

Take action to protect affordable, reliable electricity



Glenn W. Miller
President/CEO

EVERY DAY, WE RELY ON ELECTRICITY. We expect our homes to be lit, heated and cooled when we want them to be. We expect our places of work to be equipped with computers and phones and the technology needed to be productive, no matter the industry. We also need more and more outlets and cords to charge our ever-growing collections of electronic devices.

That's why Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative is concerned about the latest proposed regulations on power plants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This round of rules affects the power plants we rely on every day.

Cooperatives are different from other electric utilities. We are owned by our consumers, which is why you're called a member, not a customer. When we look at our power options, we are not driven to make a profit. We strive to provide the most affordable, reliable and environmentally responsible electricity possible to our members. That's why Ohio's electric cooperatives built Cardinal Generating Station more than 30 years ago, to keep costs affordable and supply our own power, and that's why we have invested more than \$1 billion over the last decade to upgrade these generating units with state-of-the-art environmental controls.

Owning Cardinal Station has allowed cooperatives to keep costs affordable. For co-ops, "energy independence" in part means independence from expensive, profit-driven power.

However, these new regulations could endanger this independent supply of affordable electricity. Electric cooperatives like Holmes-Wayne Electric are small busi-

nesses. We're not large utilities with several different power plants operating with a variety of fuel sources.

We built power plants when it made sense for our members. But the way the new rules are written, we might have to drastically reduce the productivity of our power plant and therefore lose our independence.

The EPA's proposed regulations disproportionately affect electric cooperative members like you. That's why we are telling the EPA that this regulation simply does not work for us.

Please join us in advocating for your affordable, reliable supply of electricity by visiting www.Action.coop. If you've already submitted a comment, it's okay to submit another one because this is a new round of rules with a new comment period.

Federal agencies like the EPA need to understand the effect that these regulations have on the people at the end of the power lines. Please also ask your friends and neighbors to join us. Ask them to visit www.Action.coop, or stop by our office to pick up some comment cards that can be mailed instead, and tell the EPA that co-op consumers cannot afford unreasonable regulation. ☺



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Saving a life is all in a day's work

HOLMES-WAYNE ELECTRIC has many dedicated linemen. They work efficiently and safely to restore power no matter what the weather conditions, the time of day or the day on the calendar.

But at noon on June 30, there was no extreme weather. It was sunny and 78 degrees, what a lineman would declare as a “normal” day, if there is such a thing.

Class A Lineman Mike Rowe was working as the maintenance crew leader alongside two-year apprentice Sean Stewart. Having just completed a task near Loudonville, they chose to take a lunch break before moving on to the next service order. Lunch most days can be anywhere in the eight-county service area that Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative serves.

“I love the variety in my job,” said Rowe, who has been with the cooperative for 11 years. “Every day provides new challenges, opportunities to learn and most importantly to make a difference in our community.”

But some days bring more than just new challenges and opportunities, as the pair discovered on June 30.

Rowe and Stewart had just pulled their maintenance truck off the road beside the Mohican River south of Loudonville, which is a major summer tourist attraction for camping and river activities like canoeing, kayaking and tubing.

Because of recent flooding rains, dam keepers had closed the river for any recreational activity, as it was too deep and current speeds were too dangerous. Unfortunately, that didn't stop an 11-year-old girl from entering the river on an inner tube.

Within seconds she was swept down the river by the swift current. Rowe and Stewart heard her cries for help and saw the life-threatening situation.

Quick thinking and familiarity with the territory led Rowe and Stewart to a bridge downstream. The plan was to lower Rowe with a rope attached to his climbing harness so he could grab the girl from the raging river.

“Our initial fear was she was going to follow the advice of her younger brother who was yelling from the river bank to let go of the tube,” Stewart said. “We both knew that was not a good move, and we were trying to yell at her to hold onto the inner tube and that we were going to help her.”

But the river flowed way too fast for Rowe to be lowered over the bridge. They threw the rope down just in time for her to grab it, but she couldn't hold on.

Rowe raced down the riverbank to find the girl's inner tube entangled in a downed tree in the river. He climbed across the tree and brought her to dry land.

“The young girl seemed stunned,” Rowe said. “I'm not sure if she fully understood the danger she was in, and maybe that is a good thing.” The siblings returned to the campsite where their parents were staying, with what hopefully is a once-in-a-lifetime story with a happy ending.

“I think anyone would have done the same thing,” Rowe said. “She was a child in a very dangerous situation, and I'm just thankful that I was there to help and that she is safe. I have three daughters, and when I was finally able to reach and rescue this young girl, reality hit. That could have been one of my daughters. I hope someone would do the same for her.”

Ward Vaughn, Rowe's supervisor, said the heroic act was no surprise to him.

“That is just the type of lineman and person Mike Rowe is,” Vaughn said. “He is an outstanding lineman. Our line crews spend the majority of their day on the road, in rights-of-way and working with our members. They never hesitate to assist someone in need, no matter how big or small the scenario may be.”

As a cooperative, Holmes-Wayne Electric follows seven guiding principles, and No. 7 is concern for community. On June 30, Rowe and Stewart displayed just what concern for community can really mean. ☺

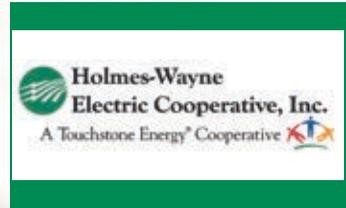


HWEC linemen Sean Stewart, left, and Mike Rowe rushed to the aid of a young girl caught in a rip current on the Mohican River.



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Holmes-Wayne Electric Announcements



Office closed on Labor Day

Holmes-Wayne Electric will be closed Monday, Sept. 1. As always, our after-hours call center is available to report outages, make a payment or submit a meter reading. Call toll free at 866-674-1055.

Storm preparation and communication

Visit www.hwecoop.com anytime to receive valuable storm and outage information. As the National Weather Service communicates potential storms that could create power outages, take a few moments to view the “Electric Outage Planning” portion of our website. There are great tools explaining what you can do ahead of time to prepare for a power outage, what Holmes-Wayne staff does to prepare for storms, generator safety, the process to restore power and how we communicate with you during outages.

You also can view our outage map to see the number of outages per township or by ZIP code.

Additionally, during major storms, important information is posted on the home page, including power restoration estimates, shelter options and transmission supplier updates.

Transformers direct traffic on the electric highway

BY KAREN COMBS

SENDING POWER TO YOUR HOME is a lot like driving to a neighboring state. You wouldn't consider taking a two-lane secondary road to travel to a city hundreds of miles away, would you? Of course not — you would find the nearest interstate so you could drive faster and arrive at your destination in less time.

Just like you, your electricity has an interstate that allows it to travel long distances, and a secondary system that winds through back roads and neighborhoods to its final destination, your home.

Transmission lines that deliver power from a power plant to substations are the fast-moving

interstate highways of the electric industry. These lines carry from 138,000 to 34,000 volts of electricity into the local distribution substation. They are located on structures ranging from large metal towers more than 100 feet tall to a single pole standing 70 to 90 feet in the air.

And just like a car leaving the interstate, the electricity leaving the substation has to slow down when it enters the distribution lines serving Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative's service area. Transformers in the substation provide the braking system for lowering the voltage of the electricity so it can continue safely along its journey.

So how does it work? Higher-voltage electricity passes through a system of coiled wires located in the substation transformer. The electricity enters a primary side of the transformer, which has metal coil windings surrounding that side of the transformer, and then passes to a secondary side, which has fewer coil windings. Traveling through the reduced number of windings lowers the voltage as it leaves the secondary side and continues the journey along the distribution lines.

The electricity moving along Holmes-Wayne Electric's distribution lines are cruising between 7,200 and 12,470 volts, depending on whether they are traveling along a single-phase, two-phase or three-phase line. Consider these lines the secondary roads of the electric system. They make the journey through HWEC's service area.

Distribution lines carry the electricity shorter distances than transmission lines to the businesses, schools and homes served by your co-op. These are the lines you see Holmes-Wayne Electric crews repairing after a storm.

Your electricity has one more stop before making its way into your home. Just as you slow down to pull into your final destination, the voltage is lowered one more time. It takes a turn off the distribution line and into another transformer that's located outside your home.

This transformer may be a canister hanging on a pole or a box in your yard if you have underground electric service. Like the substation transformer, the electricity passes through a primary side with more coil windings to a secondary side with fewer coils. The voltage leaving the secondary side is generally between 120 and 240 volts.

Most transformers service only one home or business, but in some subdivisions, two homes may share a single transformer. These transformers are protected by fuses that will disconnect them from the electric line if there is a fault caused by current surges or overloads.

After the electric current leaves the transformer, it makes its way through a service line, into the meter base and to its final destination — your home, where it powers the appliances and electronics of our modern world. ☞

Karen Combs writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

