Broadband internet project update

We are excited about the progress in building the new fiber optic internet system in our territory. As with any new project, some details have been slower than we hoped, but overall, Phase I construction has developed reasonably well.

After an extremely slow start getting our network connected to our point of presence in Mitchell, the contractors have performed well and the pace of work has increased. Construction of the 130 miles of strand that holds the fiber has been completed. The fiber build is nearing completion with a little over 100 miles constructed. Construction of the mainline fiber is finishing up on the west side of our system, between French Lick and Huron.

There have been over 600 drops installed so far, with 80 members currently connected and using our service. These members have signed up for packages ranging from our basic 50 mbps speeds up to our 250 mbps package.

Ervin Construction out of Sturgis, Kentucky, has been building our mainline fiber for Phase I. P&C Contracting out of Orleans has been building our drops in Phase I. Phase I will include access for approximately 1,300 homes in total.

Moving forward, Phase II contracts were awarded in May. ElectriCom was selected to execute Phase II mainline, and P&C Contracting will be responsible for Phase II drops. Phase II will include a larger area, providing nearly 2.5 times more members access, with 3,272 drops planned. Work on Phase II began in June and will last approximately 12 months.

If you have questions about your service or want an update on what areas are under construction, just give us a call or go to our Orange County Fiber Facebook page and/or website. We are working hard to keep our progress visible to our members.

MATTHEW C. DEATON
General Manager/CEO
Rate Schedule

How to compute your monthly electric bill:

Use this information to figure your bill for electric use in July, August and September.

Rate Schedule for Standard Service

Standard Service Consumer Charge...... $26  
Standard Service Energy Charge.... $0.1124  
Wholesale Power Cost Tracker . $0.0032734  
Total bill x Indiana sales tax .............. 7%

Example for 1,200 kWh

Standard Service Consumer Charge...... $26  
1,200 kWh @ $0.1124 ................. $134.88  
Wholesale Power Cost Tracker  
1,200 kWh @ $0.0032734 .............. $3.93  
Total ........................................ $164.81  
Indiana sales tax ......................... $11.54  
Total bill .................................... $176.34

Rate Schedule for Time-of-Use Service

Time-of-Use Consumer Charge....... $30.90  
Energy Charge On-Peak .............. $0.1671  
(On-Peak: 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., Monday–Friday, EST)  
Energy Charge Off-Peak............. $0.0691  
Wholesale Power Cost Tracker ..... $0.0032734  
Total bill x Indiana sales tax, 7%

Example for 300 kWh (On-Peak) and 900 kWh (Off-Peak)

Time-of-Use Consumer Charge....... $30.90  
Energy Charge On-Peak  
300 kWh @ $0.1671 ...................... $50.13  
Energy Charge Off-Peak  
900 kWh@ $0.0691 ..................... $62.19  
Wholesale Power Cost Tracker  
1,200 kWh @ $0.0032734 .............. $3.93  
Total ........................................ $147.15  
Indiana sales tax ......................... $10.30  
Total bill .................................... $157.45

Rate Schedule for Security Lighting

Security Lighting: 100 W HPS .......... $9.82  
Security Lighting: 40 W LED .......... $9.82

Visa, MasterCard and Discover cards accepted
Pay by phone at 855-865-2229, option 2.
Visit www.myremc.coop for these services:
• Pay online
• Pre-pay your bill
• Sign up for recurring monthly payment

Save on summer fun

Orange County REMC members can save on admission tickets and season passes at Holiday World and Splashin’ Safari. Go to myremc.coop and look under the “REMC Store” menu for details.

Pole testing continues

Orange County REMC has contracted crews to continue pole testing in the area served by the Mahan Substation through the month of August. The area affected is outlined in red above. REMC members in should be aware of extra utility vehicles along roadways and drive with caution.
More exciting changes for you!

As we explained in the April issue, Orange County REMC/Orange County Fiber is transitioning to a new business software. Don’t forget: Your bill will be getting a facelift starting in September and “how to read your bill” information will be coming soon.

We’re also announcing a new bill payment phone number effective Aug. 12. The new bill payment phone number will not only allow you to inquire or pay on your account, you will be able to update your phone number, store payment information, sign up for auto pay and make payment arrangements.

ONLY THE BILL PAYMENT NUMBER WILL CHANGE. THE OUTAGE REPORTING NUMBER WILL REMAIN THE SAME. You will continue to dial 855-865-2229 for automatic outage reporting. By calling this number, you will know your outage is reported immediately with no need for busy signals or hold times. You will also continue to use 855-865-2229 for payments through 8 a.m., Wednesday, Aug. 7.

After 8 a.m. on Aug. 7 until 8 a.m. Aug. 12, our telephone and online payment systems will be down for conversion and alternate payment methods must be used. After 8 a.m. on Aug. 12, you will need to call our new number — 833-890-7734 — in order to make a payment.

We understand that change can occasionally be challenging, and we will continue to update you as we move forward. We appreciate your patience and as always, if you have any questions, concerns or comments, we’d love to hear from you.

• Make sure fireworks are legal in your community before using them.
• Never buy professional-grade fireworks. They are not designed for safe consumer use.
• Keep small children a safe distance from all fireworks including sparklers which can burn at temperatures in excess of 2,000 degrees.
• Never reignite or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Keep a bucket of water or garden hose nearby to thoroughly soak duds before throwing them away.
• Keep pets indoors and away from fireworks to avoid contact injuries or noise reactions.

Orange County REMC will be closed July 4 as we celebrate Independence Day.
Defining Degree Days

Weather can have a major impact on energy bills, and when the outdoor temperatures become extreme, your heating and cooling equipment works harder to keep your home comfortable.

Did you know the energy experts at Orange County REMC use degree days to anticipate heating and cooling needs for you, our consumer-members?

Never heard of a degree day? Don’t worry; you’re not alone. Let’s take a look at what degree days are and why they’re important for electric utilities.

Degree days measure how cold or warm a location is by comparing the average of the high and low (mean) of the outdoor temperatures recorded in that location to the standard U.S. temperature, which is 65°F. The assumption is that we don’t need heating or cooling to be comfortable when this is the outdoor temperature.

So, the more extreme the outdoor temperatures, the higher the number of degree days. And the higher the number of degree days, the higher the amount of energy used for space heating and cooling. Summer is in full swing, so let’s look at cooling degree days.

Cooling degree days are a measurement of how hot the temperature was on a given day or during a period of days. With summer temperatures rising, you’ll likely require more cooling for your home or business, which results in more cooling degree days. Variations in electric bills often follow closely with degree days, which is why electric utilities use this data to anticipate future energy demand.

On May 9, Orange County REMC coordinated a hotline demonstration for 16 scouts and 11 adults from various local groups. Attendees included Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana Troops 1759 from Orleans and 6175 from Paoli, as well as Cub Scout Packs 3387 from Springs Valley and 381 from Paoli.

The guests also enjoyed snacks and took home energy efficiency kits provided by Hoosier Energy.

If your community or school group would benefit from a safety demo, please contact Orange County REMC.

Energy Efficiency Tip

When it’s warm out, avoid using the oven. Try cooking on the stove, using the microwave, slow cooker, or grilling outside instead.