

Norris Electric

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

News

Electricity brings everyday value

Although I work in the energy industry, like most people, I still don't think much about the electricity I use. I expect the lights to turn on when I flip the switch and the coffee maker to work each morning. Because electricity is so abundant, we don't think much about



Tamara Phillips,
Manager

it. Since many of us have been spending more time at home over the past few months, we have likely been using more energy. Yet, we still expect an endless supply of power with uninterrupted service 24/7. The only time we worry about electricity is when the power goes out or perhaps when the monthly bill arrives.

Given how electricity powers our modern lifestyle every day, it's a great value, especially when compared to other common services and expenses. For example, think back to the cost of a gallon of gasoline 20 years ago. Consider the cost of groceries or a cup of your favorite specialty coffee from a few years back. In comparison,

the cost of electricity has remained largely flat, unlike most other consumer goods.

Many people have a cell phone to stay connected and subscribe to cable channels to enjoy more viewing options. Many of us consider these necessities for modern day life. We can see what

we're getting for our money, and we pay the price for those services. In contrast, when we use electricity, we don't necessarily "see" all that we're getting for our money.

But considering what electricity does for us, it's a tremendous value for our quality of life as well as our budgets. For comparison, consider that the average rent increase was nearly 4 percent (from 2014-2019) according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index (CPI). The cost of medical care was increased 3 percent during this time, and education was not too far behind at 2.6 percent. Where did electricity rank? According to the CPI, electricity

increased by less than half a percentage point, 0.4 percent.

The bottom line: electricity brings everyday value. Considering that electricity is something that we all use around the clock, we are proud of our track record. At the same time, we are striving to increase our service reliability, reduce those brief interruptions and reduce costs. We are continually working to improve our operations to ensure a smarter grid and exploring more renewable energy options where possible.

Norris Electric provides the reliable service you expect and deserve as valued members of the co-op. As your trusted energy advisor, we want to help you save you energy and money.

We recognize that the past few months have been challenging for many of our members and we're here to help. If you have questions about your account or are looking for ways to save energy at home, please give us a call. Norris Electric is your electric co-op and our sole purpose is to serve you and the needs of our community. That's everyday value.



Help keep our crews safe

Orange road signs are not just for highway construction zones; they also apply to utility work zones. Slowing down before entering work zones helps save lives, including the lives of our crew members, who must

often work roadside to maintain or restore power.

Cars or trucks that go too fast not only endanger workers on the ground. Driving too fast or not moving over can also put a lineworker

who is working high up in a bucket in serious danger by causing it to move or sway into high-voltage lines.

Please, take extra care in work zones. Our crews and their families thank you.

It's my ground, by golly!

The crops were really good this year. They were so good that it was hard to find a place to take the bumper crop! All the elevators were full and there were still crops out in the field. Old Ben was befuddled! Then he remembered that a couple of miles away Rex, his best friend, had quit farming and there were a couple grain bins that he could get for a song. Ben and his son wheeled and dealed and bought the bins. They had a perfect place to put the bins on their own property so they took the bins down, poured new concrete and put the old bins on the new concrete. It was a tight fit because Norris Electric had a line along the road. They thought about it for awhile and then looked around and saw other bins were that close to the lines so they knew it was ok! Things were going great. Then a cantankerous Norris Electric engineer happened by and said the bins were too close to the power lines and either the bins had to be moved further away from the Norris Electric lines or Norris Electric would relocate the line and charge Ben for it! Old Ben said, "It's my ground, by golly, and I can build where I want to. Look down the

road! My neighbors have bins that close too and it was ok for them!"

What to do?

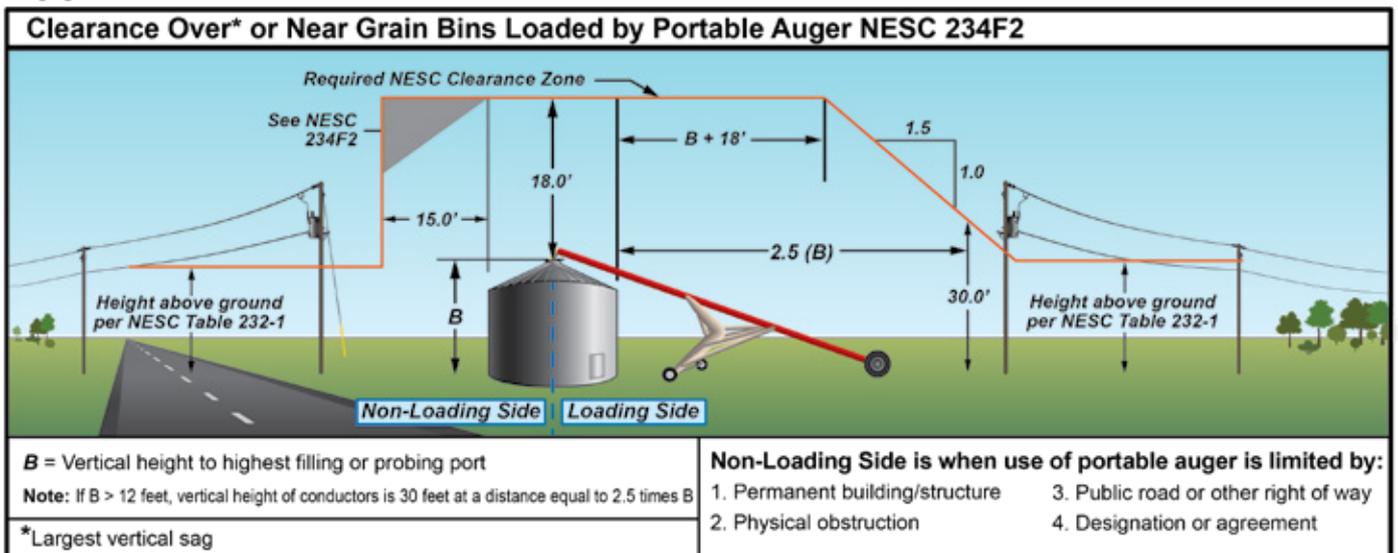
Well here's the scoop! Required clearances to power lines are spelled out in the National Electric Safety Code (NESC). Electric utilities and cooperatives refer to this book anytime they construct lines. Norris Electric will not build new lines too close to existing buildings or bins. The problem arises when the member or a contractor builds too close to the lines because they are not familiar with the NESC.

What happens when a bin is found too close to the cooperative's lines? The cooperative will notify the owner that the bin is out of compliance with the NESC. There would be two options for remedying the problem. The first would be to relocate the bin. This is costly and may be hard to do if the bin contains grain. The other is to relocate the line. In some cases, the line could be relocated to the other side of the road. In that case a right-of-way easement would have to be obtained from the neighbor. Usually this is a sticky solution because the neighbor that didn't have power

lines on his property is asked to have power lines on his property because his neighbor has a bin out of compliance. It also means there will probably be eight guy wires and anchors installed, which we all know everyone hates. The other alternative is to bury the line in the location of the bins. That is usually the simplest solution, but it is usually the most expensive. Then we have the issue of who should pay for this relocation. In almost all situations, the line was installed before the bin. The farmer or contractor that installed the bin created the noncompliance. Norris Electric believes the rest of the cooperative members should not be penalized with this cost due to the actions of one member. Of course, the other alternative is to do nothing. If that would happen, then the risk of someone being hurt or killed is quite a bit higher. None of us want that liability.

Please review the following chart. If you know of a dangerous situation, help us out by telling us about it! If you will be installing grain bins in the future, call us with questions so everybody stays safe.

Application Guide for 2017 NESC - see NESC for details and exceptions



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COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

1 VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP



Cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

2 DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL



Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote), and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

3 MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION



Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefitting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4 AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE



Cooperatives are autonomous, self help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

5 EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION



Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

6 COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES



Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7 CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY



While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) is the national service organization for more than 900 not-for-profit rural electric cooperatives and public power districts providing retail electric service

to more than 42 million consumers in 47 states and whose retail sales account for approximately 12 percent of total electricity sales in the United States. Learn more at NRECA.coop





Summer intern

Norris Electric was excited to have Travis Niemerg work with us this summer as an intern. Travis is the son of Duane and Annette Niemerg of Dieterich. Travis graduated Dieterich High School in 2016 and is currently enrolled at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville pursuing a degree in electrical engineering. Norris would like to wish Travis luck in his future endeavors.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Installing a smart power strip is a quick and easy way to start saving money while making your home more energy efficient. Smart power strips can actually cut power off to save energy since they are able to detect when a device is in standby mode.

Source: *energy.gov*

2015 capital credit checks for WildBlue and Exede

As a not-for-profit cooperative, Norris Electric is owned by the members we serve. When you pay your internet bill, you are accumulating equity in your cooperative.

One of the benefits of belonging to a cooperative is that any monies left over after expenses are paid are allocated back to the members in the form of capital credits according to your internet package.

Checks were mailed out the middle of July 2020. If you received internet service from Norris Electric Cooperative in 2015, you should have received a check. If you did not receive a check, feel free to call the office at 877-783-8765 or email capitalcredits@norriselectric.com.

What's Your Appliance Safety IQ?



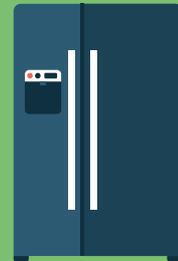
Clothes Dryer

Children have been electrocuted when hiding behind dryers; some pets also like to nap there.

Install a childproof lock on the laundry room door, as well as on your washer and dryer—especially front-loading models.

Clean lint screen between loads, and thoroughly clean the vents and duct system at least twice a year.

Make sure hoses, seals and connections do not leak and are secure.



Refrigerator

Follow the manufacturer's instructions for maintenance.

Clean the coils every six months to a year.

Keep an eye out for dust or lint under or behind your fridge and remove it to let your refrigerator breathe.

If you have young children in your home, make sure your refrigerator is not a tipping hazard. Consider using an appliance anchor that secures your tall appliance to the wall.



Hot Water Heater

Make sure your hot water heater is well-maintained.

Make sure it does not have excessive pressure buildup by testing the relief valve (or have it tested) at least once a year.

Ensure vents are connected securely and that the correct parts are used to avoid carbon monoxide production.

Have all components of the appliance inspected regularly (at least once a year) by a technician.

