



Dunn Energy Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



By James Hathaway,
General Manager

VISITING OUR LEGISLATORS, ADDRESSING OUR CONCERNS

In late April, board President Larry Amble and I, along with a number of other cooperative representatives, went to Washington, D.C. This followed a visit to Madison in March by me and a number of the cooperative's board members. The purpose of both visits was to talk to the legislators and their staff members about issues affecting electric cooperatives and their members.

We make a point of visiting Washington, D.C., and Madison every year. Legislators know that electricity is an important part of our daily lives. But every year laws are proposed or regulations are drafted that may increase the cost of electricity. Or they may change how we can work with our members.

In spite of the new administration, not much has changed in Washington. The national government is huge. There are hundreds if not thousands of departments and offices of this and that. And there are thousands of issues that people and lobbyists want to discuss with their legislators. Keeping track of everything is a tremendous task. But the best way to have your legislator focus on the issue you are concerned with is to sit down and talk to them about it.

Some of the issues we discussed in Washington with legislators were:

- Modernization and reform of the Endangered Species Act
- Funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Rural Utility Service Loan Programs

Over 2,000 species are now listed as either endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Electric co-ops seek to make the ECA more efficient, effective, and less costly. Our goal is finding a balance that accommodates essential activities like clearing our rights-of-way. Legislation is being proposed that would require greater transparency in reporting data and reduce incentives for abuse of the ESA law.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides critical home heating and cooling help to millions of American families. Funding for the program peaked in 2010 but has since been reduced by a third. The most recent budget proposed by the president would eliminate all funding for the program. While many of the effects of the

recession have faded, there are still many families struggling to make ends meet. We lobbied to keep LIHEAP funding at last year's levels.

The Rural Utility Service (RUS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, provides interest-bearing loans to electric cooperatives for building our power lines. Both Dunn Energy and our power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative, rely on RUS loans to help finance construction that is essential to keeping the lights on and providing affordable electricity for our members. Maintaining RUS funding at existing levels ensures adequate financing for cooperatives like Dunn Energy Cooperative that need to build or replace electric distribution facilities. (2793)

While a face-to-face visit with an elected representative has a strong impact, you don't have to travel to Madison or Washington, D.C., to communicate with and influence a representative. Anyone's voice can make a difference to a representative. The electric cooperative program, "Our Energy, Our Future," encourages members to log onto the website www.action.coop and send e-mails to their elected representatives asking questions about our energy future and what they are doing to help us keep the lights on and electric bills affordable.



Co-op leaders meet with Senator Ron Johnson at the recent Legislative Rally in Washington, D.C.



MAKING ROOM FOR ROADSIDE CREWS

When the power goes out, so do Dunn Energy Cooperative linemen. Our linemen are the first to respond after an outage occurs, and they work tirelessly to restore power to the communities we serve.

If you're traveling and see one of our crews on the side of the road, we ask that you make sure to move over and slow down. We care about the safety of

not only our employees, but you as well. This extra precaution ensures just that, and ensures that you are following the law. (3781)

To help safeguard law enforcement officers, emergency responders, road maintenance workers, and others who work on the side of highways, Wisconsin has a "Move Over Law."

Drivers must provide a safety zone

for stopped law enforcement, emergency and maintenance vehicles.

The law requires drivers to shift lanes or slow down in order to provide a "safety zone" for a squad car, ambulance, fire truck, tow truck, utility vehicle, or highway maintenance vehicle that is stopped on the side of a road with its warning lights flashing.

Drivers have two options for creating a safety zone:

- If the road has more than one directional lane, like the Interstate, and you can switch lanes safely, you must move over to vacate the lane closest to the law enforcement or other vehicle with its lights flashing.
- If the road has a single directional lane or you can't safely move over, you must reduce your speed.

Failure of motorists to move over is one of the reasons that motor vehicle crashes kill more law enforcement officers on duty than any other cause.

There's plenty of room for all. Let's work together to keep everyone safe on our roadways.



SUMMER PROJECTS: System Stickers

This summer our system is getting a facelift. Well, the warning and caution stickers on our equipment are being replaced, as well as the transformer and box markers (think antennas on green boxes so they don't get hit). We hired two young men to systematically patrol our system. They will be in Dunn Energy Cooperative marked vehicles. To safely do their work, they may have to pull into or turn around in your driveway. We just wanted to make you aware of this in the event you see them in your neighborhood.



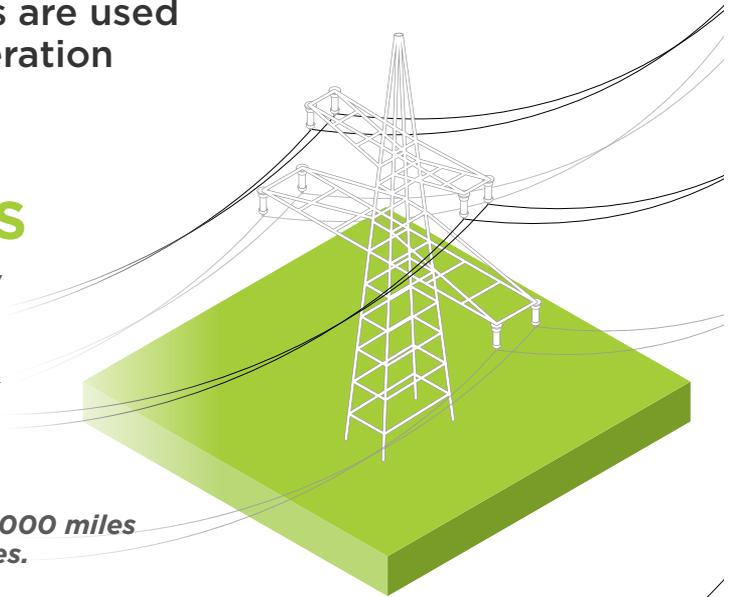
A Field Guide to Overhead Power Lines

High-voltage transmission lines are used to deliver electricity from generation plants to consumers.

HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES

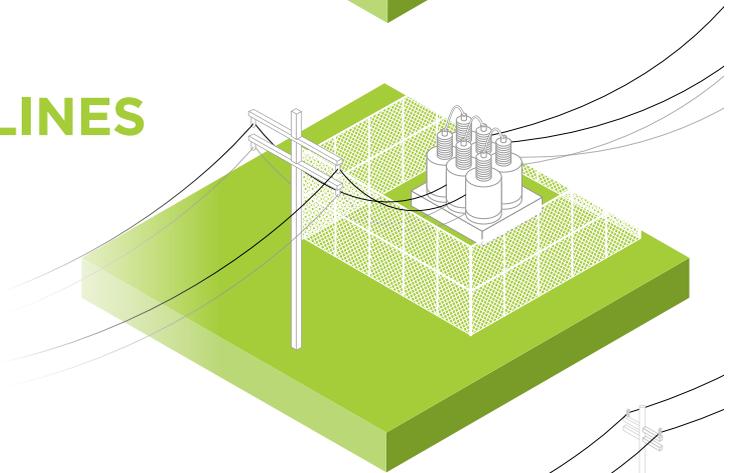
Large amounts of power, measured by watts, are delivered by transmission lines. These lines are energized with very high voltage in order to move the power long distances with minimal losses. Insulators on the towers prevent the power from flowing to the towers or the ground.

Electric cooperatives own and maintain 65,000 miles (6 percent) of the nation's transmission lines.



SUBSTATIONS AND SUB-TRANSMISSION LINES

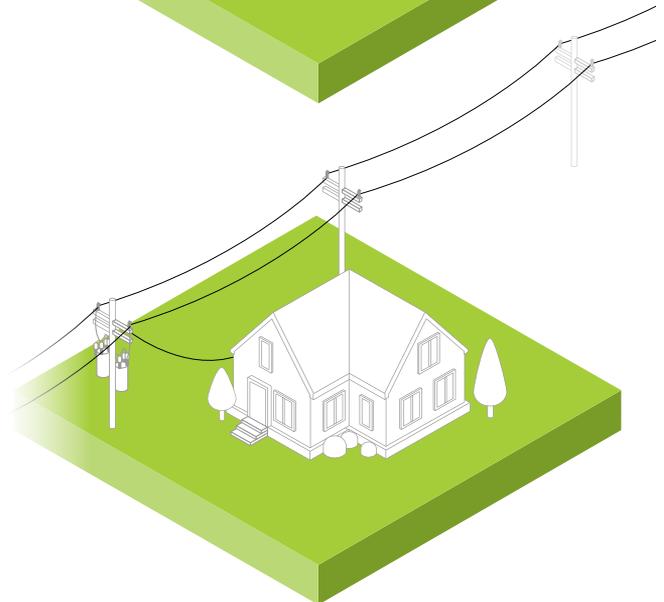
Transformers at transmission substations reduce the voltage from transmission levels to sub-transmission levels, typically ranging from 115,000 volts to 34,500 volts. Sub-transmission lines deliver power over shorter distances to distribution substations and large industrial sites. At distribution substations and large industrial sites, transformers reduce the voltage to a lower level, typically 7,200 volts or 14,400 volts.



DISTRIBUTION LINES

The lines typically seen along rural roads and next to homes are generally single phase distribution line, energized at 7,200 or 14,400 volts. Transformers on the utility poles lower the voltage to between 120 and 480 volts to serve residential homes and small businesses.

Electric cooperatives own and maintain 2.6 million miles (42 percent) of the nation's distribution lines.



Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association



CAN WE INTEREST YOU IN PAPERLESS BILLING?

How about for five dollars?

For members who sign up for paperless billing in the month of June, we will put a one-time \$5 credit on your energy bill. With paperless billing, you'll receive your bill the day we have them ready, instead of waiting for it to appear in your mailbox. Sometimes, that can be up to a week after we've sent them out! To receive the credit, all you have to do is create an account on our Bill4U payment program. You can go to www.dunnenergy.com and click on Make a Payment. You will then be able to create your account and sign up to receive your bill via email. Or you can download our app by searching Dunn Energy Cooperative in your app store.



While we're on the topic, is your payment reaching us later than you like? It could be in part due to the mail service. We have noticed that it is taking a lot longer than it used to, to get mailed-in payments. In many cases it is taking up to a week to get members' mailed-in payments.

With this in mind, we wanted to take a moment to remind members that we have several other payment options: You can sign up to make your payment by check or credit/debit card through our Bill4U online payment program. With this option, you can schedule a payment for the day you choose or pay immediately. We download those payments every weekday morning. So you can be assured we will get your payment the next business day.

Another option is to sign up for automatic payments. By signing up for auto-pay, we automatically draft your payment on the 15th of the month. With this option, there are no stamps and no worrying if you paid your bill or not. We take care of it all for you!

If you want to skip worrying about whether or not your bill is being paid on time, maybe one of these options might be for you. If you have questions about any of these options, please call our office at 715-232-6240. You can find our automatic payment form on our website at www.dunnenergy.com under Ways to Pay. If you would rather stop in and pick up a form, we have them waiting for you!

OPERATION ROUND UP®

The power of change

Operation Round Up® uses the power of cooperation to provide much-needed grant dollars for community projects, 501©3 organizations, and non-profit groups within the Dunn Energy Cooperative service territory.

If you, or a group you are a part of, are interested in applying for an Operation Round Up grant, you can find the application and our Giving Guidelines on our website at www.dunnenergy.com or by emailing Jolene for an application at jolene@dunnenergy.com. Grant applications are due March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31 and reviewed shortly thereafter.

Thank you for your interest. Let's show the community the Power of Change!



\$\$ FOR HIDDEN ACCOUNT NUMBERS

If your account number is one of the two hidden account numbers in this issue, it will mean \$10 credit on your account if you call the office before the end of the month. Two customer account numbers have been randomly selected and are hidden in the Dunn Energy Cooperative section of this *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News*. Last month's winners were Ken and Juyali Nortman and Mark Brindle.

James Hathaway, Manager

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Jolene Neisius, Editor



"Energy Through Excellence"

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