



Piedmont Electric CONNECTION

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



Hillsborough, N.C.

www.pemc.org

May 2010

'Smart' Grid Meter Security



A recent news report has questioned the security of "smart" meter technology.

Piedmont Electric's smart meters use power line carrier communications to transmit energy use information from our consumers to our billing system.

Power line carrier communication is more secure than other communications systems such as radio frequency and cell phone communication schemes.

Meter information and commands are specific to meters or groups of meters and are unable to be decoded by any commercially available equipment.

In fact, the security of the power line carrier system is deemed so effective that many military installations specify power line carrier systems for advanced metering and distribution system communications because of the inability of hackers or intruders to detect, decode and corrupt system data.

Your smart meter is both protected by a firewall and password protected to allow access to metering systems only by qualified personnel.

REVISED RATE RIDERS EFFECTIVE MAY 1

To comply with legislation from the N.C. Legislature, Piedmont Electric is working to meet the mandates of the Renewable and Energy Efficiency Standards (Senate Bill 3).

These standards require that at least 10% of the energy we use must be from renewable sources or energy efficiency by 2018.

The N. C. Utilities Commission has developed rules for implementing these mandated programs.

Included in these rules are the methods utilities are to use to recover the cost of renewable power that exceeds what we would normally pay for wholesale electric power and the cost of efficiency programs.

The N.C. Renewable Energy

Rider and N.C. Energy Efficiency Rider line items on your bill are in response to this mandate and rules.

These lines replace the N.C. Renewable Energy and Efficiency Rider added last year. That rider combined both energy efficiency

and renewable energy programs into one monthly charge and was adequate for the first year, but the rules have evolved since then.

The following

N.C. Renewable Energy Rider charges have been approved by your Piedmont EMC Board of Directors effective May 1, 2010, and will be in effect for 12 months.

- Residential \$ 0.41/monthly
- Commercial \$ 2.04/monthly
- Industrial \$20.44/monthly

(Continued on page 23)

The Renewable Energy Rider and Energy Efficiency Rider line items on your bill are in response to NC Senate Bill 3.



Members who completed the "Our Energy, Our Future" cards to send to their elected representatives were entered in a drawing for an electric roaster. The winners include (L-R) Sandra Lemons of Efland, Donald Spencer, Roxboro, and Solow Williams, Mebane. The Cooperative gathered 148 new signatures.



From Your President...

Safety is a Priority at Your Cooperative

R. G. Brecheisen
Chief Executive Officer & President

May marks National Safety Month across the country, and while this observance only comes once a year, Piedmont Electric emphasizes safety each and every day.

We realize electricity is a powerful tool—and, we know we must respect that power.

Our line personnel are extensively trained in working safely with the power lines. They also receive first aid and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification as well as pole top rescue training which can be used in the event of an emergency.

Piedmont Electric is also concerned with the safety of consumers around power lines.

Inclement weather can cause

power lines to snap, especially in windy or icy conditions.

Stay away from downed power lines. All power lines are to be considered dangerous.

Please notify the Cooperative immediately, and if possible, stay in the vicinity to warn others of the potential danger until we can get to the location. Never touch a power line.

With the weather turning warmer, children will be spending more time outside, flying kites or other toys and climbing trees.

Please ask them to make sure there are no overhead power lines in their play area. That includes checking to see that power lines are not near the trees they want to climb.

Adults also need to be aware of potential hazards around electricity.

If you plan to dig near power lines, there is a toll-free number you can call to have someone locate underground power lines.

North Carolina One-Call Center can pinpoint where the Cooperative's underground lines are buried. The toll-free number to call is 1.800.632.4949 or 811.

You should contact the One-Call Center at least 48 hours before you plan to start digging.

We hope members will help us maintain safe working conditions for our employees.

Our poles are built for the express purpose of being power line carriers. When they are used for hanging basketball goals and signs, an unsafe situation is created.

We ask your cooperation in keeping the power line poles free of nails, staples and other such things.

Working together—with respect for this powerful force—will help each of us remain safe around electricity.

...

It was good to see so many of you turn out for this year's Annual Meeting of the Members.

Because of an early printing deadline, a recap of the event will be in next month's newsletter.



Member Speak-Out

Do you have a question or comment about Piedmont EMC? If so, we want to hear from you. Questions about specific accounts will be answered personally instead of appearing in the newsletter.

Because of space limitations, Piedmont EMC reserves the right to publish any comments and to edit comments at its discretion.

Send your comments and questions to: Todd Pope, "Member Speak-Out," Piedmont EMC, P.O. Drawer 1179, Hillsborough, NC 27278-1179. You may also include it with your monthly payment, or send an email to: todd.pope@pemc.org.



Piedmont Electric & ElecTel CCU will be closed Monday, May 31, in observance of Memorial Day. Employees will be on call. Please have a safe holiday!

By the Numbers...

- 1,010 members have signed up for the use monitoring portion of www.MyUsage.com
- 338 members are participating in the Pre-Pay Program
- 325 members have turned in receipts for 3,309 CFLs, representing a total of 1,134,987 kWhs saved toward our Senate Bill 3 Mandate
- 1,812 people have sent cards for "Our Energy, Our Future," and 7,283 people have sent emails—all of which are being forwarded to the elected officials in Piedmont's service area
- 18 solar water heater rebates given to members
- 442 electric water heater wraps sold

It's Tune-Up Time for Air Conditioners!

We've already experienced hot temperatures this year, and all indications point to the probability that it's going to get a lot warmer before it gets cooler again.

Air conditioners use a lot of electricity, consuming the most in a summertime heat wave.

Without regular service to your air conditioner, its efficiency can fall by as much as half, especially when it works overtime in the summer heat.

Proper maintenance and repairs on your air conditioner will save you money and can extend your cooling system's life for roughly 15 years.

Air conditioners are complicated and require specialized tools to service them. It is best to hire an air-conditioning technician.

An annual tune-up of your air conditioner averages approximately \$50 to \$100, but can reduce your cooling costs by 5% or more.

Here are some maintenance tips that should be performed by a professional:

- Inspect the ductwork for loose joints and other leaks. Air leaks waste energy and should be sealed with duct mastic, not duct tape.

- Check hose connections for leaks, and make sure the condensation tube is draining freely.

- Clean the blower so that it can move air more efficiently.

- Oil the motors, and check the belts for tightness and wear.

- Verify the airflow by measurement. Improper airflow can affect efficiency.

- Clean the indoor evaporator and outdoor condenser coil. If it doesn't have an access panel, have one installed.

- Check the refrigerant charge and adjust if needed. Remember the law requires refrigerant to be recaptured when units are recharged.

- Straighten any bent fins on the condenser and evaporator coils.

- Inspect the electric terminals.

- Make sure to clean and tighten the connections.

- Inspect the thermostat to ensure it provides a reliable reading.

- Install a programmable thermostat to adjust your home's temperature automatically. It will increase the temperature setting while you're gone and then returns the home to a more comfortable setting before you return.



REVISED RATE RIDERS

(Continued from page 21)

All costs for energy efficiency programs associated with the N.C. state mandate will be collected through an energy charge labeled "N.C. Energy Efficiency Rider."

The following *Energy Efficiency Rider* charges have been approved by your Piedmont Electric Board of Directors effective May 1, 2010, and will be in effect for 12 months:

- Residential: 0.1361¢/kWh
- Commercial/Industrial: 0.1174¢/kWh

The N.C. *Energy Efficiency Rider* includes costs associated with our energy efficiency programs and rebates.

These programs include our electric water heater wraps, CFL rebates, Energy Star heat pump rebates, *MyUsage.com* energy monitoring, *togetherwesave.com* program costs, brochures, cooperative communications and administrative cost.

These energy efficiency programs are designed to help you lower your energy use which will lower your electric bill.

For a residential consumer using 1,000 kWhs per month the energy efficiency charge would be \$1.36.

To learn more about ways to save energy visit *togetherwesave.com*, or call your Piedmont Electric to schedule a free energy audit.



*Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month*

During summer months when air conditioners work hardest, do energy-intensive tasks such as laundry and dish washing during off-peak energy demand hours, usually in the early morning or later evening.

Source: Alliance to Save Energy



Easy-to-use online services • Savings • CDs and IRAs
Free checking (no minimum balance) • Money market accounts
Visa credit and free debit card • Christmas clubs
Free online banking, bill pay and e-statements • Visa gift cards
New and pre-owned auto loans • Secured and unsecured loans
2nd mortgage loans • Car buying service • Financial fitness program
Your savings federally insured up to at least \$250,000

We've been serving the employees of Piedmont EMC for many years, now it's time to serve you, the consumers. Join now at www.electelccu.org. It's easy and you'll be glad you did. We look forward to helping you meet your financial needs.


COOPERATIVE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
YOUR CO-OP, YOUR CREDIT UNION

www.electelccu.org/800-849-5600

NCUA
Federally insured by NCUA

Piedmont Electric
Membership Corporation

Pass It On...

This month's recipe for "Quick Blueberry Pancakes" comes from Gertrude Wilson of Roxboro.



If you have a favorite recipe you want to share with other Piedmont Electric members, please send it to: Pass It On, c/o Piedmont Connection, P.O. Drawer 1179, Hillsborough, NC 27278, or you may include it with your monthly payment.

If it is printed in the newsletter, you will receive a copy of the Cooperative Council of North Carolina's *Sensational Sweets* cookbook.

Please remember to check all ingredients and instructions carefully.

Quick Blueberry Pancakes

- 1 package blueberry-flavored instant oatmeal
- 2/3 cup self-rising flour
- 1 egg
- Pinch baking soda
- 1/2 cup buttermilk
- 1 tablespoon canola oil for pan

Mix all ingredients together except canola oil, which is heated on griddle or frying pan.

Let mixture set for 10 minutes before pouring into three medium-sized pancakes to cook.



MAY RIGHT-OF-WAY MAINTENANCE

Durham County

- Orange Factory Road
- Stagville Road
- Wiley Mangum Road
- Old Oxford Road
- Snowhill Road
- Bellingham Estates Subdivision
- (and surrounding areas)

Caulking Is a 'Do-It-Yourself' Job

Caulking is an easy, inexpensive way to seal drafts around your home.

In addition to keeping your house more comfortable, caulking can pay for itself through energy savings in only one year.

And, here's the best part—it's a do-it-yourself job!

Most caulking compounds come in disposable cartridges that fit in half-barrel caulking guns.

Look for a caulking gun with an automatic release for the smoothest application.

Caulk forms a flexible seal and works best for cracks and gaps less than a quarter-inch wide.

To make your first caulking job a breeze, follow these application tips:

- Before applying the new caulk,

remove the old caulk and paint from the area using a putty knife. Clean and dry the area to avoid sealing in moisture.



- Hold the gun at a consistent 45-degree angle along the crack. This angle will help force the caulk immediately into the crack as it is applied.

- Caulk in one straight, continuous line. Avoid starts and stops.

- Release the trigger before pulling the gun away to avoid excess caulk. An automatic release will help avoid this problem.

- Make sure the caulk sticks to both sides of the crack. If it oozes out, push it back in with a putty knife.

- If the caulk shrinks, reapply it to seal the crack completely.



Piedmont Electric CONNECTION

Published monthly for the members of Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation, 2500 N.C. Highway 86 South, P.O. Drawer 1179, Hillsborough, N.C. 27278

R. G. Brecheisen, President & CEO

DIRECTORS:

- Richard C. Roberts**, Chairman
- C. Franklin Murphy**, Vice Chairman
- J. Douglas Simmons**, Secretary
- H. James Kinley**, Treasurer
- Paul L. Bailey**, **Bill R. Barber**, **David Poythress**, **Richal Vanhook**, **Sam T. Woods**, **Talmadge W. Yancey**

Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday—Friday

Hillsborough: **919.732.2123** • Caswell County: **336.421.1296**

Roxboro: **336.599.0151** • Elsewhere in North Carolina: **800.222.3107**

To report an outage 24 hours a day: **800.449.2667***

To access account information 24 hours a day: **800.548.2105***

*Voice instructions will direct you through the system.

Call BEFORE You Dig: **800.632.4949** or **811**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Cathy J. Johnson, CCC, Editor