

The Energy Line

Energy information for the customers of Wellsboro Electric

From the President & CEO

Spring brings lower rates

With all of the unsettling news we've been hearing about the economy, I'm happy to be able to deliver a bit of good news to our customers. As you may have already heard, our generation rate for the second quarter of 2009 dropped by nearly 35 percent, from 11.706 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to 7.6571 cents per kWh.

This lower generation rate will be reflected on all bills rendered between April 1 and June 30, and it will amount to a \$20.34 reduction in the overall monthly bill of a residential customer using 500 kWh of electricity.

The generation rate decrease came about primarily because of a significant slide in the market price for wholesale electricity. Further reducing the second-quarter generation rate was the elimination of a one-time congestion charge levied on WECO in January 2008 by the regional electric grid operator, PJM Interconnection. We opted to spread out the cost of those congestion charges, totalling over \$750,000, over a 12-month period that ended March 31.

At this writing, wholesale generation prices remain considerably lower than they were a year ago, and we are taking advantage of the current market by actively procuring power contracts for the third and fourth quarters. I would like to point out that summer market pricing is slightly higher than it was for the spring months, which may put some upward pressure on generation costs for the remainder of the year.

We would like to take further advantage of the current energy market when filing our new generation plan with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. We hope to be able to include provisions in the new plan that will allow us to secure long-term generation contracts for our power supply portfolio. Under terms of our existing plan, which went into effect last year and expires June 1, 2010, we were not permitted to procure a generation contract that extended beyond a 1-year period. We are optimistic that we will be permitted to enter into multi-year power supply contracts under terms of the new plan in order to provide our customers with more rate stability in 2010 and beyond.

We do have some concerns about the impact of carbon legislation on future generation rates. Our regional grid operator recently conducted a study to determine the potential impact climate change policies could have on the PJM energy market. The study estimated that clean air legislation could increase consumers' electric bills by as much as 4.5 cents per kilowatt-hour. That would equate to a monthly increase of about \$32 for the typical Wellsboro Electric customer.

With new energy and climate change policies being debated in Congress, I encourage you to ask your legislators to remember your needs for affordable electricity when considering changes to public energy policy.

Best wishes for a safe and happy spring.



Craig Eccher



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An online resource for energy savings

Right-of-way work under way



Unwelcome signs of spring

Attaching signs to utility poles is not only unsightly, it creates safety concerns for our line workers – and it's illegal.

Our line crews are required to climb up and down utility poles in all kinds of weather, day and night. Signs advertising yard sales, parties or political candidates that are nailed, stapled, tacked or screwed into utility poles create a potential danger to our workers.

The safety of our linemen depends upon their 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.

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

Call 8-1-1 before you dig

Planning excavation work? Get your project off to a safe start by calling 8-1-1 three days before you dig.

8-1-1 is the abbreviated national telephone number homeowners and professional excavators can call to contact their state's One Call center.

New online tool can help reduce energy costs

If you are looking for ways to save on your energy bills, be sure to explore the Wellsboro Electric HomeEnergySuite on our website, www.wellsboroelectric.com.

The HomeEnergySuite contains a wealth of energy conservation and efficiency tips, but its centerpiece is an interactive online energy audit that evaluates your home's energy use based on inputs you provide and recommends ways to reduce your energy expenditures. The HomeEnergySuite's Home Energy Calculator is simple to use and can be completed in less than 2 minutes.



The calculator will determine your home energy consumption and costs based on our weather, as well as local utility and fuel rates. This new intuitive interface allows you to view charts that break down energy use system by system throughout your home, and also provides you with an idea of how much you could save on energy costs by implementing a variety of conservation and efficiency measures.

In addition to the Home Energy Calculator, the HomeEnergySuite features energy calculators for appliances, lighting, space heaters and televisions, an energy library featuring strategies and tips to help you save on energy costs through conservation and efficiency, as well as an Interactive House, in which you can click on various components within a virtual home to gain a better understanding of where and how energy is used within the home, as well as suggestions and tips for using energy wisely.

To access the Wellsboro Electric HomeEnergySuite, visit www.wellsboroelectric.com and click on the HomeEnergySuite icon.

Tree-trimming work under way

Work to trim trees and clear vegetation on Wellsboro Electric rights-of-way is under way.

Asplundh Tree Experts has been contracted to provide this year's right-of-way maintenance on the Wellsboro system. Asplundh crews will be trimming and clearing rights-of-way in Charleston Township throughout the year, with efforts focused in the Round Top, Whitneyville and Catlin Hollow areas, as well as along Route 6 east of Wellsboro.

Right-of-way maintenance increases the reliability of electric service by preventing trees from contacting electric lines, a common source of power interruptions.

An Asplundh representative will attempt to personally visit owners of properties where trimming work will take place. Customers with questions about the right-of-way program may contact Bob McCarthy, WECO vice president of engineering and operations, by calling 724-3516.

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.
