

# Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc.



*Glenn W. Miller  
President/CEO*

## *Your electric rates*

A question I often hear is, "Why does it seem like my electric bill keeps going up?" That's a good question, and I have an answer.

As an electric cooperative, we have a responsibility to our members to provide safe and reliable electricity and to do so at the fairest price we can.

Much like Holmes-Wayne Electric is owned by its members, we are one of 25 co-ops that own Buckeye Power, Inc., a generation cooperative that supplies wholesale electricity to every cooperative member in Ohio.

Currently, 64 percent of your electric bill is for just the generation and transmission of electricity.

Buckeye Power has just completed a major investment cycle to ensure that electricity is there for its members for many years to come.

The bulk of this investment has entailed spending approximately \$1 billion at the Cardinal Station, the coal-fired power plant that has been providing electricity to cooperative members since 1968. The majority of that investment has been to satisfy environmental regulations.

In 2003, selective catalytic reduction (SCR) devices were installed to remove nitrogen oxide from the flue gas. Earlier this year, work was com-

pleted on the flue gas desulfurization (FGD) project. Commonly referred to as "scrubbers," the FGD systems remove sulfur dioxide from the flue gas. An added bonus of using the SCR and FGD systems in tandem is that nearly all of the mercury is removed as well.

With this work completed, Cardinal Station boasts some of the cleanest coal-burning units in existence.

Along with the environmental compliance work, Buckeye Power also has procured additional sources of generation.

To pay for these investments, Buckeye Power decided to gradually increase the rate of wholesale electricity over the last few years instead of going with one big increase. The good news is the rate increases needed to pay for these investments are coming to an end and wholesale rates are expected to remain fairly steady for years to come. However, please recognize that further regulations and market fluctuations of coal prices would be factors to create a rate increase in the future.

Buckeye Power went through a similar investment cycle in the late 1970s when Unit 3 at the Cardinal Station was built. At that time, co-op saw a series of wholesale rate increases similar to what we have experienced in the past few years.

**(Continued on page 21)**

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**24 Hour Toll-free Phone:**

**866-674-1055 or 888-264-2694**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
The power of human connections®

# *WE STILL HAVE HEROES:* They are called ‘linemen’

Electricity is taken for granted, day in and day out. We have come to expect the power to be there when the switch is flipped.

This summer millions in multiple states have been effected by multiple storms. Including the Friday, June 29, raging front of thunderstorms that left more than three million Americans in the mid-west and eastern United States without power. This included one million across the Buckeye State.

This meteorological event, called the ‘derecho’ front (the word means “direct” or “straight ahead” in Spanish), is distinctive for winds between 58 and 90 mph across a wide area.

With no air conditioning, lights, refrigeration, television, phones or Internet, suddenly you are reminded that modern Americans depend on utilities and their cadre of workers.

Holmes-Wayne Electric was fortunate to have been touched by this storm only in the southern service territory. Three substations, Killbuck, Stillwell and Sugarcreek, were without power and crews worked diligently to clear HWEC distribution lines as AEP worked to repair transmission line outages to our substations. Power to the 2,800 impacted HWEC members was restored by Sunday, July 1, at noon.

Holmes-Wayne lineman looking forward to the July 4 holiday didn’t hesitate to relocate to southern Ohio to help sister rural electric cooperatives who had experienced the brunt of the hurricane force winds. “With 140,000 rural electric cooperative members without power at the height of the storm, you know that you can’t go home and rest,” said HWEC Class A Lineman Josh Johnson. *“It is our job to restore power whether it’s a holiday, your kid’s birthday, you’re tired or in extreme weather conditions.”*

Hundreds of linemen from multiple states worked 16-hour days in almost tropical conditions — with heat indices over 100 degrees, broiling sun and more thunderstorm wind, hail and downpours — to cut up fallen trees, repair damaged lines, re-energize substations and flip the fuses back in place.

Working in the aftermath of a storm as an electric co-op lineman is much like soldiering. There is a hard job to be done. You have a duty to hundreds or thousands of others. Lives might depend on your actions.

Clear this power line, sleeve the broken conductor and go on to the next section. This becomes the repetition of labor that brings on the lights at farms and rural residences, subdivisions and businesses. But it is tough work, even with power hand-tools, digger derricks and bucket trucks.

Much of the repair work has to be done the old-fashioned way — with manpower and not hydraulics — because trucks can’t reach all the damaged spans. After hiking in, poles have to be climbed. Sweat and grime, mosquitoes, yellow jackets, chiggers, ticks and snakes are minor inconveniences compared to muscling material and equipment into position by hand.

You bite your lip and don’t reply when an angry man stops his truck and hollers, “It’s about time you got here!” You appreciate more than words can express when a mother sends her kids running to you with icy cans of soda, and she waves from a darkened door — a smile on her face because the power is coming back. You are doing it. The co-op is doing it.

The job of an electric co-op lineman is much more than a paycheck. It is sacrifice in times of disaster for the greater good of not just our community but other rural communities. It is a commitment to your fellow workers. As we look back on the storm that ruined so many Ohioans’ July Fourth celebrations, remember your HWEC co-op linemen who came to the rescue. It’s good to still have heroes among us.

HWEC line personnel  
who assisted  
Licking Rural Electric,  
Guernsey-Muskingum  
Electric Cooperative  
and Washington Electric  
Cooperative  
July 1 - July 11  
*Steve Asbury*  
*Bowe Firebaugh*  
*Steve James*  
*Josh Johnson*  
*Michael Maurer*  
*Daryl Reynolds*  
*Darin Stefano*  
*Jeff Young*

## Your electric rates

(Continued from page 19)

Following that, cooperative members enjoyed nearly two decades in which wholesale rates saw little change.

By doing these environmental upgrades now, Buckeye Power has positioned itself to comply with current Clean Air Act regulations. Many other power companies are just getting started on this work and will be paying much more than Buckeye did, while other companies are opting to shut down plants instead of investing in their future.

An added benefit of the environmental work is that it also has put Ohioans back to work. Prior to the installation of the FGD systems, much of the coal burned at Unit 3 came from Wyoming — now it comes from a re-opened Ohio mine just a few miles from Cardinal.

Yes, electric bills have been going up, but I hope this information gives you some understanding as to where your money is going.

As always, we continue to work closely with both state and federal legislators on any new proposed policies and the immediate impact it has on you, the members' electric bill.

Also, I would like to thank the 256 HVEC members who have joined the COPA (Co-op Owners for Political Action). You will read more next month regarding our COPA breakfast. Our board and staff at HVEC is appreciative of your willingness to support COPA to ensure the cooperative business model thrives.



## Holmes-Wayne Electric Announcements

### Phone call scam

Holmes-Wayne Electric never has a **third party** contact members via phone regarding your HVEC electric bill and payment options. If you ever receive such a call, please ask for their phone number and contact us immediately toll-free at 866-674-1055.

### Office Closed Labor Day

Reminder that the Holmes-Wayne Electric office will be closed Monday, September 3, 2012.

### HVEC website providing key services

[www.hwecoop.com](http://www.hwecoop.com)

- \* pay your bill
- \* submit a meter reading
- \* latest cooperative news
- \* review outage information

## Electric Safety in our Schools

Holmes-Wayne Electric provides an educational opportunity for area schools, community organizations and emergency personnel throughout our service territory. Our table-top safety demo allows for participants to observe in a visual manner the dangers of electricity. This is a service that is provided free to the community. If you would like to schedule a demonstration for students or your organization, contact Robyn Tate toll-free at 866-674-1055 or e-mail at [rtate@hwecoop.com](mailto:rtate@hwecoop.com).





## 2012 Relay for Life

*A special thank you goes out to the businesses listed below for their generous donations to the 2012 Holmes-Wayne Electric Relay for Life.*

*The 2012 HWEC Relay for Life team raised \$7,760 for the American Cancer Society (ACS).*

*All money was raised entirely by our staff, staff family members, the board of trustees and retirees, through various fund raising activities.*

*Team captains for 2012 were Nolan Hartzler and retiree Gary Snyder.*

*ACS is dedicated to eliminating cancer through research, education, advocacy and service.*



*HWEC team has raised more than \$81,000 in the last nine years!*

Autoworks Collision Center, Inc.  
Baker's Mobile Home Transport LLC  
Barnhart Auto Body  
Bromund & Byler  
Cananaan Meats  
Frosty Twins  
Mac Oil Field Service Inc.  
Norman Electric Inc.  
Tate Farms  
The Kirk Building Company  
WKLM Radio  
Voice of Holmes County

## Want to reduce your electric bill?

### Energy Audits

The summer of 2012 has seen record temperatures and excessive heat warnings. As you adjust your thermostat to combat the extreme heat, you also noticed the adjustment in your electric bill.

As your air conditioner/central air works more, you consume more electricity. But did you know that by a few simple changes in your house or business you can make significant changes in your bill.

Fall is a great time to schedule an Energy Audit. Call us toll-free at 866-674-1055 to schedule an energy audit. HWEC Energy Advisor Kenny DePriest is dedicated to helping members control their energy costs.