

Warren Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Warren Electric Cooperative

320 East Main Street
Youngsville, PA 16371
814-563-7548
OR
1-800-364-8640
FAX
814-563-7012

Email: wec@westpa.net

Website: www.warrenec.coop

Staff

Gary W. Franklin,
General Manager/CEO
Gwf.wec@westpa.net

Todd M. McClain,
Data Processing/Finance/Administration

Steve C. Sampson,
Line Superintendent

Christopher N. Evans,
Engineering & Operations Manager/
Right-of-Way

Alan D. Fuller,

Load Management/Special Projects/
Software Engineer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dave Turner
Chairman

James Marshall
Vice Chairman

Robert August
Secretary

Jeffrey Sedon
Treasurer

Edgar Burris Jr.
James Goodrich
John Hagberg
Richard Harrington
Dean Johnson

Emergency Outage Number
814-723-9460

Office Hours
7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

From the General Manager/CEO

Storms and tornado, Part II

By Gary W. Franklin

JUST last month we talked about storms, and here we are again. On Sept. 10, several storms with rain and high winds hit our service areas. Approximately 3,000 members were affected. Our linemen worked through-



out the night and restored power in less than 20 hours. A week later, the second tornado this year hit the Scandia area. The storm also produced heavy rain and high winds in other areas. Again, our linemen worked throughout the night restoring power.

We want to send out a big thank you to our employees for their hard work and to our members for their patience during the restoration process.

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Monthly brain teaser

Tom was born on Thanksgiving Day. On his seventh birthday, he noticed Thanksgiving had never fallen on his birthday. How old will he be when he finally has a Thanksgiving birthday? (The answer is on this page somewhere.)

Having trouble paying your electric bill?

If you are having trouble paying the electric bill, please call the office to make arrangements.

There is help available through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) at 814-726-2540 or 800-403-4043. The EOC Board of Assistance also has funds available for energy bills. Their telephone num-

ber is 814-726-2400. The Salvation Army also has funds for utility bills in several 11 situations. Their number is 814-723-8950. These agencies are for Warren County. The Forest County LIHEAP telephone number is 800-876-0645 or 814-755-3552. The cooperative has limited funds available to help members with their electric bills once they are approved by LIHEAP.

Office happenings

The cooperative's office will be closed on Nov. 24 observance of Thanksgiving.

Conservation

Looking for helpful information on ways to conserve energy? Go to our website and click on "New Interactive Energy Home." Here you will find information on energy saving ideas for every room in your house and much more.

Winter outage kit

Winter is here, and it is sure to bring some storm-related outages. You should consider preparing an "outage kit" to help you cope with any outage situation. Kit items could include such items as: candles, matches, flashlight and extra batteries, manual can opener, canned and other easily prepared foods, plenty of fresh water, windup or battery clock, camp-type stove and fuel or barbecue grill (use outdoors only), extra blankets or sleeping bags, battery-powered lamp and radio, emergency phone numbers, and one phone that does not require electricity to operate. These are just some suggestions for your "outage kit." Being prepared is the key to dealing with any emergency situation.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Gary W. Franklin

Predicting the future of nuclear power

Some forecasts see growth, others not so much

By Paul Wesslund

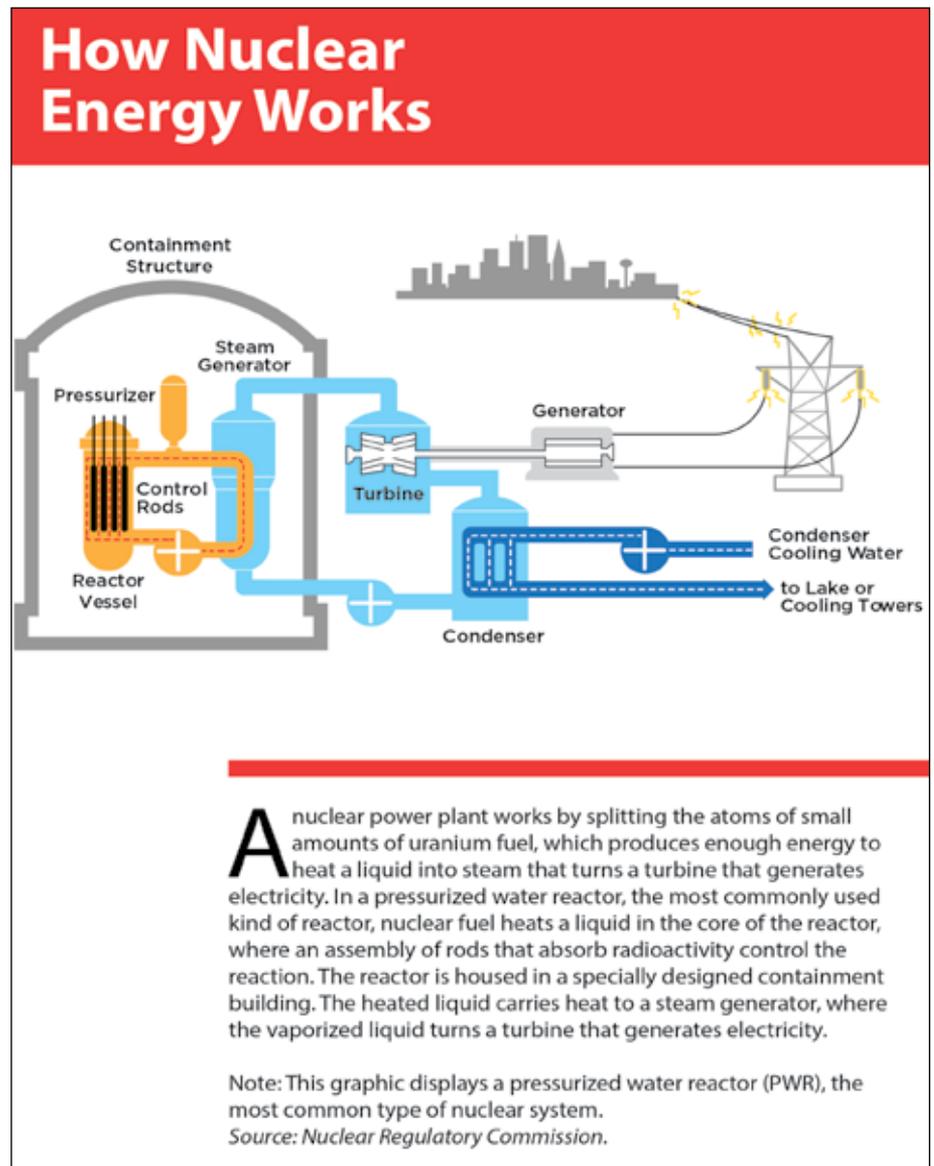
IF YOU want to take a big risk, try predicting the future of nuclear power. Nuclear power generates about 20 percent of the electricity in the country — and about 60 percent of the power for Warren Electric Cooperative members. Currently in the U.S., 100 nuclear reactors operate at 60 plants in 30 states.

There are reasons to think that should grow dramatically — nuclear reactors run reliably 24-7 and produce none of the greenhouse gases linked to climate change. There are also reasons to be surprised it's allowed to produce as big a share of our electricity as it does — radioactivity and using nuclear fuel are complicated and dangerous, and the engineering and security needed to keep nuclear power safe and reliable can be expensive.

The U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration predicts nuclear power will be producing a slightly smaller share of electricity in the U.S. through 2040. In the rest of the world, nuclear capacity is expected to double.

On the other hand, a major financial analysis firm says that slight drop in U.S. nuclear power could change. Fitch Ratings said last year that federal climate change rules and support for new, more efficient technologies, could slow the decline in nuclear power generation.

Dale Bradshaw, an expert on electric generation and distribution who works with electric cooperatives, sees reasons to expect an increase in nuclear power. Bradshaw, CEO of Electrivation LLC and a consultant to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, says a main block to the growth of nuclear power is the current relatively low costs of natural gas, wind and solar. He notes natural gas prices have started to rise, and renewable energy subsidies are set to expire in a few years. He also



says research into advanced nuclear reactors will lead to large improvements in safety and efficiency.

One sign of that innovation came this year when the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) applied to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for permission to explore small modular reactor units that would be easier and less expensive to build and operate.

In June 2016, TVA connected a new nuclear unit to the power grid, making it the first new reactor to come on-line since 1996, and four additional new

units are coming on-line over the next five years.

The future of nuclear energy will depend on a variety of factors. But today, nuclear energy remains reliable and affordable and an important component of our nation's — and Warren Electric Cooperative's — fuel mix. ☀️

Paul Wesslund writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Know what's below

Dial 811 before you dig

SPRING is an optimal time of year to dream up and achieve your landscaping masterpiece, but in many parts of the country, planting shrubs in the fall gives the plants a head start at establishing roots in the season's cool, moist soil. Perhaps you're planning to build a new deck to enjoy those cool autumn evenings. If any of your fall projects require digging — such as planting trees or shrubs, or setting posts — remember to dial 811 first.

Underground utilities — such as buried gas, water and electric lines — can be a shovel thrust away from turning a fall project into a disaster.

Play it safe by dialing 811 to find out where utility lines run on your property. Your call will be routed to a local “one call” center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing, and affected local utilities will be notified.

In a few days, a locator will arrive to designate the approximate location of any underground lines, pipes and cables. These areas will be marked with flags or paint so you'll know what's below. Then the safe digging can begin.

Although many homeowners tackling do-it-yourself digging projects are aware of “Call Before You Dig” services, most of them don't take advantage of the service. A national survey shows only 50 percent of homeowners called to have their lines marked before starting digging projects, according to the Common Ground Alliance (CGA), a federally mandated group of underground utility and damage

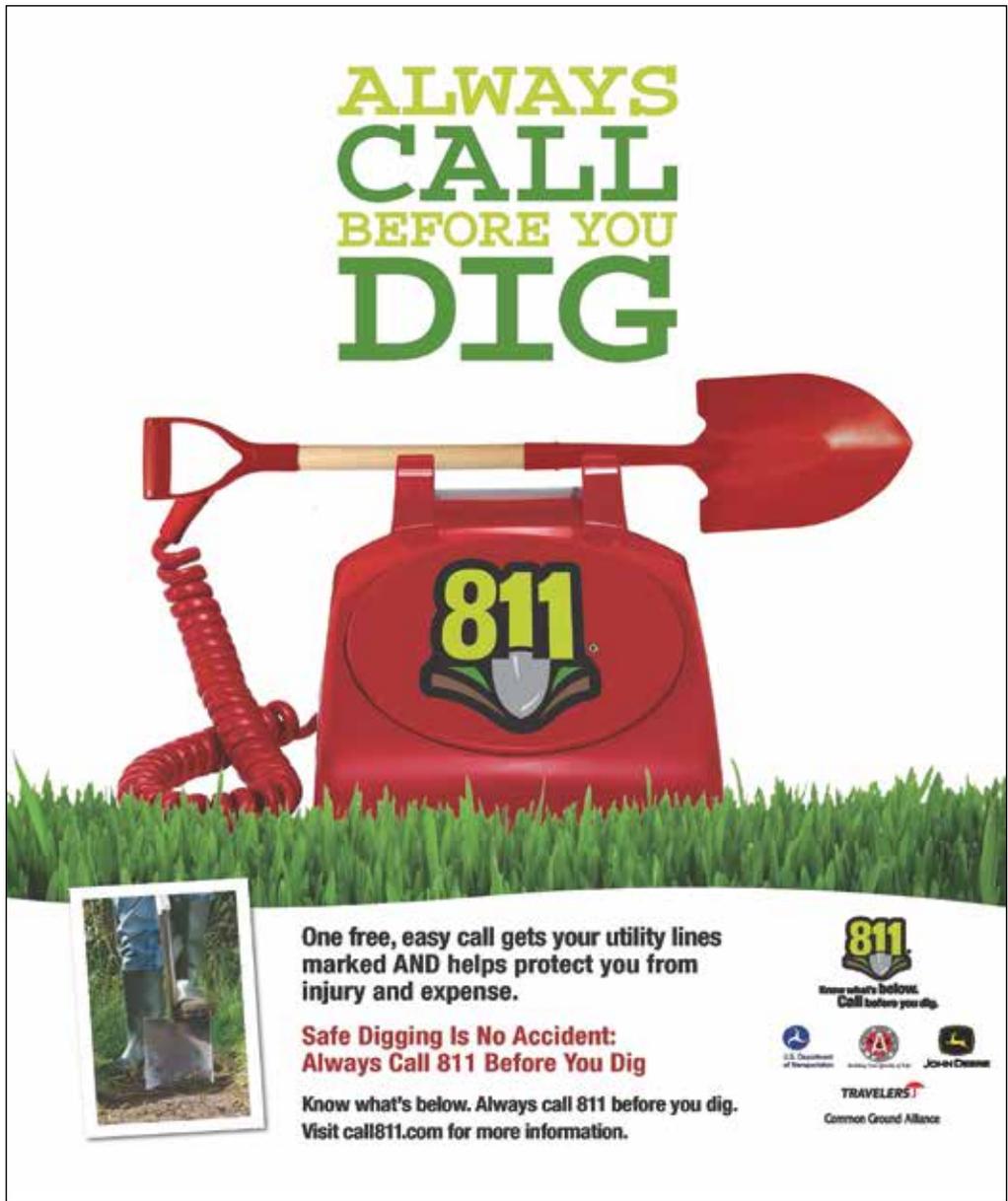
prevention industry professionals. CGA data also shows an underground utility line is damaged every six minutes in the U.S. because someone decided to dig without first dialing 811.

Even simple tasks like installing a new mailbox post can damage utility lines, which can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm diggers, and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. There's no need: the 811 service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted and can help you avoid serious

injury. For more information about local services, visit www.call811.com.

Safe Electricity is the safety outreach program of the Energy Education Council, a non-profit organization with more than 400 electric cooperative members and many others who share the mission of educating the public about electrical safety and energy efficiency. CGA is a member-driven association of 1,500 individuals, organizations and sponsors in every facet of the underground utility industry. Established in 2000, CGA is committed to saving lives and preventing damage to underground infrastructure by promoting effective damage prevention practices.



**ALWAYS
CALL
BEFORE YOU
DIG**

811

One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

**Safe Digging Is No Accident:
Always Call 811 Before You Dig**

Know what's below. Always call 811 before you dig.
Visit call811.com for more information.

811
Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

U.S. Department of Transportation
Working for people of all abilities
JOHN DEERE
TRAVELERS
Common Ground Alliance

Companies that care

Ownership of the company matters

By Adam Schwartz

STUDIES have shown that communities where owners occupy the majority of homes are more successful academically, are more physically fit and have a stronger sense of community. While owning a home may not be possible or desirable for everyone, ownership does matter. It just seems to make sense that we treat things we own with greater care.

Chances are you probably don't think too often about your ownership role with your electric cooperative. Every member of Warren Electric Cooperative can take pride in the fact that you are an owner of your electric co-op. While at times it may seem easy to take the provision of electricity for granted, we are working 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to make sure you, the owner-members of the co-op, are well taken care when it comes to your electricity needs.

Locally based cooperatives believe this special bond and obligation to be an integral part of the community. Warren Electric Cooperative understands you can't sell electricity to a business that has closed its doors, or to people who have left the community because there are not enough local opportunities. Electricity is a critical need, but it takes more than poles, wires and kilowatt-hours to make a community.

We are owners of our co-op, and in a real sense, we are owners of our community. Our community is strong. Think about how much greater it can be

when we work cooperatively to tackle our future challenges. If we act like owners on a consistent basis, we will put even more care and attention into our community, and we will look locally for solutions. Finding local solutions can help keep money — and people — right here in our community.

We all have a role to play. As your local electric cooperative, we promise to do our part for the community. If you have thoughts about how we can do a better job, please contact the office at 800-364-8640 Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. You are the owners of the co-op, and we welcome your active participation. ☀

Adam Schwartz is the founder of The Cooperative Way a consulting firm that helps co-ops succeed. He is an author, speaker and member-owner of the CDS Consulting Co-op. You can follow him on Twitter @adamcooperative or email him at aschwartz@thecooperativeway.coop

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Heating your living space uses more energy than any other system in your home — typically making up about 42 percent of your utility bill. By combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30 percent on your energy bill.

Source: energy.gov

Give a Warren Electric Cooperative gift certificate

Many of us enjoy the comforts of a secure and warm home, while many others struggle with costly heating payments that still leave them cold. Use this giving time of the year to stuff some stockings with a gift that warms hearts and toes.

THE WARREN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE GIFT CERTIFICATE IS THE PERFECT WAY TO SHOW YOU CARE.

To purchase a gift certificate, simply complete the form below, indicating the person to receive the certificate, your name and the amount of your gift. If you would like to send more than one, please list the name, account number, address and amount for each member on a separate sheet. Then mail or drop off your form with your check or money order for the total amount to: Warren Electric Cooperative, 320 E. Main Street, Youngsville, PA 16371. When we receive your payment, the cooperative member's account will be credited with the amount you have specified. The gift certificate may be mailed directly to the recipient, or it can be sent to you for personal delivery, so please check your preference.

Warren Electric Cooperative Gift Certificate

Recipient's Name: _____ Account No. _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Amount of gift (\$5 minimum with check or money order made out to WEC) _____

From: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Please check one of the following choices:

Return gift certificate to me Send gift certificate directly to recipient I wish to remain anonymous