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# Revised Rates Become Effective July 1

# ALONG THE LINE

The May 2014 newsletter informed you about rate adjustments that would be necessary to incorporate changes made to the gross receipts tax on electricity and sales tax on electricity. The elimination of the gross receipts tax from each rate class actually lowers rates for members. However, the sales tax on electricity will increase from 3% to 7% on July 1, 2014. The Tax Simplification and Reduction Act that was passed by the NC Legislature in 2013 makes these changes necessary. The new rates can be viewed by visiting [www.ememc.com/rates.aspx](http://www.ememc.com/rates.aspx).

In July 2014, updated renewable energy and energy efficiency rider charges will also 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 2013: Residential, \$0.15; Commercial, \$1.94; Industrial, \$12.91. Beginning with the July 2014 billing, the rates will be billed as follows: Residential, \$0.16; Commercial, \$1.97; Industrial, \$13.11. The NC EE Charge will also be updated for all bills rendered after July 1, 2014, and the current charge will change from \$0.00039 per kilowatt hour to \$0.00027 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 further implementation of energy efficiency programs. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's participation as a member of GreenCo Solutions, Inc. has enabled us to make market purchases of various types of renewable energy to help keep us in compliance with the NC REPS. We have also continued to add additional energy efficiency programs, such as our prepaid account service, that will help us with our compliance requirements.

We will keep you informed as we work to meet the required compliance standards set forth in this energy legislation.

**Call to Sign-up for Prepaid Account Service Today (252)823-2171**

**Your Energy Your Choice**

- No more deposits to pay
- No more monthly electric bills
- No more late payment penalty fees
- Direct control of your energy budget

# Please Inform Us Before Adding Load to Your Service

Crop-harvesting time is just around the corner for most farmers. In fact, most tobacco farmers will be preparing to prime and cure their first crop of tobacco in the next few weeks – weather permitting.

In order to provide our connected farm accounts with continued reliable service, 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.

In conjunction with curing and drying operations, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC realizes how important it is to restore power as quickly as possible after an outage. When calling the Outage Reporting System at 1-800-690-0657, you are able to leave a message with your outage information that will

assist crews in reconnecting your service quickly.

If you have multiple services it is helpful to leave the pole number where the outage occurred on your message

so we make sure we have the correct account associated with the outage. The pole number can be found on the side

of the pole on a yellow and silver metal strip, usually facing the nearest road or highway. You can also leave an account number or a physical address to help us identify the correct account that is without power.

The curing season begins soon, so call the Cooperative now at 1-800-445-6486 or 823-2171 and inform us if you have added any load to your service.



*We need to know if you have added bulk barns to your tobacco curing operation to determine if the currently installed transformer(s) will handle the new added load.*

## Pay-By-Phone Option Now Available

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC believes in providing all of our members with services that make their lives easier. That's why we are excited to announce that members can now make a secure payment by phone anytime day or night. To make a payment by phone, call **1-855-356-6358**. Make sure to have your account number ready before calling. Debit and credit card payments are accepted and the minimum payment allowed is \$5. This number can be used during and after normal business hours to make a payment or to check your account balance. Prepay members that have been utilizing the after-hours outage center to make payments on their account will now be directed to use the automated pay-by-phone system to process their payment.



Edgecombe-Martin County  
Electric Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

P.O. Box 188  
Tarboro, NC 27886  
[www.ememc.com](http://www.ememc.com)

**FOR SERVICE DURING  
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(M-F; 8a.m. - 5p.m.)  
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AFTER-HOURS CALL  
1-800-690-0657**

**TO MAKE AN AUTOMATED PAYMENT  
BY PHONE AT ANYTIME CALL  
1-855-356-6358**

\*make sure to have your account # ready before calling to make a payment

**TO MAKE AN ONLINE PAYMENT  
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<https://ememc.smarthub.coop>

# LINES FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## System Activity Increases With Warmer Temperatures

As the temperatures increase outside, more and more activity begins to take place across our electrical distribution system. In late April, several storm fronts moved through that spawned tornadoes in and around our service territory. Fortunately our Cooperative was not severely impacted by the storms, but we did have some small outages associated with the wind and lightning.

The chance for inclement weather increases, along with more activity from animals that cause electrical disturbances. Although “blinks,” as they are sometimes referred to, usually occur more often during the summertime; they are usually an indication that our system is working properly.

How is it that blinking lights indicate a properly operating distributing system? When squirrels, large birds or some other foreign objects comes into contact with power lines it causes devices called reclosers to operate. Reclosers act as a safety device to protect expensive substation equipment such as transformers and voltage regulators. Instead of allowing the continued flow of voltage along the line to your home, the recloser causes a brief interruption in power in order to allow whatever may have caused the fault to clear. If the fault (squirrel, bird, tree limb, etc.) still does not clear itself from the power lines, the recloser will perform this same operation again. After the recloser has operated for a third time and the fault is still not clear of the lines, this will usually cause a complete outage.

We do take preventative measures to eliminate blinks in problem areas across our system by installing special devices on power lines and other equipment. Squirrel guards installed on transformers may decrease many interruptions that would normally cause blinks. We also closely monitor vegetation growth along our distribution and transmission right-of-way corridors in order to prevent outages and blinks. Trees that are likely to cause reliability issues will be trimmed or removed across the system.

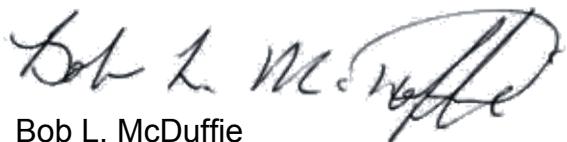
Although our goal is to provide our members with uninterrupted service, Mother Nature always seems to remind us that we are ultimately not the ones in control. It's hard to believe that a

squirrel or bird touching the line can cause a member's lights to blink 5 to 10 miles away from where the fault occurred, but it can and does happen.

We acknowledge that in today's demanding marketplace our member's commercial and residential, are more discerning than ever before. Due to the competitive nature of our global economy, consumers expect and require exemplary service. Even a minor blink is enough to cause assembly line equipment to malfunction, which translates into increased production cost for some of our commercial or industrial members. An outage due to a summer thunderstorm can cost a farmer valuable time when harvesting and curing summer crops, and this same outage could inconvenience any residential member on our system also.

Although our previous track record with regards to statistical outage data indicates that we provide our membership with an outstanding level of service we realize that there is always room for improvement. Our team of professionals will continue to survey the system and make improvements where necessary to serve you better.

Cooperatively Yours,



Bob L. McDuffie



# Board Members Receive Service Awards

Three of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's board members were recently honored for their years of service. Billy Trevathan, Floyd Harrell and Dennis Briley each received service awards for their 30 years of service to the Cooperative. Billy Trevathan serves as the director for District E-2, Floyd Harrell represents District E-3 and Dennis Briley is the Director At-Large for the Cooperative.

The board of directors provides valuable insight, direction and guidance to the Cooperative's management staff. Each board member has a unique perspective of their individual district and they communicate with members throughout their districts on a regular basis. Each board member is also a member of the Cooperative, so they have a keen interest in making sure each member receives fair and consistent treatment.



*(l-r) Billy Trevathan, Floyd Harrell and Dennis Briley each received years of service awards for 30 years of service to the Cooperative at the Statewide Annual Meeting on April 3. Board President Millie Lilley presented them with their service awards at the board of directors meeting in April.*

## Harrell Retires After 36 Years of Service

For over 36 years, Bill Harrell has worked to continually improve the reliability of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's electrical system. He has worked countless storm breaks over the years to restore power to member's businesses and homes. On April 30, Bill formally retired as line coordinator for the Cooperative. We wish him well as he embarks upon a new chapter of his life and thank him for the many years of dedicated service he provided to the Cooperative.



*Bill Harrell (l) accepts a retirement memento from Rodney Bradley (r) to recognize his many years of dedicated service to the Cooperative.*

## Naccarato named 2013 Safety Employee of the Year



*Board President, Millie Lilley, presents the 2013 Safety Employee of The Year Award to Chris Naccarato.*

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC held its annual safety luncheon on April 24 to recognize the safety accomplishments of all employees. Employees have now worked 397,713 hours without a lost-time accident. Chris Naccarato, 2nd class lineman, received the 2013 Safety Employee of The Year Award during the ceremony.

### ALONG THE LINE

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

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