



Along the LINE

JUNE 2021

For members of
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

Revised Renewable Energy and EE Riders Become Effective July 1

In July 2021, updated renewable energy and energy efficiency rider charges will be applied to Edgecombe-Martin County EMC members' bills to recoup the incremental costs associated with the state mandated REPS (Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard).

These two riders appear on your bill as the NC Renewable Charge and the NC EE Charge.

The NC Renewable Charge has been billed monthly as follows since July 2020: Residential, \$0.09; Commercial, \$0.47; Industrial, \$3.15.

Beginning with the July 2021 billing, the rates will be billed as follows: Residential, \$0.09; Commercial, \$0.50; Industrial, \$3.36. The NC EE Charge will also be updated for all bills rendered after July 1, 2021, and the current charge will decrease from \$0.00076 per kilowatt hour to \$0.00066 per kilowatt hour.

Each of these riders will be reviewed annually and updated if approved by your board of directors in July. Changes in each rate come from participation in additional renewable energy projects and implementation of energy efficiency programs.



Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's participation as a member of NCEMC has allowed us to make market purchases of various types of renewable energy to help keep us in compliance with the NC REPS. We will keep you informed as we work to meet the required compliance standards set forth in this energy legislation.



Download SmartHub

SmartHub allows you to manage all aspects of your Edgecombe-Martin County EMC account. Use SmartHub to check your energy usage; pay your bill (or set up autopay); and report outages and service issues.

SmartHub can be accessed by a computer, mobile phone or tablet device. If you have a mobile phone or tablet, download the SmartHub app for free.

2021 Poletop Rescue Training

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has always considered safety a top priority for not only its membership, but its employees as well. In April, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC Line technicians participated in our annual pole top rescue training.

As an OSHA-mandated safety training requirement, the course is designed to evaluate each line technician on their ability to properly rescue an injured and/or stranded line technician.

During the training, each line technician must execute a scenario that finds a fellow worker unconscious atop a utility pole. The line technician, dressed in full climbing gear, must radio for help, scale 20 feet up the utility pole, lower a 170-pound mannequin and begin lifesaving procedures. All line technicians must complete this same scenario in less than five minutes to maintain their certification.

This is one skill that you hope a line technician never needs to use. But if they do, the training is an opportunity to prepare and hone their skills if the need should ever



arise. Two of the fastest times for the pole top rescue were Blake Fleming with a time of 2 minutes, 24 seconds, and Justin Francis with a time of 2 minutes, 39 seconds.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC continuously places safety first. We conduct daily tailgate meetings and weekly safety meetings, and include special training such as CPR and first aid to assure that our employees are properly trained to handle nearly any situation.

Please Inform us Before Adding Load to your Service

Don't forget to let Edgecombe-Martin County EMC know about any changes that could add electrical load to your service.

As electric vehicle technology improves, and the cost of electric vehicles decreases, more Americans will continue to make the switch to electric. If you own or are considering the purchase of a plug-in electric vehicle, please let us know so that we can ensure our equipment is set up to properly handle the increased load and help you save energy and money!

Due to advancements in technology, modern farms and agricultural operations work far differently than those a few decades ago. These changes include the sensors, devices, machines, and information technology. We need to be informed of any changes or upgrades you have made to your operations since last year's curing season. It is possible that we may need to make changes to our distribution system to allow for any added load, such as additional bulk barns or grain dryers.

Call the Cooperative at 1-800-445-6486 or (252) 823-2171 to let us know of any change to your account(s).



Edgecombe-Martin County EMC offers a special EV rate for owners who use most of their energy overnight when charging their vehicle. The co-op also provides a \$200 rebate for members with an electric vehicle to help with electric service improvements to charge their EV.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC works constantly to maintain and improve our electric distribution system to provide our members with safe, affordable, and reliable power.

Along with an engineering firm and our power supplier, our engineering and operations department makes a plan every four years for growth and improvements to meet the needs of our members. The 2020-2023 Construction Work Plan (CWP) provides a review of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's existing system and a guide for improvements required to accommodate anticipated loads for the four year plan.

This comprehensive plan created a framework for justifying future capital improvement projects, defined operational and maintenance practices focused on reliability improvements, and identified investments in technology that would directly impact system reliability performance. The system improvements for the 2020-2023 plan recommended are consistent with our 2019-2038 Long-Range Plan.

Improving Reliability

One of the projects for our 2020-2023 work plan will improve reliability and provide a solid tie between our Wilson-Robersonville and Martin County substations along Keel Road and Highway 903. A "tie line" is an industry term for a power line built expressly to tie two separate electric systems together. This tie line will provide for robust back-feed capabilities in case of a failure from either direction. The ability to transfer energy allows for faster restoration and reduced outage minutes to members. Tie lines also provide voltage and frequency support during emergencies.

The tie line was made possible by the upgrades to the Wilson-Robersonville substation that is in the final stage of conversion from 7200-volt feeders to 14,400-

volt feeders. Before this conversion, the tie couldn't feasibly be performed due to the different feeder voltages between the Martin County and Wilson-Robersonville substations.

This upgrade consists of replacing the smaller conductor along Keel Road with a larger conductor for increased load carrying capabilities. The next section of line along Hwy 903 to Grimes Road involves upgrading some joint-use poles with Dominion Energy. This section of line will replace an old section that traverses through a swamp behind the Robersonville Country Club. The reliability is substantially improved when removing main feeders from wooded areas and relocating along the State right of way due to better accessibility and fewer tree hazards.

The final section to tie the Wilson- Robersonville and Martin County substations will be built along Grimes Road to the Vanderford Road intersection. This section of line will also be moved out of the field and clear to the D.O.T. right of way.

Reliability is one of the co-op's strategic goals and will remain a top focus this year and beyond. Although outages have been kept to a minimum over the years through investment and maintenance, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's engineering and operations teams are always looking for ways to improve reliability for our members.

Cooperatively,

Mike Johnson

Mike Johnson



High-Volt Demonstration

In addition to safety training for employees, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC actively raises electric safety awareness in our service territory by performing high-voltage demonstrations at many community events.

"We work within our communities to show our members just how easy it is for an accident to occur when working with electricity," stated Mike Johnson, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's vice president of Engineering and Operations. "Learning how to prevent these dangerous and sometimes deadly mishaps helps to keep our line technician's, as well members of the community, safe."

Electricity is extremely important to just about every daily activity we participate in; however, we must respect the hazards associated with electricity and be aware of these hazards in our daily lives. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC offers high-voltage demonstrations at no cost to groups of all ages.

Working on power lines is one of the most serious and potentially deadly jobs a utility lineman has to perform. However, they are not the only ones who may come into contact with live power wires. Firefighters, police officers, farmers, and many others in the community often see firsthand what happens when trees fall through lines, balloons make contact with overhead equipment, and high-voltage wires are downed on automobiles. In April, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC showed the high-voltage demonstration to the Pinetops Basic Fire School.

These demonstrations cover the many different scenarios that someone could encounter, from a vehicle accident involving an electric utility pole, to why you should not fly a kite around electric lines. The cooperative utilizes every opportunity possible to educate our members by conducting high-voltage demonstrations at schools and businesses across our service territory.

If you would like to schedule a high-voltage demonstration for a civic group, first-responder group or your school, please contact the Cooperative at (252) 641-9502. Our high-voltage demonstrations can be tailored to address the needs of various groups. We look forward to speaking to your group in the near future.



Line Technicians Bobby Wheeler, Will Scott and CJ Keel recently conducted a High-Voltage Safety demonstration for the Pinetops Basic Fire School. The demo prompted discussion regarding the safety of the public, the emergency personnel, and the linemen.

Along The LINE

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