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ALONG THE LINE

Revised Renewable and EE Riders Effective July 1

In July 2015, 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 2014: Residential, \$0.16; Commercial, \$1.97; Industrial, \$13.11.

Beginning with the July 2015 billing, the rates will be billed as follows: Residential, \$0.34; Commercial, \$1.77; Industrial, \$11.76. The NC EE Charge will also be updated for all bills rendered after July 1, 2015, and the current charge will change from \$0.00027 per kilowatt hour to \$0.00051 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 will keep you informed as we work to meet the required compliance standards set forth in this energy legislation.

Cooperative Conducting Residential Consumer Survey

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be participating in a residential consumer survey beginning in June 2015. Notice of this survey was published in our December Along the Line newsletter. Due to a scheduling conflict, the survey didn't go out as planned and is now scheduled to be sent to approximately 600 members between June and July 2015.

The purpose of the survey is to gather pertinent information about types of appliances used in homes in order to better forecast for our electrical system load into the future. Members will be asked questions pertaining to types of heating and cooling systems in their homes, types of water heaters used, age of the home, and preferred means of communication based upon internet availability.

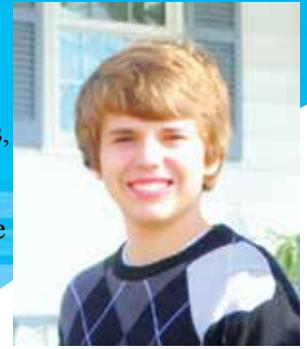
We look forward to reviewing your responses and would like to thank you in advance for taking the time to participate in the survey.

Naccarato to Attend 2015 Youth Tour

Cody Naccarato of Tarboro was selected by Edgecombe-Martin County EMC as the winner of the 2015 Electric Youth Tour Contest. Cody will attend this year's event in Washington, D.C., on June 11-18. The winner is selected each year through an essay contest, where applicants choose one of five available topics to write about. Cody's essay highlighted the importance of using electric efficiently.

The Youth Tour gives high school students the opportunity to network with more than a thousand students from across the country. Participants will join together in our nation's capitol to see our legislature in action. Students will also learn about electric cooperatives and the import role they play throughout their communities.

Cody is a junior at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics and is a member of the National Honor Society. He was awarded the President Education's award, highest average in physics honors, highest average in multimedia and webpage design, and placed first in the 2013-2014 Edgecombe County math contest.



Norville is 2014 Safety Employee of the Year



Edgecombe-Martin County EMC held its annual safety luncheon on April 23 to recognize the safety accomplishments of all employees. Cynthia Norville, Secretary, received the 2014 Safety Employee of The Year Award during the ceremony. The co-op was also awarded the RESAP Certificate of Safety Achievement Award for 2014.



Board President, Millie Lilley, presents the 2014 Safety Employee of The Year Award to Cynthia Norville.

Winston Howell, CEO, and Rodney Bradley, V.P. of Operations, accepted the 2014 RESAP Certificate of Safety Achievement Award.

Students Awarded Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships

Nyla Guilford of North East Carolina Prep will attend the N.C. State Women's Basketball Camp, and Slate Hinton of South Edgecombe Middle will attend the Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp, both on full scholarships from Edgecombe-Martin County EMC. Nyla is the daughter of Cheryl and James Guilford. Slate is the son of Shannon and Daniel Hinton.

Nyla and Slate were selected by a panel of judges based on an application that included academic achievements, extracurricular activities, an essay and a short-answer question.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is pleased to give these outstanding students the opportunity to experience life on a college campus and the chance to learn from NCAA coaches and student-athletes. These camps teach valuable lessons that students can apply in their lives both on and off the court.

Sponsored by Touchstone Energy cooperatives statewide, the all-expenses-paid scholarships provide funding for more than 50 deserving middle-school students to attend camp each year. This is the 12th year

that Touchstone Energy cooperatives have awarded young women scholarships to attend the N.C. State women's basketball camp and the 10th year that the cooperatives have sent young men to the Roy Williams camp.



(left to right) Slate Hinton will be attending UNC Roy Williams Basketball Camp. Nyla Guilford will be attending NC State Basketball Camp.

LINES FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

How Does North Carolina Compete?

Over the past couple of years, the NC legislature has worked at an aggressive pace to reform the tax code in our state. In June 2013, the legislature passed the Tax Simplification and Reduction Act in an attempt to simplify the tax code and reduce personal and corporate income taxes. The objective behind the tax decrease was that consumers would spend more if they could take home more, which in turn would increase sales tax revenue for North Carolina. Original estimates projected that a reduction in personal and corporate income taxes would reduce tax revenue for the state by \$2.4 billion, but the legislature believed that new economic activity spurred by the tax cuts would help compensate for some of the deficit. Were they correct?

Early projections from government economist at the beginning of 2015 indicated that the state could realize a \$271 million tax revenue shortfall due to the tax reductions. Although these estimates were conservative, some pundits pointed out that it was clear the tax cuts would not help spur the economy as the legislature had touted. Fast forward to May and the conservative projections made by the economist were extremely conservative to say the least. On May 6, Governor Pat McCrory announced at an event in Raleigh that North Carolina will actually have a revenue surplus of \$400 million this fiscal year. Is this due to the tax reductions that our state passed in 2013, or is the economy just climbing out of the economic depression we were in over the past several years? Well, no matter what may be the key drivers behind it, it is evident that something is working.

Although we are starting to see signs of economic improvement across our state, that doesn't mean it's time to rest on our laurels. Unemployment rates are continuing to decline in North Carolina. As of March 2015, North Carolina ranked 25th in the nation with an unemployment rate of 5.4%, inching closer to unemployment rates reminiscent of what we saw in 2008 when they were at 4.6%. New home sales are making a rebound as interest rates remain low, and some economist believe this is a strong indicator that the economy is improving. The next question that remains to be answered is, "What can our state government do to help further improve and grow our economy?" Many believe the answer is breaking down barriers that enable our state to attract new business and industry while helping existing business and industry grow. Ultimately, this means passing legislation that helps North Carolina compete with surrounding states on the economic development front.

In February 2015, the N.C. House of Representatives introduced a bill that would put North Carolina in a position to compete with surrounding states that already have defined and competitive economic development incentive programs in place. House Bill 117, dubbed the "NC Competes Act" sought to put our state in a position to close deals with manufactures and businesses that

were interested in locating to North Carolina. The bill, which received significant support from Governor McCrory, quickly passed the House of Representatives. It received support from many of our local house members (Rep. Susan Martin, Rep. Jeff Collins, Rep. Brian Brown, Rep. Jean Farmer-Butterfield, and Rep. Shelly Willingham) and we thank them for their efforts to move the state forward. They clearly understand the need for job growth and creation in our area, which has remained stagnant for years now. However, HB 117 has failed to gain support or momentum in the N.C. Senate and manufactures are taking notice.

In late April, automobile manufacturer Volvo announced they had eliminated North Carolina as a potential state to locate a manufacturing facility in North America. As reported by many major news outlets, the Kingsboro Industrial Megasite located between Tarboro and Rocky Mount was one of the top locations in North Carolina for Volvo. This site has so much to offer and would have been a prime location for Volvo's facility. Anonymous sources indicate that Volvo has narrowed its list of plant locations down to South Carolina and Georgia, which have long had aggressive economic development incentive plans in place to help attract prospective clients. The Golden Leaf Foundation acted quickly in February by committing \$50 million to an automobile manufacturer that would locate in North Carolina, but that was not enough to entice a manufacturer. Granted, that is a lot of money to help locate one company in our state, but the economic benefits and jobs created could have been astounding.

State funding related to economic development incentive programs for potential companies is a very pretentious and political topic that gets a lot of attention. No matter whether you agree with it or not, it is clearly evident that having one in place helps attract business and industry to states. Unfortunately, North Carolina has been on the failing end of this deal over the past several years and will continue to be unless our legislature can come to terms on a program that is competitive with jobs to our state. If you would like to see more jobs here in the Eastern North Carolina, please contact your state senator and representative and tell them how important an economic development bill is to helping attract companies to North Carolina.



Cooperatively Yours,

Winston Howell

Winston Howell

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, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC needs 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.

ALONG THE LINE

www.ememc.com

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Editor

Monica Speight

Hwy. 33 East, P.O. Box 188
Tarboro, NC 27886
252-823-2171 • 1-800-445-6486
Office Hours: 8a.m. - 5p.m. (M-F)

After Hours Outage Reporting
1-800-690-0657

2004 Chevy 2500HD Up For Bid

The co-op has up for bid a 2004 Chevrolet 2500 HD, 4x4 with approximately 178,042 miles. 6.0L Vortec V8 engine. Equipped with a Rawson Koenig utility body with lockable storage bins. Truck will be sold as is! All sealed bids must be received at the address below by June 29, 2015. The co-op reserves the right to refuse all bids. If you need more detailed information, call (252) 823-2171, Ext. 224



The co-op is accepting sealed bids on this 2004 Chevrolet 2500 truck. All sealed bids must be received by June 29, 2015, at the co-op office.

Send sealed bids to:

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC
Attn: Rodney Bradley
P.O. Box 188
Tarboro, NC 27886