



NINNESCAH RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# Watts Ahead

## Ninnescah Rural Electric Co-op, Inc.

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**Teresa Miller**  
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**Robert Lamatsch**  
Manager of Operations

### 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.

## Rate Study Part 4: Rate Design

The last three months we have examined the different aspects of a rate study being conducted by the cooperative. The revenue requirement aspect of the study examines test year data to project what the cooperative's revenue and expenses will be in the future. The cost-of-service study analyzes how the revenue and expenses identified from the revenue requirement aspect of the study are assigned to the different customer classes. This month, we will examine the rate design aspect of the rate study.

Rate design is the procedure that the board of trustees uses to develop a strategy for recovering the costs to provide electric service to the members. The overall objective of the rate design process is to set fair and equitable rates for each of the customer classes. Previous aspects of the study identified the costs to serve each customer class and what the nature and function of each cost was. These costs were then assigned to the customer class that contributes to the cost. Rate design now seeks to establish rates for service that will recover those costs.

In addition to purely recovering costs through rates, it is at this stage that the board of trustees will examine other factors such as the competitive position of the cooperative in relationship to other energy suppliers, the equitability of rates paid by different classes, and the effect of rate changes on each of the

customer classes. While rate design is an art, the board cannot lose sight of the objective of recovering the cost to provide service in doing so through rates in an equitable fashion. At the conclusion of the rate design aspect of the study, the study will be presented to the board of trustees for review. After the board of trustees has reviewed the

study the board will recommend that notice be provided to the membership of the time and place of the meeting of the board of trustees where the board intends to discuss and vote on any suggested rate changes. This notice will appear in these pages of the magazine and you will be given an opportunity to attend the meeting, ask questions, or hear the discussion of the proposed changes by the board of trustees.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 800-828-5538.



Rate design is the procedure the board of trustees uses to develop a strategy for recovering the costs to provide electric service to the members.

# Welcome New Members

- Nancy C. Murphy – Isabel
- Jeff Fox – Tulsa, OK
- Beth &/or Charles Conaway  
– Medicine Lodge
- Twin M Inc. – Kingman
- Todd Zenger – Wamego
- Sharon Grimes – Pratt
- Rustin Ardery – Pratt
- Jason Ott – Greensburg
- Gary Hook – Hutchinson
- Ryan Lunt – Pratt
- Citizens State Bank – Attica
- David Chacko – Wichita
- Cynthia Ball - Andover

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Use rubber or wool dryer balls, which help separate clothing in the cycle, providing better airflow and a shorter drying time. Wool dryer balls can help reduce drying time by absorbing moisture.



## Happy Father's Day

From our co-op family to yours, Happy Father's Day on June 17

## Offices Closed on July 4

In observance of Independence Day, Ninnescah Electric Cooperative will be closed on Wednesday, July 4.

# We are Prepared for Summer Storms

Summer is here, school is out and families are gearing up for a few months of fun and relaxation. While summer brings much fun in the sun, it can also bring the occasional severe storm. In the event of a power outage, you can trust that Ninnescah Electric is ready to respond.

Most power outages are caused by damage to power lines due to falling trees and branches. We work year-round—through right-of-way clearing—to ensure power lines in our service territory stand little risk of being damaged by trees, branches or other types of vegetation.

Despite our best efforts, major storms can damage transmission stations, substations and power lines. When this happens, our first priority is to safely restore power to as many members as possible in the shortest amount of time.

We start by mobilizing our line crews and other critical staff. Every phone line available is used to take your outage report calls. Outages affecting the most members are handled first—in particular damage to transmission lines. These problems must be corrected before we



When major storms cause outages, Ninnescah works to restore power safely and as quickly as possible.

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can focus on other areas where more localized damage may have occurred.

Ninnescah Electric's line crews inspect substations to determine if the outage starts there or if there could be an issue down the line. If the outage is at the substation, power can be restored to many members.

Next, line crews check the service lines that deliver power and repair any damaged lines, restoring power to more members. If you continue to experience an outage, there may be damage to a tap line outside of your home or business. Make sure you notify Ninnescah Electric so crews can inspect these lines.

We will do our best to avoid power outages, but sometimes Mother Nature has other plans.

## POWER OUTAGE PANTRY

We do our best to avoid power outages, but unfortunately, Mother Nature occasionally has different plans. Stay ahead of the storm by stocking your pantry with a variety of non-perishable items.

Set these items aside for extended outages only, and your storm prep will be a breeze!

- ▶ BEANS
- ▶ DRIED MEATS/JERKY
- ▶ CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
- ▶ GRAHAM CRACKERS
- ▶ CANNED TUNA
- ▶ PASTA
- ▶ CEREAL
- ▶ RICE
- ▶ DRIED FRUITS
- ▶ SPAM
- ▶ OATMEAL



Don't forget to stock up on disposable goods, like paper plates, napkins, plastic cutlery and cups.

# Powering Up After an Outage

When the power goes out, we expect it to be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm or natural disaster causes widespread damage, extended outages may result. Our 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

A substation can serve 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 further 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 (also known as 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 report an outage to help line crews isolate local issue.

# Recipes

from Our  
Members' Kitchens

## Yellow Squash Casserole

- ▶ 2 pounds sliced yellow squash (approximately 6 cups)
- ▶ ¼ cup chopped onion (1 use Bermuda onions)
- ▶ 1 can cream of chicken soup
- ▶ 1 cup sour cream
- ▶ 1 cup chopped or shredded carrots
- ▶ 1 package herb seasoned stuffing mix
- ▶ ½ cup melted unsalted butter

Cook squash and onion in boiling salted water for five minutes; drain well.

Combine soup and sour cream, stir in the carrots. Fold in squash and onion.

Combine the stuffing mix and butter.

Spread half of the stuffing mix in a 7 X 11 pan. Spoon the vegetable mix over the stuffing. Spread remaining stuffing mix on top.

Bake at 350 for 25-30 minutes.

Can use half zucchini instead of all squash or perhaps all zucchini.

*Brenda Head, Byers*

## Frozen Fruit Cups

- ▶ 1-14 ounce bag of frozen chopped strawberries, peaches and bananas

Mix:

- ▶ 6 ounces orange juice
- ▶ 6 ounces lemonade
- ▶ 1 cup of sugar
- ▶ 16-ounce bottle of lemon-lime flavored soda
- ▶ 2 small cans of crushed pineapple

Combine mix ingredients. Add the frozen fruit to mix and spoon into cups and freeze.

*Linda Hoeme, Pratt*

## Sweet Pickle Chunks

- ▶ 1 large jar whole kosher dill pickles
- ▶ ½ cup water
- ▶ ½ cup cider vinegar
- ▶ 1½-2 cups sugar

Drain juice from pickles, cut pickles into chunks and replace in jar. Mix water, vinegar and sugar in a small saucepan and heat until boiling. Stir until all sugar is dissolved. Pour over pickle chunks. Let set in refrigerator 2 to 3 days before eating.

*Brenda Head, Byers*

## Want to share your recipe?

We hope you enjoy the recipes from your neighbors.

Please consider submitting your favorite recipes for all to enjoy. In your submission,

include the following:

- ▶ Your name and contact information;
- ▶ Ninnescah account number; and
- ▶ the recipe (clearly printed or typed).

Send your entry to:

Ninnescah Rural Electric Attn: Recipes  
P.O. Box 967, Pratt, KS 67124  
or email to naschenbrenner@ninnescah.com