



FEATURE ARTICLE

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT EXPLAINED

As you set out to improve your property for the spring, it is important to know about Piedmont Electric's Right-of-Way (R-O-W) reclearing program, and how it may affect your vegetation.

Why is vegetation management important?

Vegetation management, known in the industry as Right-of-Way (R-O-W) maintenance, keeps tree limbs and other obstacles away from high-voltage power lines. A properly cleared and accessible R-O-W helps us provide safer and more reliable power to our members.

SAFETY When it comes to our workers and members, safety is our first priority. Properly maintained trees and limbs keep our crews safe when they are maintaining our systems, and help keep your family out of harms way when gardening or spending time outdoors.

RELIABILITY Most power outages are caused by tree limbs coming into contact with power lines. Keeping the

vegetation cleared back significantly reduces the number of outages. A well-maintained right-of-way also makes it easier for crews to restore power service quickly in the event of a power outage by ensuring that crews do not have to battle vegetation before they can begin repairing damaged lines.

We work hard to keep the area around our lines clear and safe to ensure reliable service, but we need your help too. How can you help your cooperative this spring? Take precaution by not planting trees and other tall vegetation under power lines.

STAY INFORMED While R-O-W is essential to keeping your power safe and reliable throughout the year, it's also important that we clearly communicate R-O-W activity to our members, so they are prepared. Check out page 27, which maps out our R-O-W activity schedule for the next three months to learn how it could potentially affect your area.

APR 11

Piedmont Electric Annual Meeting

Enjoy music, giveaways and cookies at Orange High School in Hillsborough. Vote for your local district representatives. Registration begins at 6pm and business meeting starts at 8pm.

APR 18

Piedmont Electric & ElecTel CCU will be closed for Good Friday.

Operations crews will be on call.



WILL R-O-W ACTIVITY TAKE PLACE IN YOUR AREA?

TURN TO PAGE 27 TO FIND OUT



LED REBATES FOR \$1

We are discontinuing CFL rebates and offering a \$1/LED bulb rebate up to \$15/year. Visit pemc.coop for more info.



SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES

Applications for PEMC's College Scholarships, Rural Electric Youth Tour and Touchstone Energy Basketball Camps are due **March 31, 2014**

Visit www.pemc.coop to apply.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

At Piedmont Electric, our priority is to provide you safe, reliable and affordable electric power. We rely on the cooperation of our members working together to meet these goals.

Piedmont Electric purchases energy from wholesale energy suppliers. The price at which we purchase this energy is calculated based on a number of factors. "Peak days" (days of highest energy use) that usually occur on the hottest days of the year have the largest impact on our costs. You can help us to lower energy on these days by enrolling in one of Piedmont Electric's energy-saving programs such as Load Control and "Beat the Peak."

Piedmont also offers a number of programs and services to help you make informed energy use decisions. MyUsage.com allows you to see how much electricity you use each day as you use it. Low interest loans, energy and HVAC audits and high-efficiency equipment rebates are all available to you. Piedmont Electric's website contains a number of calculators to help



R.G. Brecheisen
President & CEO of Piedmont Electric

We strive to provide safe, reliable and affordable power.

with energy equipment decisions and energy-saving tips.

While keeping electricity affordable is one of Piedmont Electric's primary goals, the safety of our workers and members is of paramount importance. A properly maintained Right-of-Way (the trimming of tree branches and other vegetation around power lines) ensures member safety and service reliability. Piedmont Electric takes our Right-of-Way maintenance very seriously, and has instituted a three-year Right-of-Way program to minimize outages and provide safe access for repair crews. This means that you'll see the tree crews trimming and mowing the vegetation in your area

once every three years. To learn more about how Right-of-Way maintenance ensures safety and reliability, be sure to read this month's feature article on page 25.

Remember, we are all working toward the same goal: to keep electricity safe, reliable and affordable. Using energy wisely and safely is the job of every electric co-op member. And when we work together, our combined strength is more than enough to accomplish these goals.

CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CARD DISCOUNTS



PTA THRIFT
Chapel Hill
\$5 OFF PURCHASE OF \$20 OR MORE.

SAVE \$25

JACKSON HEWITT TAX SERVICE
Carrboro
\$25 OFF FEDERAL INCOME TAX PREPARATION.

SAVE 20%

MARY KAY
Hillsborough
20% OFF INITIAL SKIN CARE PURCHASE AND COLOR CONSULTATION.

SAVE 10%

FOX'S SUZUKI/ KAWASAKI INC.
Roxboro
10% OFF MOTORCYCLE HELMETS AND RIDING JACKETS.



Piedmont Electric Members have saved a total of **\$18,069** in Rx purchases since the program launch in October 2012!

Visit Piedmont Electric's website, www.pemc.coop, and click on the Co-op Connections® Card for discount details and a complete list of participating local businesses, national businesses, dentists, chiropractors, vision care and pharmacies. Don't see your favorite business here? Tell them to contact us at 800.222.3107 or pemcinfo@pemc.coop, subject "Co-op Connections," to become a part of this exciting new member program!

MARCH/APRIL/MAY OVERVIEW RIGHT-OF-WAY ACTIVITY

March

PERSON COUNTY

- Bowmantown Road
- Buck Street Road
- Fontaine Road
- Olive Branch Road
- Dirgie Mine Road
- Lawson Chapel Church Road
- St. Paul Church Road
- Lawson Adcock Road
- Jim Poole Road
- Virgilina Road
- Melton Road
- Gillis Road
- Gabriel Jones Road
- Captains Drive
- Tom Webb Road
- Street Store Road
- Mill Creek Road

April

PERSON COUNTY

- Halifax Road
- Allie Clay Road
- Haywood Bailey Road
- Allen's Chapel Church Road
- Royster-Clay Road
- Woodsdale Road
- Edwin Robertson Road
- Johnnie Jones Road
- Surl-Mount Tirzah Road
- Victor Chandler Road

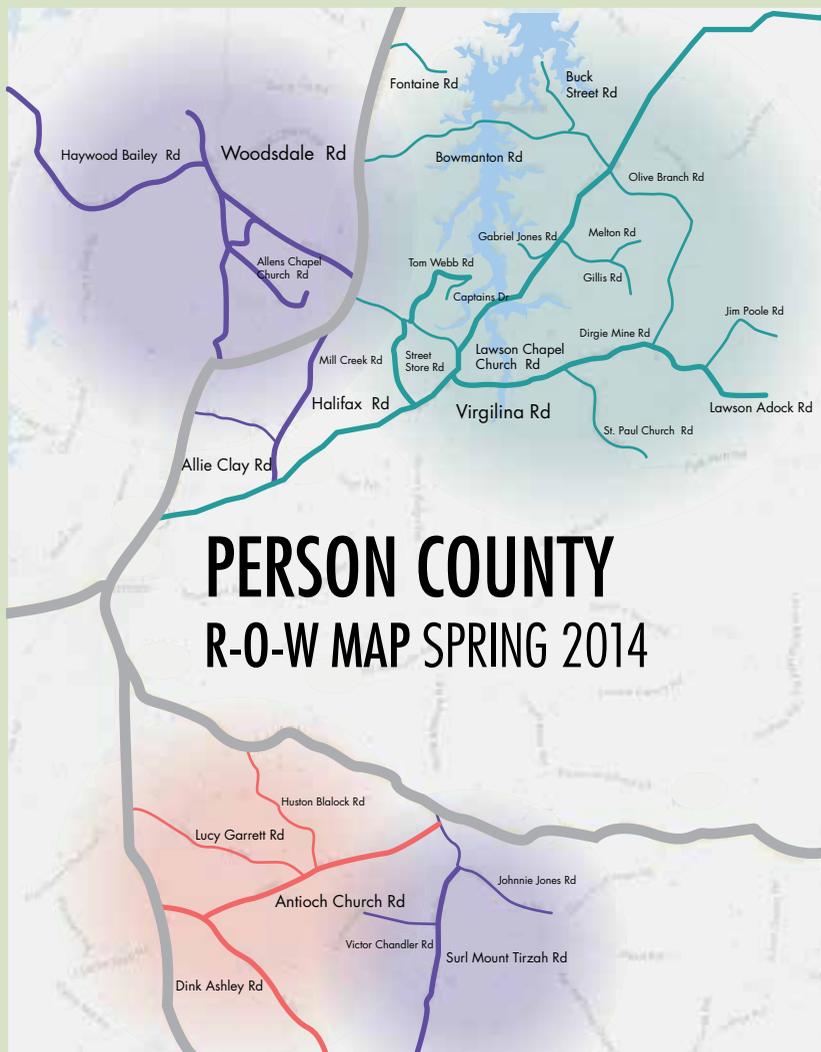
May

PERSON COUNTY

- Antioch Church Road
- Houston Blalock Road
- Lucy Garrett Road
- Kermit Duncan Road
- Dink Ashley Road

(and surrounding areas)

Locations are SUBJECT TO CHANGE due to weather and other uncontrollable circumstances.



PERSON COUNTY R-O-W MAP SPRING 2014

● March ● April ● May

NEW CALCULATORS, BIG SAVINGS



Now you can calculate a space heater's cost with a click of a mouse! Our new Space Heater Calculator will help you to understand the added operating cost and additional safety precautions when using your electric space heater.

In an effort to help our members save both energy and money, Piedmont Electric is introducing three new calculators on pemc.coop.

Lighting Calculator

Not sure about making the switch from incandescent bulbs to CFLs? Then the new CFL calculator is for you! Simply enter the number of incandescent bulbs you use now and their wattage, estimate the number of bulbs you would be willing to switch for CFLs and hit calculate! You may be surprised to see what you could save!

Space Heater Calculator

It is important to stay warm in the winter, and space heaters are a popular

method of keeping your house comfortable. However, they do not come without costs. With our new space heater calculator, all you have to do is enter the number of space heaters you plan to use and estimate the hours per day you plan to use them, then click a button to see what that new space heater could cost you!

Rate Calculator

With our easy-to-use Rate Calculator, you can compare and explore all the different rate structures available.

You can explore these new calculators at pemc.coop/save-energy-money.



PIEDMONT ELECTRIC AWARDS \$1.2 MILLION LOAN TO CITY OF MEBANE

The fire department of Mebane, North Carolina will soon be better prepared for emergencies with the help of Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation. Piedmont Electric awarded the city a \$1,268,000 zero interest loan that will be used to purchase two fire trucks, as well as other equipment, for a new fire station.

The funds come as part of the USDA's Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program, which provides zero interest loans and grants to local cooperatives. The cooperatives, in turn, lend money to local businesses for projects that help create jobs in rural areas.

The fire station project will create 12 new jobs in the area, while also reducing

response times during emergency calls. Currently, firefighters have to cross a set of train tracks for 66% of fire calls and requests for emergency medical services. The new station will be constructed across town in the Mebane-Oaks area south of I-85, greatly reducing the train track crossing instances and improving emergency response times for the south side of the city.

Mebane will spend over 2 million dollars on the physical construction of a new fire station. Piedmont Electric's loan will go exclusively toward trucks and equipment.

A portion of the funds loan amount repaid by the city will be re-loaned to assist with future projects in the Piedmont Electric service area.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR BILL



Piedmont Electric wants to help our members have a better understanding of their electric bill each month. That's why we developed the **Analyze My Bill Calculator**. Using this tool, our members are able to get answers to any questions about their bill in under 10 minutes.

How does it work?

Start by visiting pemc.coop/save-energy-money. Click "Calculators and Apps". Find "Analyze My Bill" and enter your account number. Using data from your actual bill, this tool offers recommendations that can help reduce your energy consumption and lower your bill! If you can't find your account number, just give us a call at 800.222.3107.

For even more information about factors affecting your bill, we have several other tools including Home Energy, Heating, Electric Vehicle and Appliance Calculators available online.

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

Published monthly for the members of Piedmont Electric Membership Corp.

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800.222.3107

IF YOUR POWER GOES OUT, CALL US...

800.449.2667

Our automated outage reporting system uses your phone number to determine your service location. That's why it's important to update the number connected to your account. If your number has changed, or if you no longer have a land line, let us know by completing the form that comes in your monthly billing statement or calling 800.222.3107.

To report an outage 24 hours a day
800.449.2667*

To pay account and access account
information by phone 24 hours a day
877.999.3394*

*Voice instructions will direct you through the system.

Call 811 BEFORE you dig

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative