

Watts Working

The Power Behind Your Power

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 11

By Anne Prince, NRECA Cooperative Affairs

You've likely noticed Randolph EMC's crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough—but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11, I thought I'd share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers with you.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying six gallons of water. Speaking of utility poles, lineworkers are required to climb

poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 80 feet tall. Needless to say, if you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career—because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours, outdoors in

difficult conditions. While the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning. Did you know that journeyman lineworkers train for more than 8,000 hours (or about four years)? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts

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THANK A LINEWORKER



are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work. Despite the many challenges, Randolph Electric's lineworkers are committed to powering our local community. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. Here in our service territory, Randolph EMC has 33 lineworkers who are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain 4,400 miles of power lines across five counties. In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today's lineworkers are

information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets, drones and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would

not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank him for the work he does to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them on April 11, and follow us on social media to see how we appreciate our lineworkers.



Teachers, Apply for a Bright Ideas Grant!

Randolph EMC is partnering with outstanding educators to bring creative learning to life! Starting this month, teachers can apply for a Bright Ideas education grant of up to \$2,000 to fund projects that enhance student success in K-12 classrooms and would otherwise not be possible. Applications and more information about the program can be found at NCBrightIdeas.com.

Grants are available in all curriculum areas including art, science, history and mathematics. In 2021, Randolph EMC awarded twelve grants to local teachers. Over the past 28 years, Randolph EMC has invested more than \$300,000 for innovative projects that have benefited students in our five county area.

Bright Ideas grant applications will be accepted through September 15, but teachers are encouraged to apply early. Those who submit their application by August 15 will be entered to win one of five \$100 Visa gift cards.



Supported by all 26 electric cooperatives in North Carolina, Bright Ideas grants have contributed \$14.3 million to N.C. classrooms, funding a total of 13,536 projects that have benefited well over 2.8 million students

statewide since 1994.

Support for youth and education is part of our continued commitment to building a brighter future for the communities we serve. To learn more, visit RandolphEMC.com.



SAVE THE DATE:

**Friday, June 17th, 6:30 p.m.
Southwestern Randolph H.S.**



REMC's 84th ANNUAL MEETING

84th Annual Meeting In Person This Year

We can't wait to get together with you this summer for Randolph Electric's Annual Meeting. On Friday, June 17, we will gather at Southwestern Randolph High School. Registration begins at 5:00 p.m., and the Business Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. We'll have special prizes, bill credit giveaways and will

announce the results of our Director Election. If you cannot attend in person, you will have the option of watching the meeting virtually at a later date.

Mark your calendars for Friday, June 17.
We look forward to seeing you there!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When streaming content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25% to 30% less energy than standard equipment.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Randolph EMC
offices will be
closed April 15
for Good Friday.

Happy Easter!



Randolph EMC Electric Vehicle Utility Program

Kind to the earth,
Kind to your wallet!

Visit RandolphEMC.com for more information.



Celebrate Earth Day with REVUP™

Earth Day is April 22, and what better time to think about making our planet a little better?

Electric Vehicles (EVs) are a transportation choice that's as kind to the pocketbook as it is the to environment.

Member-owners of Randolph EMC who own an EV have the opportunity to participate in the cooperative's REVUP™ program. With an increase in electric vehicles expected across our system in the coming years, it's important that Randolph EMC is prepared for that growth. As your trusted energy

advisor, we're committed to learning all that we can about charging devices and rate effectiveness.

This two-fold program offers 50 members a \$500 rebate incentive toward the purchase of a Wi-Fi enabled Level 2 charging station, as well as the three-tiered time-of-use Plug N2 Savings rate to encourage charging during off-peak times.

For more information about the REVUP™ program, visit RandolphEMC.com.

A woman is sitting on a couch, petting a cat while looking at a laptop. The laptop screen shows a website interface. There are several yellow sticky notes pinned to the wall behind her.

**SECURITY
INSTANT INFO
CONVENIENCE** with **eBill**

randolphemc.com/ebill

Randolph Electric Membership Corporation
A Southern Energy Company

National Safe Digging Month

April brings with it a ground swell of outdoor work which often includes digging. Whether it is a small project or a large home improvement project, National Safe Digging Month is a way to remind us all to call 811 before starting any digging project.

A shovel is shown vertically on the right side of the advertisement.

North Carolina 811
www.nc811.org

Facebook: @nc811 | Twitter: @NC_811

A Word About Randolph Electric

From CEO Dale Lambert



UNDERSTANDING THE BASIC FACILITIES CHARGE

Dear Members,

I wanted to follow up on last month's article that reviewed a retail rate adjustment that takes effect on April 1.

As I noted in that article, we work hard to operate efficiently, keep rates as low as possible and provide exceptional service for our member-owners. The bottom line is: we serve rural areas. Yes, there are some portions of our service area where density is higher within housing developments and closer to towns. But overall, we are a rural electric co-op. In fact, Randolph EMC is more rural than the average electric co-op in North Carolina.

Being rural brings additional challenges for an electric utility, with low density of members per mile of line to spread cost over and a lot more outage opportunities for trees to fall on power lines. But I wouldn't have it any other way, nor would I want to live anywhere else.

This month's article is a more detailed review of the Basis Facilities Charge. I wrote this article last year for the July 2021 issue of *Watts Working*. At that time, we were planning for a retail rate adjustment in October but were able to push it off for six months until now.

As I noted in my comments during last year's Annual Meeting, Randolph EMC had contracted with an independent consultant to review our retail rate schedules, examine the actual costs of the electricity we provide and determine any necessary adjustments.

Randolph EMC's last retail rate adjustment was in April 2016. We have worked hard to hold the line on expenses since that time. However, the time has come for some slight adjustments in rates to reflect the increased costs of our operations. I reviewed the details of the rate adjustment last month.

This month, I would like to provide an overview of a Cost of Service and Rate Study and examine closely one of the key components of our rates, the Basic Facilities Charge.

A Cost of Service and Rate Study compiles data from all expense and revenue accounts within the operations of Randolph EMC. The purpose is to determine if the revenues we receive from the different rate schedules are reflective of the cost of providing service to members billed under each rate schedule. The study reviews our current and future wholesale power cost projections, which make up 55

percent of all our costs, the cost of new plant additions and all maintenance accounts, including the cost of line and right-of-way maintenance. The study then examines how each of these and all the other expenses impact the retail rates of our members.

This very detailed and thorough process needs to be completed periodically to ensure fair and equitable rates and to ensure your cooperative's financial stability for the future. Our lenders require that we meet certain financial standards and that our key financial ratios are strong enough to support the long-term operations of the cooperative.

Now I would like to review an important component of our rate structures, the Basic Facilities Charge.

What is the Basic Facilities Charge?

This component is included in every electric utility's rate schedules. Many other utilities and providers—such as your home phone, cell phone, cable, internet or satellite TV—include some sort of monthly charge to cover the cost of providing the service.

Randolph EMC's Basic Facilities Charge is designed to cover the cost of our power delivery system,

which includes transmission lines, substations, the distribution lines, power poles and transformers. All physical structures that allow you to access the electrical grid to power your homes and businesses are considered “basic facilities.”

The charge is also designed to cover any required maintenance on the system and the cost of restoring power when the lights go out. Our goal is to have the most reliable electric system possible. When you flip on a switch or plug in an appliance, we want to be sure that power is available for you. Randolph EMC has historically maintained a very reliable system, and it takes a concerted effort to ensure this occurs.

There are 8,760 hours in a year. For the calendar year 2021, Randolph EMC kept the power flowing across the system 99.982 percent of the time. This translates to the members being out of power, on average, only 1 hour and 33 minutes for the entire year. Even though this is a small number, our goal remains to reduce outage time as much as possible.

The Basic Facilities Charge for our standard residential rate is currently \$25 per month. But the recent cost analysis showed the average actual Basic Facilities cost for Randolph EMC’s non-commercial, residential accounts is \$61.20 per month, which is significantly higher than the rate we charge.

As a standard practice, electric utilities do not recoup the full cost with the Basic Facilities Charge alone, but rather it’s also collected through the energy portion of the bill. This is true for Randolph EMC as well. Our goal is to strike a balance on what the new charge should be so that it is fair to all members.

Therefore, after much consideration, the new Basic Facilities Charge effective this month will be increased to \$30 per month to reflect more closely the actual cost of providing electric service.

An Example

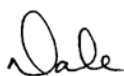
I’d like to share a personal example to illustrate why adjusting rates in this manner helps to ensure fairness for everyone.

I have two accounts with Randolph EMC. One is for my home and the other is for a meter at an old shop we use for storage. The shop is rarely used and has very low kilowatt-hour usage. But for the previous 12 months, I have averaged 1,792 kilowatt-hours per month at my home. Under the new rate, I pay the same Basic Facilities Charge for both accounts: \$30.

As you can see, my home account is clearly subsidizing the shop account. The shop account is not using enough energy to pay its “fair share” of what it takes to deliver the electricity when I need it, and the higher kilowatt-hour usage at my home, and thousands of other members’ homes, is making up for it.

As I have said many times over the last 21-plus years, I will always be straight with you. It is my job to tell you like it is, good or bad. As members, you deserve to know the deliberations we make to deliver reliable and affordable energy to you every day. We are working hard to keep rates affordable and to operate efficiently, and we are committed to planning for your energy needs far into the future.

Cooperatively Yours,



Dale F. Lambert
Chief Executive Officer

Randolph Electric Membership Corporation provides safe and reliable power with exceptional value to more than 33,000 member accounts in Randolph, Moore, Montgomery, Chatham and Alamance counties.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Electric Service

Asheboro (336) 625-5177
 (800) 672-8212
 Robbins: (910) 948-3401
 (800) 868-7014
 Report Outage (877) REMC-OFF
 (877) 736-2633
 Account Info
 & Bill Payments: (877) 534-2319
 Business Hours: 8 am – 5 pm, M-F

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