

The Energy Line



Energy information for the customers of Wellsboro Electric

From the President & CEO

System improvements key to reliability

We have all heard a great deal about failure of the East Coast electric grid in August.

As many of you know, it has been determined that the power blackout began with a First Energy transmission line failure in Ohio. The Wellsboro Electric system experienced only a momentary outage, followed by a short duration brownout or low-voltage condition.

We were extremely fortunate that we did not get caught up in the widespread blackout. This was in part due to a quick and intuitive response from our independent grid system operator, the Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Maryland (PJM) Interconnection, of which WECO is a member. The PJM's decision to open the transmission ties with the New York grid system most likely prevented the further cascading of this blackout.

Now we face the issue of preventing this from happening again. We can expect to see extensive investigations, which will lead to greater reinforcements and new operating procedures for our transmission and distribution systems.

Ultimately, I believe we will see new transmission lines or upgrades, greater use of new technologies and increased reporting requirements to the regulatory agencies.

Equipment upgrades and proper maintenance are critical to reliability, whether you're talking about a transmission grid that covers entire regions of the country or a distribution system like WECO that covers a portion of one county.

At Wellsboro Electric, we embarked on an aggressive system improvement program about 8 years ago. Although we've had



some setbacks this year due to some unusually severe weather that damaged poles and equipment, we are continuing to move forward with system improvement work.

Our engineering plan strongly recommends the replacement of the Austin Street substation in the near future. This will allow us to not only replace aging and outdated equipment, substantially increasing reliability, but will provide us with increased capacity for future growth. At an estimated cost of \$2 million, this project may require an increase in distribution rates.

While I take very seriously and focus on personal safety and system reliability, I also strive to maintain competitive electric rates.

I am happy to say WECO residential customers enjoy some of the lowest rates in Pennsylvania — rates well below the state average. Through prudent engineering and planning, I truly believe we will be able to meet the dual challenges of maintaining competitive rates and reliable electric service.

Sincerely,
Craig Eccher

Craig Eccher
President & CEO

Wellsboro Electric

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Now's the time to prepare your home for winter

With autumn's arrival, it's once again time to get your home ready for the winter. Here are a few tasks we recommend homeowners take care of before cold weather arrives.

- ✓ Clean or replace furnace filters and have heating system inspected and tuned by a professional.
- ✓ Check for drafts around doors and windows, and replace weather stripping where necessary.
- ✓ Make sure all windows and storm windows are closed and latched.
- ✓ Inspect and clean gutters, eaves and downspouts.
- ✓ Examine roof for loose shingles and other damage.
- ✓ Inspect chimneys, fireplaces and vents for soundness and freedom from deposits.
- ✓ Clean and vacuum baseboard heaters, heating ducts and vents.
- ✓ Close off valves to outdoor faucets.
- ✓ Install fresh batteries in all smoke detectors and make sure they are working.
- ✓ Install carbon monoxide alarm near furnaces, woodstoves and fireplaces.

Help a neighbor in need

Consider signing up for Wellsboro Electric's \$1 Energy Fund. By simply adding one dollar to your monthly electric bill, you can help neighbors in need right here in the Wellsboro area.

All donations are matched by Wellsboro Electric. This means that every \$1 donated becomes \$2, and 100 percent of those contributions are used to provide energy grants to needy families in Wellsboro Electric's service territory.

With your help, the Energy Fund has provided over \$7,400 to 33 families served by Wellsboro Electric so far this year.

To participate, simply designate your tax-deductible contribution amount on the return stub of this month's electric bill. You may stop your donation at any time simply by notifying us in writing.

If you are currently contributing to this fund and would like to increase your donation amount, please contact us at (570) 724-3516.

An inexpensive home-security solution

Safety is important, but home security can be very costly.

Fortunately, there is an inexpensive alternative. For about \$8 a month, Wellsboro Electric offers you a way to provide security and safety to your home, farm or business through its security lighting program.

Security lighting gives you a safe, smart, convenient and affordable way to protect your family and property.

Security lighting automatically turns on at dusk and off at dawn, providing light and removing dark-shadowed areas from your

property.

Wellsboro Electric will install a security light on your premises at no charge, provided there is an existing pole. The installation includes the lighting fixture and wire.

The electricity used to provide this service won't go through your meter. A monthly charge includes the electricity to power the security lighting system and all maintenance, including replacing burned-out bulbs.

For more information regarding security lighting, please call the office at (570) 724-3516.



Address changing? Put it in writing, please

If your address has changed as a result of the new 911 re-addressing project, please write your new address on the back of your payment stub and return with payment. Because of the large number of address changes, we ask customers to please refrain from calling the office to report their new addresses.



Check out Wellsboro Electric's new and improved Web site. Visit us at:

www.wellsboroelectric.com