

Co-op Comments

August 2017

RF meter install half complete

At the beginning of this year, Chapman Metering began installing REC's new Radio Frequency meters. Presently, Chapman Metering is half complete and on schedule to complete changing out all the meters by the end of the year.

"Everything is on schedule and going well," says Jodie Wright, Meter Supervisor. "We are pleased with the progress and looking forward to having all the meters deployed and active."

Chapman Metering have already finished installing meters around Naples, Rush Springs, Foster, Cox City, Bray, Brady, Farwell, Pernel and Wynnewood areas. The new metering system provides more information to the members about their energy usage and provides additional knowledge for REC's employees to know where to start fixing the problem.

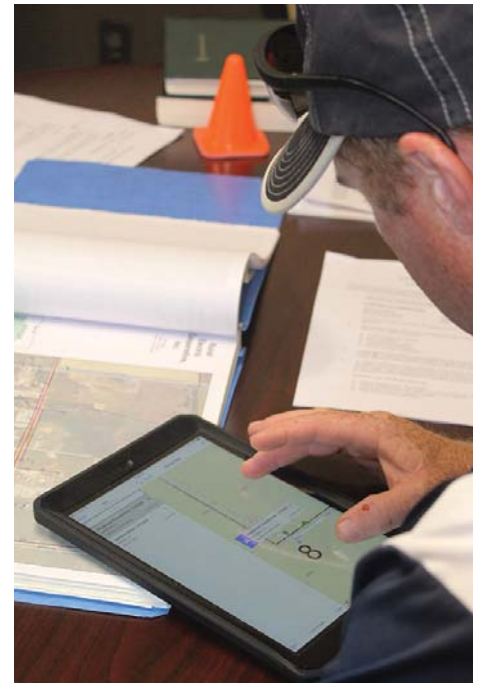
"The new meters provide our linemen with more information in the field so they can see what is happening and resolve the problem faster," Wright adds. "Our linemen can use their iPads and have the information they need in their hands without having to call the dispatchers and ask

additional questions."

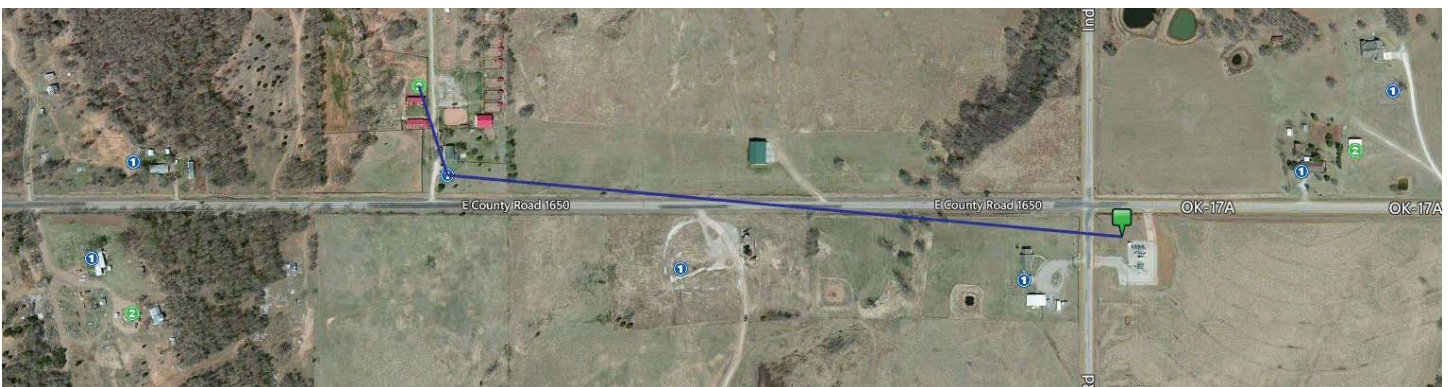
The new meters are integrated with REC's Outage Management System allowing the dispatchers to see what is happening before the members can call in. The meters are continually sending information to REC about energy usage and what is happening in the field through the routers and collectors. Even though the meters are capable of sending information faster to REC, please call in your power outages.

"This system allows us to offer more information to our members," says Ed Bevers, Manager of Engineering. "This information helps the member pinpoint what is happening and grants REC the ability to determine the best solution because we are now receiving 15-minute interval reads of the energy consumption versus 24 hour reads."

According to Wright, the possibilities are endless with this new metering system. Once the system is fully deployed, it will aid the linemen in getting the members back on faster during large outages, help trouble shoot while in the field and assist employees in working more quickly and efficiently. 1511100



The new meters being installed are integrated with REC's outage management system allowing employees to see more accurate information about REC's service territory while working in the field.



REC's new Radio Frequency meters send information back to REC by communicating with routers and collectors in the field. The green square is a collector in the picture above and the blue and green dots are meters. The solid blue line shows the path the meter took to send the information to the collector.

Appreciating electricity one penny at a time



Remember when penny candy actually cost a penny. For a nickel, you could buy enough candy to rot your teeth out, as my mother used to say.

But what does a penny buy these days? Not much. The government can't even make a penny for a penny anymore. According to the U.S. Mint, it now costs 1.5 cents to produce one.

About the only thing of value you can still get for a penny is electricity. You might call it "penny electricity."

No, I'm not kidding. Think about it.

To make the math easier, let's say the average rate for a kilowatt-hour of electricity is 10 cents. That is 60 minutes of 1,000 watts of electricity for a dime, so a penny of electricity equates to 100 watts. It's enough to power a nine-watt LED lightbulb—the equivalent of a 60-watt incandescent bulb—for 11 hours, all for only a penny.

How many eggs will a penny buy? How much milk, bread, coffee, medicine or gasoline?

Gas has come down from its stratospheric levels of several years ago, but there is still no comparison to the value of electricity. For example, if a gallon of gas costs \$2.50 and your car gets 25 miles to the gallon, you can drive 176 yards—about two blocks—on a penny's worth of gas.

The value is just as evident when power-

ing things other than lighting. Take, for instance, your smartphone. Using the same 10 cents per kWh price, penny electricity allows you to fully charge your iPhone more than 18 times for a penny. You can charge it once every day of the year for about 20 cents total.

Not impressed? Well, how about these other examples of what you can do with just a penny's worth of electricity: power a 1,000-watt microwave on high for 6 minutes; run a 200-watt desktop computer for 30 minutes; watch 2.5 hours of your favorite shows on a 40-watt, 32-inch, LED television or 1.3 hours on a 75-watt, 75-inch mega TV.

The examples are endless.

Electricity is not expensive. We use it for so many different things: lighting, heating, cooking, cooling, refrigeration, cleaning, washing, pumping, entertainment, communications—even transportation these days. Few corners of our lives are left untouched by electricity.

Unfortunately, we don't always appreciate it. When our monthly electric bill comes, we open it and may complain about the cost. It's a knee-jerk reaction ingrained in us as consumers. We don't stop to think about the value we received for the money.

While we still have members who remember what it was like when the lights came on for the first time, many of our members don't. A lot has changed since then. But one thing that hasn't changed is the value of electricity.

A penny in 1940 had as much buying power as 17 cents today, which means the residential price of electricity—which now averages 12 cents a kWh nationally—is actually a better deal today than it was in 1940.

So to my way of thinking, the value of electricity is like the bygone days of penny candy, and it's OK to indulge yourself a little. But, unlike penny candy, penny electricity won't rot your teeth out.

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Visit REC at www.recok.coop
and like us on facebook



Protecting yourself against scams

When a scammer called Florida pet clinic operator Cindy Evers last year and demanded immediate payment on an overdue electric bill, it sounded real.

“They knew my account number and gave me a figure that I owed that’s close to what I usually pay on my electric bill,” Evers said. She paid, even though, in the back of her mind, she knew her payment wasn’t late.

“I have pets under sedation, and I’m taking care of animals. I think I just panicked, thinking they were going to shut my electricity off. I did what they told me to do.”

Evers lost \$900 because the call was a scam.

The scam that duped Evers has been plaguing utility consumers across North America for several years, robbing them of millions.

Even the wariest consumers can be duped. Scammers are developing new tactics every day.

The “past due” scam, similar to the one Florida customer Evers experienced, goes something like this: A customer gets a call from an 800-number that looks like a valid utility company phone number. Widely available spoofing software allows crooks to display what appears to be an official

number on caller IDs. The caller threatens to cut off power if the customer doesn’t pay.

But here’s the giveaway: The crook will demand payment via a prepaid debit card or money order. They will ask for it within a specified time frame—often an hour or less. The scammer may even quote an amount sounding like your typical monthly bill, making the threat sound even more credible.

Scammers might direct the consumer to a specific store nearby selling the prepaid cards and instruct the customer to put money on the card and provide the card number to the scammer.

Some scammers have even been bold enough to contact potential victims in person, coming to the member’s house.

Recently Western Farmers Electric Co-operative sent information about a scam effecting a WFEC member-customer. The member had been contacted by a number belonging to WFEC offering the member vacations and trips. Although the number is a WFEC number, the call did not originate from WFEC.

Earlier this year, the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperative, was notified other Co-op members in the state had received phone calls from people claiming

to be affiliated with their local Co-op. The caller claimed the members could get a rebate because of good payment history.

Be aware of scammers and here are some tips on how to protect yourself:

- Do not assume the name and number on your caller ID are legitimate. Caller IDs can be spoofed.
 - Never share your personal information, including date of birth, Social Security number or banking account information.
 - Never wire money to someone you don’t know.
 - Do not click links or call numbers in unexpected emails or texts—especially those asking for your account information.
 - Most utilities will NOT require their customers to purchase prepaid debit cards or money orders to avoid an immediate disconnection.
 - If you receive a call sounding like it may be a scam, or if you believe the call is a scam, hang up, call the police and report the incident to your local utility.
- REC will not call and ask for personal information on the phone. If you have questions or receive a suspicious phone call, please call our office 1-800-259-3504 and do not give out your personal information.

HOW TO SPOT A SCAM

Don’t become a victim. In one of the most common scams, a caller may:



Pretend to be from your utility. (Your caller ID may even display your utility’s name.)



Threaten to turn off power, water or natural gas service to your house or business within an hour.



Demand immediate payment - often by prepaid debit card.

Suspect a scammer? Here’s what to do if the call seems suspicious:

① Hang up.

② Call your utility provider using the phone number on your bill.

③ Call the police.

Classified Advertisement

AUTOMOTIVE-

FOR SALE: 2005 Honda "Elite" 80cc scooter, 100 mpg, 2,500 easy miles by adult owner, always garaged, excellent condition, \$1,300. PH: 580-223-2988.

FOR SALE: 2014 Jeep Cherokee Latitude, V-6, 4WD, lg backing screen, Sirius -XM radio, phone & AM/FM radio controls on steering wheel, tilt & telescoping steering wheel, voice command for phone & radio, power windows & door locks, power seat for driver side, power lift-gate, Active Drive II transmission (cost \$1,000 extra over 4WD), tinted glass, box trailer hitch, tires over half tread. No scratches or dents, original owner, garage kept with 28,000 easy miles, in Wynnewood area. PH: 972-816-6975 (no text please).

FARM EQUIPMENT -

FOR SALE: 1970 Ford 2000 tractor, good mechanical order, runs good and is in good shape, \$5,000. If you are looking for an older Ford, don't let this one slip by you. PH: 405-756-3488.

MISCELLANEOUS-

FOR SALE: 2 corrugated half-moon style tin horns, 11.5 ft. x 16 in., southwest of Ardmore, make reasonable offer. PH: 580-223-2988.

FOR SALE: Lift chair, excellent condition, \$325 firm; Invacare Tracer LT wheel chair, excellent condition, \$325 firm; Honda easy start HR -214 riding mower with bagger, needs work, \$50; Ultra Pro, 16-gal shop vac, \$65. PH: 405-351-0878.

WANTED: Firewood, must be reasonable.

Want Ads

are **FREE** to REC members to post noncommercial items. Deadline for ads is the 8th of every month. Call the Member Services Dept. at 405-756-3104 ext. 238.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Setting your thermostat to a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.

Learn more at www.energy.gov

Dibble/Blanchard area, PH: 405-344-8192.

REAL ESTATE -

FOR SALE: 2013 Solitaire mobile home on 3 lots near Lindsay, OK. Highway

frontage, lg storage bldg., two-car carport, cellar, 3-bdrm, 2-baths, CH/A, electric, rural water, lots of shade trees. Priced to sell. PH: 405-464-7202.

Fans donated to Delta Community Action



REC donated 10 fans to the Lindsay Delta Community Action. Megan Lawrence (middle), Manager of Member Services and Marketing and Levi Reese (right), Member Services Representative dropped off the fans for Delta Community Action to distribute to those who are needing to relief from the summer heat.

Local Co-op Connection Card Deals

Backroads Boutique, Lindsay -

5% off everything excluding special order and sale items

Best Western, Chickasha -

15% Off Regular Room Rate

Blue Moose Outdoor

Portable Rentals, Elmore City -

5% Off Septic Tank Pumping, Tent Rental and Special Event Toilet Rentals

Chickasha Diesel Services, Chickasha -

\$50 off any big diesel oil change

Edwards Canvas, Pauls Valley - 5% Off

Jenny's Pics Photography, Lindsay -

10% Off \$50 or More Purchase of Pictures

Lindsay Tire and Lube, Lindsay -

\$5 Off Any Full Service Oil Change;

M & M Furniture, Chickasha -

10% Off Any Purchase

Mazzio's Italian Eatery, Purcell -

10% Off Purchase

Photos by Ginger, Pauls Valley -

1 Free 8x10 Print With First Order (\$25 Minimum)

The Leopard Lasso, Wynnewood -

10% Off Purchase

4 Seat Saddles, Boots and Hats -

10% Off \$100 or More, or 5% Off Repairs

Western Fuel Co., Maysville -

2 Cents Off Per Gallon of Propane on a Minimum of 125 Gallons. Cash Sales Only. (No Other Discounts Allowed)

Pharmacy Discounts -

Check out the discounts available using your Co-op Connections Card at participating pharmacies throughout our area. For a complete list of pharmacies, visit REC's website to see if your pharmacy is offering discounts to Co-op Connections Card holders.