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NEW Sales Tax Update for Farmers

ALONG THE LINE

In the July newsletter, we informed the membership about the tax exemption changes for farmers and manufacturers. The NCDOR (North Carolina Department of Revenue) had published information stating utilities could use a farmer's existing E-595E form on file for providing future tax exemption on electricity sales. However, just after our July newsletter was sent to the printers, the NCDOR published new information stating all farmers must refile for a new tax exemption number.

A person that meets the requirements for a qualifying farmer as of July 1, 2014, and who has an agricultural exemption certificate number, may continue to use the agricultural exemption certificate number for qualifying purchases made prior to October 1, 2014. Upon receipt of a qualifying farmer exemption certificate issued by the Department, the qualifying farmer must issue a new Form E-595E, Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement Certificate of Exemption, or other exemption information required per N.C. Gen. Stat. § 105-164.28 to each retailer, which should include the qualifying farmer exemption certificate number in order to claim an exemption from sales and use tax on qualifying purchases for use in farming operations.

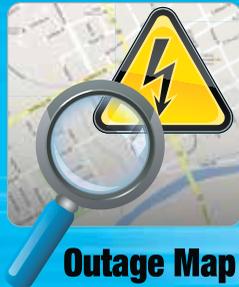
Effective October 1, 2014, any Form E-595E or other exemption information previously provided by a person to a retailer containing an agricultural exemption certificate number to claim an exemption from sales and use tax for qualifying purchases for use in farming operations is invalid. Such agricultural exemption certificates issued by the Department prior to July 1, 2014, bear an agricultural exemption certificate number which generally is six digits and begins with the numeral one.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has mailed a letter and the appropriate forms to members that already have an E-595E form on file as a courtesy. The letter will explain what needs to be done to continue qualifying for the sales tax exemption. Members that feel they may qualify for the sales tax exemption should contact their tax advisor or the North Carolina Department of Revenue at 1-877-252-3052 or www.dornrc.com.

Consumers of electricity (farmers, manufacturers and data centers) that wish to receive a reduced tax on electricity, must complete a Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement Certificate of Exemption, Form E-595E, and supply it to the utility in connection with the electricity which qualifies for the reduced tax.

In order to qualify for the reduced tax rate, the electricity must be measured by a separate meter. Electricity sales in connection with any of these type accounts will not be deemed eligible for a reduced sales tax rate until a Form E-595E is received for a specific and separately metered account.

Outage Map Provides Real-Time Outage Information



Outage Map

Violent summer storms can cause catastrophic damage in a matter of minutes. These storms can form with little warning, so you need to be prepared and know what to do before a weather event happens. Our online outage map will help keep you informed as outages are repaired and reported. Visit www.ememc.com and click on the Outage Map icon on our home page to

view real-time outage information.

Post-storm safety tips

- If you come across a downed power line, stay away and contact Edgecombe-Martin County EMC immediately. Do not touch or try to move downed lines.
- Be careful when attempting to walk in flooded areas, and remember that submerged outlets or electrical cords could energize water.

Using the Online Outage Map

The online outage map enables members with Internet access to view areas affected by outages real-time and to see how many members are being affected by a particular outage. Colored squares and polygons displayed on the map will indicate the general area of an outage and members can zoom in and out on the map to view more detailed information such as road names.

Right-Of-Way Spraying To Begin In August

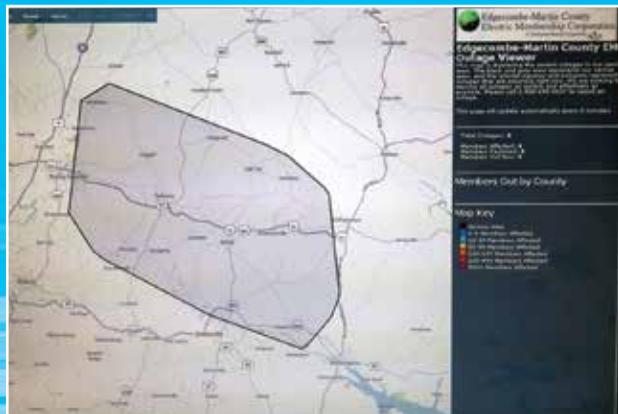
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC uses various techniques for actively managing our right-of-ways. Our right-of-ways are on a three-year rotation cycle, so we can continually address vegetation growth across our entire distribution and transmission systems. Right-of-way management is critical to providing reliable service to our membership, and we work hard to manage it responsibly in order to reduce outages.

A large part of our distribution system right-of-way is cut using bucket trucks and personnel that are trained in cutting around power lines. This same method is used for trimming around service drops on a member's property. A Skytrim is also used to trim distribution and transmission right-of-way across our system. This device enables crews to cut limbs that exceed the reach of a bucket truck boom, and the

Skytrim can access terrain that a bucket truck may not be able to.

Another method we use to proactively manage our right-of-ways is the spraying of herbicides. Contract crews that are licensed and experienced will spray areas to help reduce the need for cutting and mowing right-of-ways in specific areas. Beginning in August, contract crews will be spraying on our system in Martin and Beaufort counties. In Martin County the majority of the spraying will be performed near the Robersonville area. Right-of-way spraying in Beaufort County will cover areas around our Lee-Leggett Substation including our distribution system near Washington.

If you have questions or concerns regarding right-of-way spraying in your area, please contact the Cooperative at (252) 823-2171.



Our "Outage Map," which is available online at www.ememc.com, provides outage information to our members on their smartphone or computer anytime they have Internet access.



HOLIDAY CLOSING

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be closed on **Monday, Sept. 1**, in observance of Labor Day.

Payments after office hours and on holidays can be made at the kiosk under the drive thru canopy, placed in the night deposit box, online at www.ememc.com or by calling **1-855-356-6358**.

To report a loss of power or an emergency after hours, please call **1-800-690-0657**.

LINES FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Being Prepared For Inclement Weather

As I write this message, Hurricane Arthur is nearing the North Carolina coastline with sustained winds of 90 mph. The projected path of the storm carries it near Cape Lookout and then close to Cape Hatteras, as it tracks toward the northeast. Winds speeds are projected to reach 105 mph before the storm moves off our coastline, which would classify it as a Category 2 hurricane. Our employees are standing by and constantly monitoring Hurricane Arthur. Our line crews will be ready and waiting to assist neighboring cooperatives to the east, once we have determined that our service territory is in the clear.

Although this storm will be long gone by the time you read this article, it is important to remember and reflect on the impact these deadly storms can have.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has taken significant measures to ensure we are well prepared before severe weather impacts our area. An Emergency Response Plan has been compiled as a resource to help us work more efficiently during emergency situations, and it is updated on a regular basis. However, the key to making sure things operate as smooth as possible during disaster situations is to have the right personnel in place. No plan can replace well-trained and qualified employees, but together they are sure to make a difference.

The electric cooperatives in North Carolina also join together to help each other in times of need. Our "Emergency Work Plan" helps electric cooperatives across the state plan and coordinate resources quickly when then need arises. It is comforting to know that you have well-trained and qualified resources at your fingertips should the need arise. Other electric co-ops and contract crews have traveled here to assist Edgecombe-Martin County EMC after natural disasters. We are always appreciative of their help and willing to return the favor at a moment's notice.

The technology we employ to help coordinate power restoration efforts is also some of the best in the industry. Our outage management software can accurately predict system outages to the nearest electrical device as members begin calling our outage center. This allows us to direct our line crews to the problem more quickly, which saves valuable time and money. Once the problem has been fixed, personnel in our outage center can actually verify if every member that was affected by the outage has power at their meter. This allows our crews more time to repair other outages, and it insures that all of the affected members' power has

been restored without riding door to door to check.

We also monitor the weather on a daily basis. It is something that our employees do constantly to make sure we are prepared and fully staffed if inclement weather should threaten our area. You can also monitor active storms by visiting our website at www.ememc.com. Active hurricanes can also be tracked by clicking on the name of the hurricane under the "Storm Center" page of our site, and you can also review outages in real-time by clicking on the "Outage Map" icon on our homepage.

This is also a great time to make sure that you and your family are prepared if severe weather should impact us. Stop by our office and pick-up one of our complimentary "Hurricane Watch" tabloids as a guide to help you plan ahead of time. If you plan on operating a generator during an outage, please make sure that it is connected properly with a service disconnect switch to avoid back-feeding on our distribution system. Contact a licensed electrician if you are unsure how to connect or operate a generator. We also have a generator safety video available on our website that provides information on the safe operation of a generator. A little bit of preparation can go a long way and there is nothing more important than making sure your family is safe!



Cooperatively Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob L. McDuffie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bob L. McDuffie

Students Learn About Electrical Safety At Annual Safety Day

Electric safety is something that Edgecombe-Martin County EMC continually emphasizes to our employees and to the members we serve. 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. 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 younger children by conducting high-voltage demonstrations at schools 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) 823-2171. Our high-voltage demonstrations can be tailored to address the needs of various groups and we also provide visual handouts for K-5 grade students. We look forward to speaking to your group in the near future.



Students from G.W. Bullock Elementary participate in an electrical safety demonstration at the Eastern Agriculture Center and Livestock Arena on Kingsboro Rd. Eddie Stocks, V.P. of Member and Industrial Development provided instruction.

Reminder Teachers! Submit Your Grant Before the Final Deadline



**BRIGHT
IDEAS**

Time is running out for teachers to apply for grants of up to \$1,500 from Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's Bright Ideas education grant program. Educators with creative ideas for hands-on classroom projects must submit their application by September 19, 2014. Interested teachers can find the application, grant-writing tips and more information on the Bright Ideas grant website at www.ncbrightideas.com.

"Since 1994, the Bright Ideas education grant program has provided more than \$9.1 million for 8,800 projects benefitting more than 1.6 million students in North Carolina," said Winston Howell, EMC-EMC Chief Operating Officer. "We are committed to local communities, and we believe there's no better way to contribute than by investing in the education of our youth."

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC and North Carolina's electric cooperatives have allocated more than \$600,000 to give to educators across the state during the 2014-2015 school year. The grants will be awarded in November for projects in all grade levels and all disciplines, including math, science, art, language, English and history.

The Bright Ideas grant application requires an outline of the proposed project, a detailed budget and a description of the benefit to students. Applicants are encouraged to highlight the innovative, creative elements of the project and to proofread carefully.

ALONG THE LINE

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