



P.O. Box 247, 4800 St. Rte. 125
 West Union, OH 45693
 Phone: 937-544-2305
 Toll-free 1-800-283-1846

Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Trustees

Stephen Huff.....President
 Donald C. McCarty Sr....Vice President
 Kenneth McCann.....Secretary
 Blanchard Campbell .M. Dale Grooms
 Charles L. Newman... William Seaman
 William Wylie..... John Wickerham

Personnel

Bill Swango General Manager

Erika Ackley	Dave Kirker
Alice Baird	Chris Koenig
Steve Campbell	Rodney Little
Kacee Cox	Ronald Lynch
Chad Daniels	Dave McChesney
Joan Drummond	Kristina Orr
Joyce Grooms	John Polk
John Hayslip	David Ralston
David Henry	Andrew Seaman
Steve Hoop	Kimberly Smith
Matt Isaac	Gary Tolle
Jared Johnson	Mike Whitley

Pay stations

Failure to receive your electric bill in no way relieves you, the member, from paying it. If you do not receive your bill, contact the office before the due date and we will issue another.

For the convenience of Adams REC members, we have established several ways to pay your bill:

- online at www.adamsrec.com.
- by phone at 1-800-809-6352.
- directly from your bank account.

Pay at these collection points:

The First State Bank
 Georgetown, Hillsboro, Manchester,
 Peebles, Ripley, Seaman, West Union,
 and Winchester

The National Bank of Adams County
 218 N. Market St., West Union

Hidden account number credit

Find your account number in the Adams REC local pages (the four center pages of this magazine), then call our office, and you will receive a \$20 credit on your electric bill. You must call by the end of the month in which your account number appears. Your call affirms permission to publish your name as a winner in an upcoming issue of *Country Living*.

Reliability despite rumors

I'M SURE IF YOU LIVE in our service area, you've probably heard the rumors of closing the J. M. Stuart coal-generating power plant here in Adams County. The Stuart Station has four coal-fired units and produces 2,318 mega-watts of power. Its units were built and came on line between 1969 and 1974.

I have been asked many times what impact shutting down the Stuart Station would have on our cooperative. Adams, while it is a part owner of Buckeye Power and its generating assets, gets power for our cooperative members mainly from the Stuart Station. The Aberdeen Metering Point, the Panhandle, and West Union and Bentonville substations all get their power from the Stuart plant. These delivery points serve about half of our consumer base. But, that being said, there is a very good transmission grid system in Southern Ohio so, as our members, you should not see any change in service availability or reliability.

Now, on to the reasons for closing the plant, if indeed they do. I'm sure that DP&L, the principal owner of the plant, is looking at the basic economics of the situation. The plant has operated for a long time, and, like everything else, is nearing the end of its useful life. It's like owning a car that you drive and drive, then it starts needing repairs. At some point, you decide that you would be better off buying a new car than continuing to throw money into the old one. There is always the possibility that it could get to the point that it breaks down and can't be fixed.

Keep in mind that upgrades,

**General
Manager's
Report**
By Bill Swango



repairs, and modifications to a coal-generating plant cost millions of dollars. Who pays the millions? The consumers — you. 811150001.

The new administration in Washington could help by easing some of the regulations regarding emissions, which would help the plant stay open without the expense of upgrades. That is yet to be seen, though.

The greatest concern for our area is the lost jobs and tax revenues from the plants. The closing would hit Adams County pretty hard. Families face the loss of income, which would also affect our local businesses. Schools and county governments will all be tightening their belts.

Be assured that if the plant does close, Adams Rural Electric will still be delivering reliable electricity to you, our member owners. ☺

Capital credits retirements

Capital credits refunded to the estates of Adams REC members for December 2016 totaled \$10589.30. Estates paid in 2016 to date total \$167,819.52.

In case of the death of a member of Adams Rural Electric, contact Kimberly Smith or Alice Baird at 937-544-2305 or 800-283-1846.

This-n-that

BY ALICE L. BAIRD

Payment options

For your convenience, Adams REC provides several ways to pay your bill. You can pay your bill online, by phone, or directly from your bank account to avoid the hassle of using stamps, envelopes, or driving to the office. You can also pay by mail, in person at the office, in the drop box, or at the National Bank of Adams County and all branches of the First State Bank.

If you are interested in having your payment taken directly from your bank account, fill out the authorization form found in these local pages. Return the form to Adams REC, P.O. Box 247, West Union, OH 45693. Be sure to include a voided check from your bank account and to allow one month to start.

Multiple accounts

When sending in one payment for multiple accounts, please enclose a payment stub for each account. If you pay for several accounts with one check, but send only one account payment stub, the entire payment will go to that one account.

Call before the disconnect date

It seems that economic pressures are felt more keenly during the winter months when budgets seem to be stretched to the limit. If you find yourself facing disconnection of service, please call the office to inquire about payment arrangements or an extension before the disconnect date.

Updating your info is very important

A correct phone number could be the means of

avoiding disconnection of service. We attempt to call each consumer before disconnection. However, we can only use the number that is in the system for you, so if that number is not correct, we have no other recourse.

There is a place on your bill stub to make changes to your address and phone number. Just check the box on the front and make your changes on the back. Then return it to the office. There is a form included in these pages for you to make changes and mail it to the office. You may also call into the office and ask for the customer service department to make your changes. If you call in with your information, please be prepared to confirm your identity. Only the member (the person whose name is on the account) or the member's legal representative (for example, Power of Attorney) can make changes to the account.

A correct mailing address will help to ensure that you receive your bill. A forwarding address, if you move off Adams REC lines, will help to ensure that you receive your final bill, your deposit and/or membership refund checks (if applicable), as well as your capital credits check(s) when the time comes.

Remember that failure to receive your bill in no way relieves you, the member, from paying it. If you do not receive your bill, contact the office billing department and we will issue another.

If you need information concerning the scholarship program or capital credits, or have any other questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at the office by phone at 937-544-2305 or e-mail at aliceb@adamsrec.com. ☎

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



A crackling fire in the hearth warms the house, but don't let it heat up your electric bill! Caulk around the fireplace hearth and keep the damper closed when a fire is not burning.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



AUTHORIZATION FORM-DIRECT PAYMENT ONLY

Please complete and return this form to:
Adams Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 247
West Union, OH 45693

Customer Information
 Name (as shown on bill): _____

Adams REC Account Number : _____

Telephone Number: _____

Service Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Direct Payment Plan

I authorize Adams Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. to instruct my financial institution to make my payments to them from the account listed below. I understand that I control my payments, and if at any time I decide to discontinue this payment service, I will notify Adams Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. in writing.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Financial Institution Name: _____

Type of Account: [] Checking [] Savings

Account Number: _____

Financial Institution Routing/Transit Number:

Please enclose a voided check so that we can record the correct financial information.

Note: Consumer must notify Adams Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc in writing within 60 days to cancel the direct payment plan.

HAS YOUR INFORMATION CHANGED?

Please update your mailing address & phone number.

Member Name: _____

Account Number: _____

New Address: _____

New Phone #: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Mail to: Adams Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.,
 P.O. Box 247, West Union, OH 45693

March



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 4 14th Annual Amish Bird Symposium.** For information, call **937-544-5639**.
- 13 Adams County Historical Society Meeting.** Begins at 7 p.m. For more information, contact **Mary Fulton at 937-587-2043**.
- 18 The Bellamy Brothers will perform at the Red Barn Convention Center.** Dinner is at 5:30 p.m. Concert is at 7 p.m. Contact **1-800-823-9197, ext. 121, or visit www.redbarnconventioncenter.com/upcoming-events**.
- 18 Spring Seed Blessing Peace Summit at Serpent Mound.** Sponsored by Alternate Universe House of Phacops, this festival will coordinate with sacred sites around the world to bless seeds and water, and to promote peace in the new year. Call **937-205-36810**.

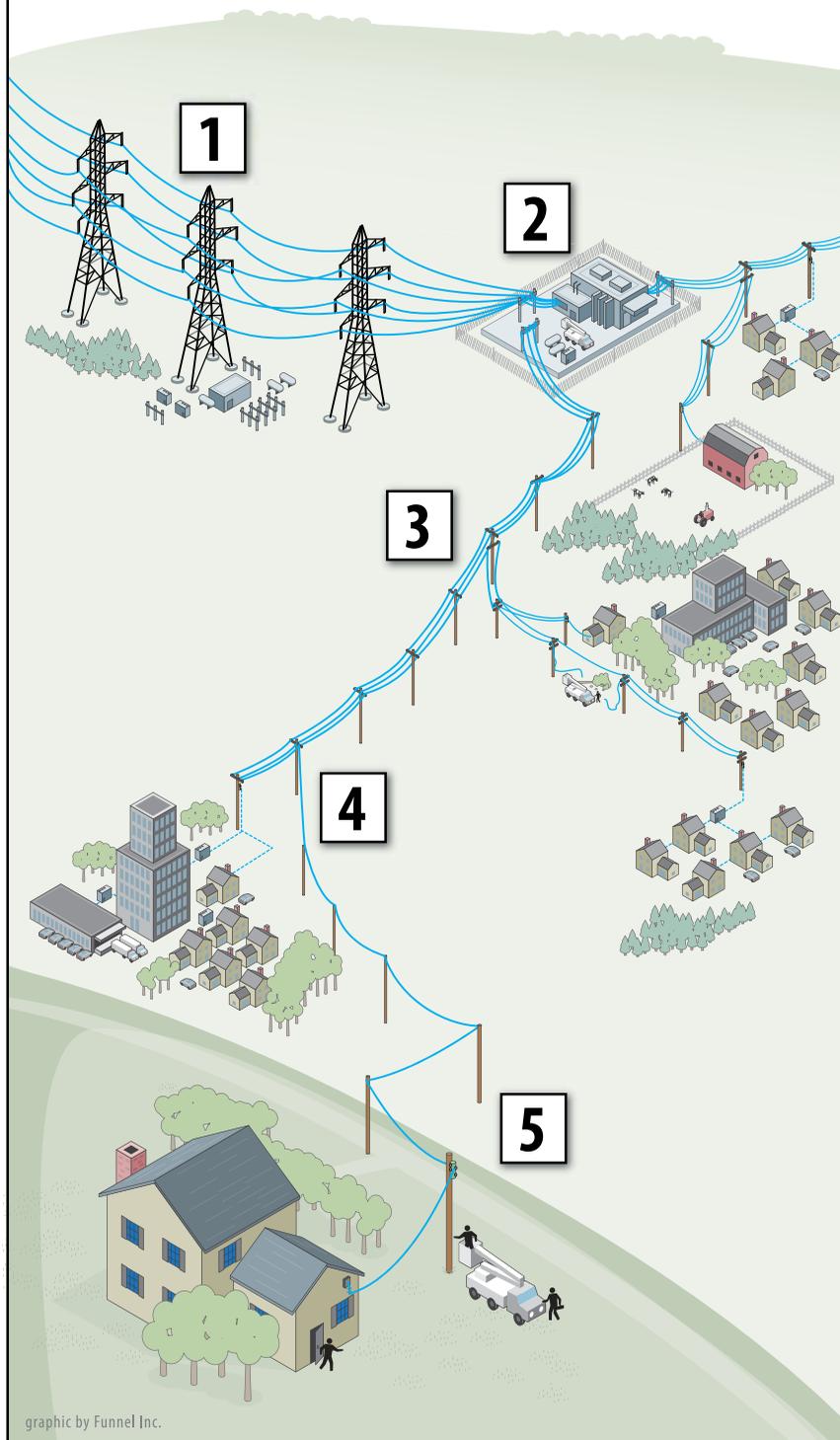
Outage reminder — Please call instead of using Facebook or e-mail

If you experience an outage, please call the office at 937-544-2305 or 1-800-283-1846. If you post on Facebook, or e-mail your outage information, it could prolong the restoration time. *E-mails and Facebook are not continuously monitored, especially in the evenings or on weekends.*

Powering UP

When electricity goes out, most of us expect power will be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm causes widespread damage, longer outages may result. Co-op line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible.

Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark.



1 High-Voltage Transmission Lines

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

2 Distribution Substation

Each substation serves hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself, or if problems exist down the line.

3 Main Distribution Lines

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.

4 Tap Lines

If local outages persist, supply lines, called tap lines, are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools, and homes.

5 Individual Homes

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issues.

graphic by Funnel Inc.