



WATTS CURRENT

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
Reliable. Affordable. Responsible



August 2021

Alternate Energy Production Facility Notice Requirement

On January 1, 2013, a notification requirement went into effect. This requirement applies to the owner of an alternate energy production facility which will be attached to an electric transmission or distribution line. Alternate energy production facilities are defined as solar, wind turbine, waste management, resource recovery, refuse-derived fuel, agricultural crops or residues, or wood burning facilities used to generate electricity.

Under this requirement, the owner of the facility is required to provide written notification to their utility of the intent to construct or install the facility at least 30 days prior to construction. In the written notice the owner must provide information on the type of facility and the anticipated completion date of the construction. 12.27.01

If you are considering installing an alternate energy system please contact RVEC at 712.659.3649.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections®



Come see us at the Iowa State Fair!

Visit our booth in the newly renovated Rastetter 4-H Exhibits Building on the southwest end of the fairgrounds! We'll have plastic hard hats for kids (*while supplies last*) and a fun co-op safety selfie station.

Take a quick survey at our booth for a chance to win one of three great prizes:

- Breville Smart Oven Pro
- DEWALT 20V MAX VR Blower
- Roomba 614 Robot Vacuum



Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives of Iowa

IowaStateFair
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Bus-Stop Safety Reminders

With children heading back to school this month, this is a good time for parents to teach children about school bus safety.

- When waiting for the bus, stay away from traffic and avoid roughhousing.
- Wait for the bus to come to a full stop and its doors to open before stepping off the curb.
- Although other vehicles are required to stop when a school bus does, don't rely on that. When crossing the street in front of a bus, make eye contact with the driver and look all ways at traffic before stepping out.
- Stay in your seat, keep your head, arms and hands inside and keep aisles clear of books and bags.
- Wait for the bus to stop completely before getting up from your seat and leaving the bus.



Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative Will Be
CLOSED
SEPTEMBER 6TH FOR LABOR DAY

— CEO Comments —



Jim Gossett

We know your satisfaction with RVEC is directly related to the reliability and affordability of the services we provide. Maintaining reliability is not something that happens by chance. Throughout the year, our distribution infrastructure is subject to many risks. On any given day, ice storms, high winds, tornadoes, squirrels and birds, and even errant drivers, can interrupt electric service and cause a power outage.

We are constantly preparing for the things we can control on our system, such as planned and routine maintenance outages, and for unexpected outages that are often beyond our control. We set high goals for the reliability and accessibility of the power we provide to you. We balance the building and maintenance of

your system, including proper emergency back-feed capabilities that allow for shorter outage periods, with our need to satisfy your requirement to control costs.

Your board of directors and co-op staff recently filed RVEC's Annual Reliability Report with the Iowa Utilities Board for the 2020 calendar year. Maintaining a reliable system takes hundreds of hours of planning, maintenance, inspections and system upgrades. Equally important is our commitment to balancing reliability and affordability with member-owners' expectations, which requires a mindset of continuous improvement and looking ahead to anticipate your future needs.

The Reliability Report is designed to show past performance by reporting on a number of core reliability measures. We use these data points to come up with an Average Service Availability Index (ASAI) – a reliability index commonly used by electric power utilities throughout the U.S. 28.32.01

We are pleased to report that RVEC's overall reliability rate in 2020 was 99.9918 percent. This "four-9's of reliability" is the slightly down from last year's number of 99.9925 percent. The goal for most utilities is "five-9's". We were much more fortunate than our neighbors to the East, who suffered significant damage from the August derecho. What was major-event elsewhere only caused a few dozen outages on our system that were repaired the same day. Of course, the derecho had a severe negative impact on their availability index.

RVEC's reliability is a testament to the leadership of the board and daily attention to detail in construction and the safe, timely restoration of outages by RVEC employees.

Why Membership Matters

You could be a member of a lot of different places; a gym, a 4-H club, a food of the month club – the list goes on and on! But what makes being a member of a co-op different? The simple answer to that question is that when you are a member of a co-op, you are also an owner.

You own a stake in our business, and just like any stakeholder, there are many benefits to your membership. As a member-owner of RVEC, you have a say in the 14.26.02

representatives who are elected to serve on the co-op's board of directors. You have an opportunity to make your voice heard every year at our Annual Meeting. You get a say on policy issues your electric cooperative supports or opposes. You can even help to determine how your profits are redistributed.

Our bottom line is providing you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. Sure, we have to think about expenses, overhead and other aspects of daily business, but when we have a little left over, we send it back to you. And returning capital credits to you is a major part of why being a co-op member matters. As your local electric co-op, we get to be a part of this community. When we think about membership, we think about all of the ways we can give back to you, our members – and that's what matters most to us.

— SAVE THE DATE —

Annual Meeting
Sept 8, 2021

Director Candidates Appointed by Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee nominated the following members of the Cooperative for the office of Director for the term specified to be voted on at the Annual Meeting to be held on September 8, 2021.

DISTRICT 2

Steve Schable



- Lives 3 1/2 miles Southeast of Carroll
- Married to Ashley. They have 3 sons and 1 daughter
- Job - Athletic Trainer/ Director of Sports Performance at St. Anthony Regional Hospital. Head Track Coach and Assistant Football Coach at Carroll High School.
- Hobbies include spending time with family, attending my kids sporting events, hunting, fishing and time at the lake.
- Member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Carroll
- Member of Carroll Booster Club
- Board Director since 2020
- **What is your primary focus for RVEC member-owners and how will you support it?**
To continue to look for ways to provide safe, reliable, affordable energy to our member-owners.
- **Why are you seeking re-election to the Cooperative's board of directors?**
Having been a member of RVEC for 11 years and now a director, I want to continue to represent the member-owners in my district. To help ensure the service and reliability of the energy RVEC provides to its member-owners will always be top priority while keeping the costs affordable.

DISTRICT 5

Mark Ludwig



- Lives 2 1/2 miles Northeast of Breda
- Married to Connie. They have 3 sons and 2 grandsons
- Farms; corn, soybeans and alfalfa. A former registered Holstein cattle operator.
- Hobbies include golfing, gardening and spending time with family and friends.
- Member of St. Bernard Church, Farm Bureau, Breda American Legion and District 5 President of the Iowa Holstein Association.
- Board Director since 1985
- **What is your primary focus for RVEC member-owners and how will you support it?**
I support as much local control as we can have on our rates.
- **Why are you seeking re-election to the Cooperative's board of directors?**
I am running because I feel it is important for me to give back to my community the things that I have learned and try to represent those values when I attend meetings for the RVEC.

DISTRICT 3

Mark Adams



- Lives 1 1/2 miles Southeast of Glidden
- Married to Deb. They have 1 son and 2 daughters
- Job - Retired in 2018. Prior to that, I worked 18.5 years for the City of Carroll in the Parks Department and 15 years as a Park Ranger for the Carroll County Conservation Board. Currently, I am the owner and operator of Quail Creek Kennels which is a dog training and boarding facility.
- Hobbies include hunting, hiking, biking and spending time at the lake with family and friends.
- Member of First Presbyterian Church in Glidden. I also serve on the Session.
- Member and corporate sponsor of Pheasants Forever.
- Board Director since 2019
- **What is your primary focus for RVEC member-owners and how will you support it?**
My primary focus will be to live up to our pledge to provide reliable-affordable and responsible energy to our member-owners. I can best accomplish this by utilizing the experience and training I have gained in the past 3 years and continuing to build on this in the future.
- **Why are you seeking re-election to the Cooperative's board of directors?**
In my first term as a director, I received a lot of great education on the operation of our coop and the electric business in general. The future is full of exciting new opportunities and I would appreciate the opportunity to be a part of it.

Adam Handlos



- Lives 4 1/2 miles Southeast of Glidden
- Has 2 sons
- Farms; corn, soybeans and raises cattle and cow/calf herd
- Hobbies include going to the kids' activities and spending time with family and friends.
- Former committee member of Farm Service Agency
- RVEC member-owner since 2003
- **What is your primary focus for RVEC member-owners and how will you support it?**
To help steer RVEC in the right direction and be a voice for our membership. I would listen to the thoughts and concerns brought to me and then bring them to the board.
- **Why are you seeking election to the Cooperative's board of directors?**
I'm proud to be part of RVEC. A cooperative that is strong and member owned. My goal is to represent the member-owners and be able to continue to ensure that RVEC strives to provide the best services and opportunities for its member-owners.

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Published monthly by
Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative

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Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
(RVEC) is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.



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**Raccoon Valley
Electric Cooperative**
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
Reliable • Affordable • Responsible



Touchstone Energy®
The power of human connections

Homeowners – Don't Assume You Know What's Below!

Source: Iowa One Call website

Whatever your summertime projects may be – putting in a fence, planting a tree, or starting a garden – call 811 or file your locate requests online. Iowa One Call is here to help!

Things To Remember

- ✓ You must contact Iowa One Call at least 48 hours (not including weekends and holidays) in advance of your plans to excavate.
- ✓ A ticket is valid for 20 calendar days from the time of the call.
- ✓ **ALWAYS** check yard markings and Iowa One Call Positive Response ticket status before beginning excavation.

What Does NOT Get Marked

Only the buried facilities registered with Iowa One Call will be located and marked. Private facilities will not be marked for locates. These can include LP gas lines, sprinkler systems, gas grill lines, or more.

Homeowners may call private locating companies to have their private facilities marked.

Tolerance Zone

Paint and flag markings are approximate. The tolerance zone is 18" on either side of the markings. You should hand dig with caution in the tolerance zone to expose the facility.

Paint or Flag Color Indicators

Underground facilities will be marked according to the APWA Color Code. It is extremely helpful for you to outline your proposed excavation site in white paint or with white flags to reduce any confusion as to where the proposed excavation will occur.

- ❖ Red – Electric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit and Lighting Cables
- ❖ Yellow – Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum or Gaseous Materials
- ❖ Orange – Communication, Alarm or Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit
- ❖ Blue – Water, Irrigation and Slurry Lines 35.08.01
- ❖ Green – Sewers and Drain Lines
- ❖ Pink – Temporary Survey Markings
- ❖ White – Proposed Excavation
- ❖ Purple – Reclaimed Water

Before Contacting Iowa One Call

- When you contact Iowa One Call with a locate request, a series of questions will be asked.
- What is your name, address and phone number?
- What type of work will you be doing? (i.e. planting a tree, installation of fence)
- What is the dig location's address, city, county and nearest intersecting street?
- At the dig location, where will you be digging? (i.e. east side of house, within 5 ft radius of white stake.)
- When will you be digging? (i.e. 3 days, next week)

Before Iowa One Call arrives, it is extremely helpful for you to outline your proposed excavation site in white paint or with white flags to reduce any confusion as to where the proposed excavation will occur.



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

Spot Your Number

Read Watts Current and watch for your location number. If you spot it, call RVEC by the 20th of the month and you will receive an electrical bill credit for \$25.00.