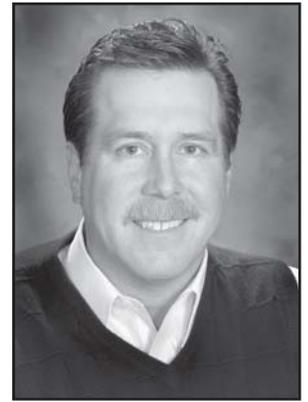


The Energy Line

Energy information for the customers of Wellsboro Electric

From the President & CEO

Put safety on top of your holiday to-do list



Many of us put a lot of time and energy into making the holidays special for our loved ones and friends.

We shop till we drop, and then we get right back up so we can deck the halls, trim the trees, bake the cookies, mail the Christmas cards, and prepare the perfect holiday feast.

In all of this busyness, please remember to keep safety at the top of your holiday to-do list.

Here are a few suggestions to help ensure you and yours have a safe holiday season:

- When decorating outdoors, stay away from overhead power lines, as well as the electric service line coming into your home.
- Be sure to inspect your electrical decorations for cracked, frayed or bare wires or loose connections to reduce the chance of electric shock or fire.
- Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per extension cord. Overloaded extension cords can overheat and start a fire. Also be sure to keep all outdoor extension cords and light strings free of snow and water and protected from the elements.

All those lights we string inside and outside our homes not only add magic and beauty to the holiday season, they also add to your electric bill. To help slow down your electric meter during the holidays, be sure to turn off your Christmas lights overnight and when you're away from home. An automatic timer works great for those of us who are forgetful or who tend to nod off on the recliner before bedtime.

If you are really serious about conserving energy this holiday season, consider switching to LED Christmas lights, which use 90 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs. While more expensive than traditional holiday light strands, they will pay for themselves in energy savings over the course of several holiday seasons.

LED Christmas lights also offer much deeper colors than traditional bulbs, are cool to the touch and have a bulb life of 50,000 hours or more. That means you'll be spending less time trying to pinpoint the burned-out bulb on your light strand; so you'll have more time for holiday shopping, decorating, baking...

Speaking of holiday shopping, gift certificates from Wellsboro Electric make an ideal gift for those hard-to-buy-for relatives or a neighbor who is struggling to keep up with his or her electric bill. You don't even have to wrap them. Just stop by the office to purchase one, and we'll take care of the rest.

Here's wishing you and yours warm wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

Craig Eccher



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Need help paying your heating bills?

If you need help paying your heating bills this winter, you may be able to receive assistance through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Qualifying families can receive cash grants to help pay heating bills. Crisis grants are available to those who have an emergency that causes them to be in danger of being without heat. Emergency situations include having broken heating equipment, running out of heating fuel or receiving notice of termination from your utility.

Families may apply for energy assistance through LIHEAP until March 21. Acceptance in the program is based on income and household size.

For more information contact the Tioga County Assistance Office at (570) 724-4051.

Let budget billing even out payments

You can avoid monthly fluctuations in your electric bill by signing up for Wellsboro Electric's Budget Billing plan.

The program allows you to level out your monthly payments throughout the year. Your payment amount is calculated based on the average of your electric bills for the previous 12 months.

If you are interested in setting up a budget billing plan for your account, please contact our office.

Blinking frequently?

If you are experiencing frequent blinks — momentary power interruptions — please contact us so we can monitor the lines in your area to determine the source of the problem and correct it.

New rates take effect Jan. 1

Wellsboro Electric will institute a new generation rate for all customers and rate classes beginning Jan. 1, 2008.

The new generation rate of 8.5521 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) will increase the monthly bill of a residential customer using 1,000 kWh of electricity by \$29, or approximately 34 percent.

Even with the increase, Wellsboro Electric's generation rate will remain well below other Pennsylvania utilities that no longer operate under state-imposed rate caps. Generation rates for those utilities, including UGI, Pike Power and Penn Power, range from 10 to 13 cents per kWh.

The increase is a reflection of today's electric generation market, which has been impacted by the dramatic rise in energy prices in recent years. The generation rate is a straight pass-through charge to consumers, and Wellsboro Electric is not permitted to make a profit on it.

WECO's long-term generation contract with Dominion Energy, which kept generation prices stable since 2002, expires Dec. 31.

WECO has contracted ACES Power Marketing to procure and manage its generation supply beginning Jan. 1. ACES will secure generation for Wellsboro Electric at market prices from multiple electricity suppliers. The generation rate will be adjusted quarterly.

A distribution rate increase is also expected to be implemented Jan. 1, pending approval by the state Public Utility Commission.

The distribution rate covers costs associated with owning and maintaining the local electric system. The increase is needed to cover increased operating expenses and to pay for utility plant upgrades that will increase reliability of the local electric system.

Relaying outage information

Any time Wellsboro Electric experiences a power outage, customers play a vital role in our restoration efforts.

The more information you are able to provide, the sooner we can have you and your neighbors back on line. When you call to report an outage, please let us know what time you lost power, whether or not your neighbors have electricity and any details that may be helpful to our crews as they work to restore your power.

If you noticed downed lines, trees on electric wires, sparking transformers, broken poles, flashes of light, or heard explosions or unusual noises, be sure to tell our operators. But please don't venture out to look for the source of an outage. There could be live electric wires on the ground, and coming into contact with them could cause serious injury or death.

Customers typically want to know why the power went out and how long it will take to be restored. Unfortunately, when the calls first start coming in, we simply don't have a lot of information about the nature of the outage. It typically takes 15 minutes or more for a crew to arrive at the scene of a nighttime or weekend outage, and determining the cause of the outage takes additional time.

Restoring power during a major, weather-related outage, like the one we experienced in late November, can be a time-consuming and complex task. That makes it very difficult to determine an estimated time for completion of repairs. As we receive information from the field, we do our best to inform customers of any details we have concerning the loss of service. Each of our operators can handle as many as 240 calls per hour during major outages, and they truly appreciate your patience and understanding during times of high call volume.