neighbors, but on a national scale. If a storm knocks out power in your area

and your local crews can't reach everyone fast enough, utility companies from nearby states — or even across the country — may send lineworkers and other utility personnel, trucks and supplies to lend a hand. This support continues until everyone's power is restored.

HOW IT WORKS

Even with year-round preparation, major weather events can still cause widespread outages. That's when mutual aid is activated.

Mutual aid agreements are not spontaneous offers of help. They're part of a well-organized system that allows utilities to quickly request and receive help when disaster strikes, and most often used after:

- ▶ Hurricanes or tropical storms
- ▶ Ice storms or blizzards
- ▶ Tornado outbreaks
- ▶ Wildfires
- ▶ Earthquakes or other large-scale emergencies

When a utility anticipates a major weather event, it can prearrange support. Crews can be staged nearby



ADAM MYERS, TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC

When disaster strikes electric co-op employees jump into action, helping co-ops restore power and rebuild their systems to get members' electricity back on.

and ready to respond as soon as conditions are safe. Once deployed, they help assess damage and replace poles and lines to get the lights back on as quickly and safely as possible.

WHY MUTUAL AID MATTERS

Mutual aid dramatically shortens the time it takes to restore power after a disaster. But mutual aid isn't just about speed — it's a powerful example of compassion, resilience and unity. It ensures that no matter a utility's size or location, customers can count on timely service during critical times, and entire communities can recover more quickly.

THANK YOU, LINWORKERS

Mutual aid works because of the dedication, courage and selflessness of lineworkers nationwide.

We owe a deep debt of gratitude to the crews who answer the call — not just in their own communities, but wherever they are needed.

So the next time the lights go out, remember: You're not alone. There's a powerful team ready to help. In the utility world, mutual aid means everyone is part of the same family.



BLUESTEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

No matter the weather, when storms hit and power is cut off, lineworkers both near and far answer the call for help.

CO-OP MONTH WORD SEARCH

Did you know October is National Co-op Month?

Read the following facts to learn how co-ops are unique, then find and circle the **bolded** words in the puzzle.



B T A M L J S T K S N B M T M
 S R G T A C F V E S I S U J P
 Z Q Z M M V G L K E F U F A J
 Q R F R M N P C W I Z N G K K
 L A E Q B I N P C T N V K T W
 H K V H C X I C B I H Y S I S
 X S O N T C W B L N E F D U F
 P Z I M R E R I W U L H F K I
 C R C Y E X G T H M O B M G B
 P A D O U M D O Z M C J W Y T
 A A T U V Z B X T O A Q J B X
 I F D H F O S E N C L W O J V
 L U P C O O P E R A T I V E F
 F F C N K B S I I S Q D S U Y
 A X S Y X Y B P G G B M D P D

FUN FACTS ABOUT CO-OPS:

- ▶ Co-ops and their members work **TOGETHER** toward a common goal.
- ▶ Co-ops are local organizations, so they understand the **COMMUNITIES** they serve.
- ▶ All co-ops operate according to the same set of seven cooperative **PRINCIPLES**.
- ▶ Concern for community is the seventh **COOPERATIVE** principle.
- ▶ Co-ops don't serve customers; instead, they serve **MEMBERS**.
- ▶ Co-ops are led by the **LOCAL** members they serve.