

# The Energy Line

*Energy information for the customers of Wellsboro Electric*

From the President & CEO

## Focused on a reliable future

Wellsboro Electric will present the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) with a request for a rate increase later this month.

Additional revenues obtained through a rate adjustment would be used to recover costs of replacing electric lines, poles and equipment in recent years. Also factored into the request will be expenses associated with construction of a new substation, an undertaking that will improve reliability of our electric system and allow us to meet the growing energy needs of the community.

At this writing, we are working to determine how much additional revenue will be required to meet our plant improvement needs, but I anticipate the rate increase will amount to less than 5 percent on your overall electric bill. I expect the new rate, which must be approved by the PUC, will take effect in the first quarter of 2005.

We know there's never a good time to seek a rate increase. You're paying more at the pump for gasoline and at the grocery store for dairy products. Health care costs and college tuition are rising rapidly.

Your electric company faces those same kinds of upward pricing pressures too. Construction and equipment costs, health-insurance premiums and right-of-way maintenance expenses have escalated dramatically over the past decade. Despite that, this will mark just the second time since 1994 that we have

sought an increase in our distribution rate — the portion of your bill that goes toward maintaining the electric system.

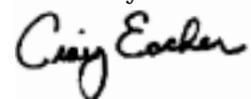
During those same 10 years, we've made more than \$5 million in capital improvements to our system.

We've been able to keep your electric rates low and upgrade the system primarily by finding and taking advantage of operating efficiencies and the shared resources available through our affiliation with C&T Enterprises. While we are always reluctant to seek rate increases, sometimes they are necessary to enable us to continue improving system safety and reliability for all customers.

At Wellsboro Electric, we pride ourselves on our ability to maintain a fairly priced service for our consumers. Even with the rate increase we are seeking, your rates will continue to be well below the state average in the Pennsylvania. We'll do everything in our power to keep them that way.



Sincerely,



### Wellsboro Electric

33 Austin Street  
Wellsboro, PA 16901  
(570) 724-3516

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Our pole position

## Tired of Buying Stamps? Try Easy Pay.

Your Wellsboro Electric bill can be deducted from your account each month — making your life a little easier.

Call our office or stop by to become an Easy Pay customer.



## Our sign-free pole position

Attaching signs and flyers to utility poles with metal fasteners is not only unsightly, it creates safety concerns for our line workers — and it's illegal.

State law prohibits the use of metal fasteners to secure signs on any public utility pole. Violation of the law is considered a summary offense, punishable by fines of \$50 to \$300 and incarceration of up to 90 days.

That's a hefty price to pay to advertise a yard sale, political candidate or to post "no-trespassing" signs.

There's good reason for that. Nails, staples, tacks and other metal fasteners create a very real danger to utility line workers.

Our linemen are required to climb up and down utility poles in all kinds of weather, day and night.

Their safety depends upon having the ability to dig into poles with their climbing hooks. Nails and other metal fasteners can cause workers to slip while climbing, and climbers or boots may get caught on the fasteners, causing falls.

In addition, protruding nails, screws and staples can cause cuts, punctures and other injuries to workers, as well as damage clothes or protective gear.

Please don't endanger our linemen by cluttering power poles with signs and posters. There are many better ways to get your message out.

# Beating the heat

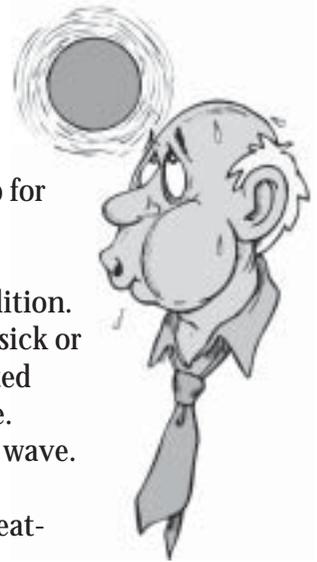
Those sizzling dog days of July and August can be downright dangerous.

When extreme heat and high humidity team up for an extended period, people can suffer a variety of heat-related illnesses, including heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke, a life-threatening condition.

While older adults, children and those who are sick or overweight are particularly susceptible to heat-related sickness, summer's sultry weather can affect anyone. That's why it's important to be prepared for a heat wave.

The following tips from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are aimed at preventing heat-related illnesses:

- Drink plenty of liquids, even if you don't feel thirsty. Water is one of the best fluids to drink during a heat emergency.
- Avoid beverages that contain caffeine, alcohol or large amounts of sugar.
- Limit outdoor activities to morning and evening hours. When outdoors, seek out shaded areas when possible and wear a wide-brimmed hat.
- Reduce exercise and other physical activities. If you exercise, be sure to drink two to four glasses of water or fluids such as sports beverages each hour.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothes.
- Stay indoors as much as possible. If you don't have air-conditioning, seek out an air-conditioned building such as a public library or shopping mall that can provide you with several hours of relief from the heat.
- Take a cool bath or shower. Sitting in front of an electric fan may make you feel more comfortable but it will not prevent heat-related illness.



## Recognizing heat stroke

Heat stroke occurs when the body becomes unable to regulate its temperature through perspiration. The body temperature may rise to 106 degrees in 10-15 minutes. Heat stroke can cause death or permanent disability if emergency treatment is not given

**Warning signs of heat stroke** include: extremely high body temperature (over 103 degrees); red, hot and dry skin (no sweating); rapid, strong pulse; throbbing headache; dizziness; nausea; confusion; unconsciousness.

If you see any of these signs, have someone call for medical assistance while you begin cooling the victim:

- ☀ Get victim to a shady area.
- ☀ Cool victim rapidly by whatever means possible, including immersing the person in a cool tub of water, placing him in a cool shower or spraying him with cool water from a garden hose.
- ☀ Monitor body temperature and continue cooling until body temperature drops to 101-102 degrees.