

NORTH PLAINS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

P.O. Box 1008 • Perryton, TX 79070 • Phone (806) 435-5482

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

by Randy Mahannah



As I mentioned in last month's *Texas Co-op Power* article, the board of directors has been in the process of evaluating the existing line extension policy. This evaluation continued during the August board meeting, and a tariff change was unanimously approved that expanded the overhead line construction furnished by North Plains Electric. It is an addition to Tariff Section 305.1, Line Extension, General Policy, and becomes effective January 1, 2006.

The addition states, "As a general provision, excluding single-phase loads requiring less than ten (10) kVA of capacity and three-phase loads requiring less than thirty (30) kVA of capacity determined by Cooperative engineering personnel, the Cooperative shall furnish \$2.00 per foot for single-phase or \$3.00 per foot for three-phase construction of primary overhead distribution line directly along U.S. or state highways, existing county roads, city streets or alleys within the Cooperative service territory. All remaining line extension including single-phase to three-phase conversion shall be based on the following policies for each classification. Construction costs shall be based on the Cooperative's latest available adjusted unit cost."

If this policy change promotes growth, all members could benefit from the addition of new services and kWh sales. There is available capacity at each of our substations and on most feeders, so additional load would improve efficiency. Line extensions along highways, county roads or streets, and alleys create the possibility of serving members farther down the road.

Small loads are the exceptions. The single-phase restriction excludes loads such as barns, stock wells, fence chargers and rectifiers. These types of loads do

not create revenue that warrants this substantial investment by the co-op. The extension would simply never pay for itself. Three-phase examples that will not qualify include irrigation or pump jack motors smaller than 30 horsepower, center pivot irrigation sprinklers, or small commercial loads requiring only small three-phase services. Single-phase overhead (OH) line costs over \$21,000 per mile, and three-phase OH line is more than \$31,000 per mile, so we have to be prudent and logical when building line. When the cooperative furnishes new line, all members ultimately pay for the extensions through rates. If there is a question about determining eligibility, NPEC engineering personnel will make the final decision using anticipated load analysis.

The new provision is in addition to each specific line extension policy detailed in Section III of the tariff. New primary line for homes still have no charge up to \$5,000 of actual cost if it serves a member's primary residence. Commercial, industrial, irrigation and other services above 15 kVA will have no charge for the first \$3,300 of actual cost incurred for new extensions. No changes have been made to these extensions. Our entire tariff for electric service is available for review in our office or at www.npec.org.

Electric energy continues to be the most practical energy source and most affordable, especially if oil and natural gas demand continues at the current level. The board of directors and employees anticipate this policy action will create additional growth throughout the system and expect it to have a positive impact for all members. If you have questions about the policy, do not hesitate to contact us. We are always available to discuss your needs.

NPEC DISTRICT MANAGER PENS POEM FOR FALLEN PERRYTON MARINE

In an annual ceremony honoring veterans, NPEC's Marc Padgett wrote and presented this poem to the parents of Seth Houston, a Marine from Perryton who was killed in action in Iraq. Padgett, who serves North Plains EC as Canadian district manager, is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks (BPOE), and a district deputy for the Pan-West district of the National BPOE.



LOOK AT ME

Hey, Mom, hey, Dad, here I am. I'm your little boy.
You gave me life, you know, your pride and joy.

JUST LOOK AT ME.

Here I am growing so big and strong like a big oak tree.
Guess what? I'm already three.

JUST LOOK AT ME.

I'm listening and learning the lessons you teach me.
Thanks, Mom, thanks, Dad, for protecting me.

JUST LOOK AT ME.

I promise to grow up to be a great man of honor and
courage for you to see.

That's what I'm going to be.

JUST LOOK AT ME.

Hey, Mom, hey, Dad, guess what?

I've grown to be a man of six-foot-three.

JUST LOOK AT ME.

The world and the oceans will now bow to me.

I'm invincible; you know that to be.

JUST LOOK AT ME.

Uncle Sam's life is a great way to see;

A soldier's life is the one for me.

JUST LOOK AT ME.

The uniform of our country is the way I'll be dressed.
Hey, Mom, hey, Dad, I told you that you would be
impressed.

JUST LOOK AT ME.

I'm around the world so far away; it's quite different you see.

Hey, Mom, hey, Dad, here's a super photo of me.

JUST LOOK AT ME.

Hey, Mom, hey, Dad, I'm over here

And I'm just a little afraid of what I hold so dear.

JUST LOOK AT ME.

Hey, Mom, hey, Dad, I want to be home away from all this.

Mom, Dad, I just want from you a hug and a kiss.

JUST LOOK AT ME.

Hey, Mom, hey, Dad, I'm coming home alone, you see,
And I don't think that you'll be really very proud of me.

PLEASE DON'T LOOK AT ME.

The American flag that is given to you for all to see.

I hope you're not still mad at me;

Please, just remember me.

JUST LOOK AT ME.

Hey, Mom, hey, Dad, don't worry about me.

You know heaven is where I'll be,

Hand in hand with Jesus to protect me.

GET YOUR HOME READY FOR WINTER

The temperature has barely begun to cool, but it's time to prepare your home for winter.

- Use weatherstripping to plug gaps between the moving parts of your home's windows, walls, floors and doors so they are leak-free. Seal leaks in non-moving parts with caulk.

- Lower heating bills by up to 30 percent by installing insulation with a high R-value. Begin upgrading insulation in the attic, and then

move to outside walls, basement crawl spaces, floors and walls.

- Take advantage of sunlight as a natural heater. During the day, lift drapes to let warm sunshine heat rooms. Close them after dark to keep the heat indoors. Hanging heavier drapes during the winter can give a room a facelift and allow the window coverings to conserve more heat.

- Set programmable thermostats

to turn the heat down when nobody's home. Program them to crank it back up just before your family is due to arrive home.

- If you use a wood-burning fireplace, have the chimney and flue cleaned every fall. Turn the thermostat down when a fire is burning in the hearth. And consider converting your energy-wasting wood fireplace to a more efficient one with an electric insert.