

# The Energy Line



*Energy information for the customers of Wellsboro Electric*

**F**rontePresident & CEO

## Transforming our system

I am pleased to announce that our new substation on Buena Vista Street has been energized and is serving about 1,800 customers on the Dresser and Middlebury circuits. An additional 2,000 customers will begin receiving electricity through the substation when the Charleston circuit goes on line this fall.

With the substation up and running, we will soon begin the design and engineering work necessary to begin the second phase of this initiative to upgrade the heart of our electric distribution system.

We expect to begin phase-two construction in about three years. This final phase will include the addition of a second substation transformer at the Buena Vista Street site. The additional transformer will substantially increase the reliability of our system and give us the ability to take a transformer out of service without interrupting electric flow to our customers.

We plan to energize the new substation at a higher voltage than the level at which we currently operate. Going from today's 34,500-volt substation to a 115,000-volt substation will require us to build a transmission line from Niles Valley to the substation. This transmission line will even further strengthen system reliability.

Once the second phase of work is finished, we will retire and dismantle our existing substation, which is adjacent to our office on Austin Street. At that time the Buena Vista Street substation will be serving the electric needs of the entire Wellsboro system.

I am happy to report that phase two of our system upgrade should have minimal impact on your electric rates, largely due to savings in transmission costs. As you know, the first phase of our project is being supported by an approximately 6 percent overall distribution rate increase that we were awarded by the state Public Utility Commission in the spring. The first phase of the rate adjustment was implemented in April. With the new substation energized, the remainder of the rate increase will go into effect this month and will be reflected in your enclosed electric bill.

As I reported in the last newsletter, the increase will add about \$2.66 to the bill of a residential customer using 500 kilowatt-hours of electricity per month. I think that's a pretty reasonable price to pay for a major construction program that will provide added reliability and efficiencies to our system for the next 50 years while also enabling us to meet the growing electricity needs of the Wellsboro community for the foreseeable future.



Sincerely,

### Wellsboro Electric

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## Helping neighbors in need

Wellsboro Electric makes it easy for customers to help out your neighbors through our \$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 \$6,380 to 26 families served by Wellsboro Electric so far this year.

To begin contributing to the fund, 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.



# Electrical Safety: Does Your Home Pass the Test?

Faulty home electrical wiring causes 40,000 fires, claims 350 lives and causes thousands of injuries and more than \$2 billion in personal property damage in the United States each year, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Wellsboro Electric recommends customers conduct the following home electrical safety inspection to help prevent a tragedy from taking place in their homes:

✓ **Electrical Outlets:** Check for loose-fitting plugs that may create a shock or fire hazard. Replace missing or broken wall plates so wiring and components are not exposed.

✓ **Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs):** Make sure GFCIs are installed in your kitchen, bathrooms, workshop, basement, garage and outdoor areas where water and electricity are likely to come in contact. Test them monthly.

✓ **Plugs:** Never force them into outlets. Don't remove the ground pin (third prong) to make a three-prong plug fit a two-conductor outlet. Avoid overloading outlets with adapters and too many appliance plugs.

✓ **Cords:** Make sure they are not frayed or cracked, placed under carpets or rugs, resting on furniture or located in high-traffic areas. Do not nail or staple them to walls, floors or other objects.

✓ **Extension Cords:** Use on a temporary basis only. They are not intended as permanent household wiring. Make sure they have safety closures to protect children from shock hazards and mouth burn injuries.

✓ **Light Bulbs:** Check the wattage to make sure light bulbs match the fixture requirements. Replace bulbs that have higher wattage ratings than recommended. Make sure they are screwed in securely.

✓ **Circuit Breakers/Fuses:** Fuses should be properly rated for the circuit they are protecting. If you don't know the correct rating, have an electrician identify and label the correct size to be used. Always replace a fuse with the same size you are removing. Check that circuit breakers are working properly.

✓ **Appliances/Electronics:** If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker or has given you an electrical shock, immediately unplug it and have it repaired or replaced. Look for cracks or damage in wiring, plugs and connectors. Use surge protectors to protect expensive electronics.

✓ **Service Capacity:** Electrical systems can become overloaded. As you continue to upgrade your home with more lighting, appliances and electronics, your home's electrical service capacity may become overburdened. If fuses blow or circuit breakers trip frequently, you may need to increase your home's electrical service and add new branch circuits. A qualified, licensed electrician can determine the appropriate service requirements for your home and provide you with an estimate of the cost to upgrade.

