

The Energy Line

Energy information for the customers of Wellsboro Electric

Be an informed electric shopper

By Danette Kerestes

Manager of Consumer Services

Many of our customers have received telephone calls or mailings from generation suppliers or energy companies in recent months. The pitch is that these companies will reduce your electric bills by providing you with low-cost generation.

While these companies are legitimately participating in Pennsylvania's Electric Choice program, their marketing campaigns are a bit misdirected; in fact, they are intended for customers of our neighboring utility, Penelec.

While we expect customer choice will eventually become a reality for Wellsboro Electric customers, the fact is that no suppliers have registered to offer generation supply in our service area. We continue to be prepared for that possibility, and when that occurs, we will inform you via this newsletter and our website.

It's important for you to be prepared to make an informed shopping decision once alternate suppliers do enter the Wellsboro Electric market.

Under the Electric Choice program, Pennsylvania electric consumers are given the ability to choose the company that generates their electricity. Customers have the ability to shop for a generation supplier just like they shop for other services, such as their cell phone provider. With customer choice, electric consumers can select a supplier based solely on price or they can base their decision on other factors, including their personal preferences as to the type of generation they wish to purchase, such as nuclear, coal, or green energy products like solar and wind energy.

If you are shopping for strictly financial reasons, you will want to look at the prices offered by alternate generation suppliers and compare them with Wellsboro Electric's "Price to Compare."

The Price to Compare includes the cost of generation and transmission supply as well as the State Tax Adjustment Surcharge. Wellsboro Electric's Price to Compare is adjusted quarterly to reflect current energy costs and market conditions and will remain at 7.0423 cents per kilowatt-hour through the end of 2011.

When shopping for generation, you should also know the average amount of electricity your home or business uses. This information is located in the box on the top right hand corner of your bill statement.

As your distribution utility, Wellsboro Electric owns and maintains the wires, poles and meters necessary to deliver power to your home and sends you an electric bill each month. That will not change, nor will the safety or reliability of your local electric service, regardless of whether you purchase power through Wellsboro Electric or an alternate supplier.

For additional information about Electric Choice, including a list of questions customers can use to evaluate and compare suppliers, please contact the office or visit our website at www.wellsboroelectric.com.

If you wish to learn more about Pennsylvania Electric Choice, the following websites contain a wealth of information:

- www.papowerswitch.com
- www.oca.state.pa.us

If you do not have access to the internet, contact our office or call the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission at 1-800-692-7380.



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Apply for LIHEAP online

Transformer put into service

Prepare your home for winter

Keep the cold air outside this winter

With the return of fall and cooler temperatures, it's time to prepare your home for winter. Following are some energy efficiency tips designed to help you reduce your utility bills this winter:

- Find and seal air leaks inside and around the exterior of the home. Check around fixtures that penetrate walls, such as exhaust fans and electrical outlets. Look for unfilled gaps and cracks near dryer vents, chimneys and faucet pipes.
- Seal leaks between moving parts with weather stripping, such as between a door and its frame. Caulk cracks between windows and walls, as well as around door frames.
- Replace your screens with storm windows and doors.
- Make sure attics and flooring above unheated areas, such as crawl spaces and the garage, are properly insulated.
- Install programmable thermostats to automatically raise and lower home temperatures for energy savings by day and night.



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Wellsboro Electric officials stand in front of the new Buena Vista Street substation transformer. Shown are, from left, WECO President and CEO Craig Eccher and board members Steve Sliwinski, Barbara Seeley, James Luce, Al Calkins, Erick Coolidge, board Chairman Tom Rudy, Kevin Barrett and Ron Gilbert.

New transformer improves reliability

Wellsboro Electric improved system reliability and added capacity to its electric system when it commissioned a new 60-ton substation power transformer earlier this year.

The addition of the 25 megavolt-ampere transformer at the Buena Vista Street substation gives WECO the ability to backfeed circuits, reducing outage time and enabling planned maintenance work to be conducted at the substation without loss of power to customers.

The addition of a second transformer at the state-of-the-art substation will allow the company to eventually phase out its aging substation adjacent to the WECO office on Austin Street.

The new transformer also provides additional capacity, so WECO will be able to accommodate growth of electrical power needs for current and future customers.

You can help neighbors in need

In today's challenging economic climate, many local families struggle to keep up with their bills.

You can help your neighbors in need by agreeing to contribute a dollar or more each month to Wellsboro Electric's \$1 Energy Fund.

Your donations are matched by WECO, and 100 percent of the contributions are used to provide energy grants to families in our service territory. Last year, 30 local families received assistance through the fund.

To begin contributing to the \$1 Energy Fund, designate your 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.

To apply for assistance through the fund, contact Trehab Community Action Agency at (570) 662-8110 or the Wellsboro Electric office.