



Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER

A Supplement of Oklahoma Living Published by Lake Region Electric Cooperative for its members.

February 2016

Vol. 7

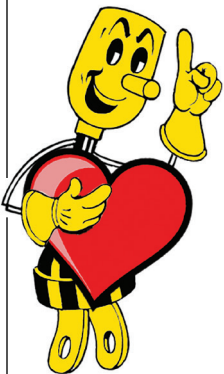
No. 2



Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Save energy and money by lowering your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. This will also slow mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.

Source:
energy.gov



Co-op Faced with Flooding Repairs

Heavy rains caused major flooding and damage to the Tahlequah area (eastern part of our electric system) late December 2015. Floods can cause damage to both above-ground and underground power lines and electrical equipment. With the rising rivers and creeks, debris can push into electric poles and equipment causing damage. Erosion was another major cause of damage to electric poles during the flooding. The swift moving river washed out approximately 36 LREC electric poles. At the height of the storm LREC had reported up to 1,300 meters out of service. With Highway 10 closed along the Illinois River, due to high waters, this caused delays and access issues during the power restoration and replacing of water ruined electric meters.

We appreciate your patience during these outage situations and know that our crews are always ready to do whatever it takes to restore power. Please note that you may see our crews



Photo by: Matt Boland, LREC Lineman

in the area for weeks after the flood to make long-term repairs and rebuild sections of line that were damaged.

Annual Meeting

April 30, 2016

LREC Accepting Board Member Nominations

LREC members will be asked to vote for three trustees at the cooperative's annual meeting of the membership, Saturday, April 30, 2016 at Hulbert Public Schools in Hulbert, Oklahoma.

Any member in good standing may submit nominations by petition provided by the cooperative. These forms will be available at the Hulbert office between March 1, 2016 and March 25, 2016. Each nominating petition must include 15 or more member signatures.

Certain minimal qualifications are required by basic law and the cooperative's bylaws for one to be eligible for election or appointed to and to serve on the cooperative's board of trustees.

It is the ultimate legal responsibility of the board

to ensure that these requirements are met and complied with. If the board should determine that an incumbent, nominee, or potential appointee lacks or has lost any of the necessary legal qualifications, it is the duty of the board to remove such incumbent or to declare such nominee or potential appointee ineligible for election, whichever may be the case.

By adopting, publishing and appropriately disseminating this policy and the attached related affirmation form, it is the board's respectful hope that trustee incumbents, nominees, or potential appointees will not only be fully apprised of these requirements, but mindful of their importance in deciding whether to continue or commence service on the board.

► **Eligibility qualification continued on page 3**

Pole Inspections

Notice to Members, LREC Contractors, Ram Utilities Will be Inspecting Poles Near or on Your Property.

Aging infrastructure, such as potentially decaying utility poles, is one of many areas that Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) focuses on annually. Aging infrastructure affects service reliability and can potentially create safety hazards. Your cooperative is determined in preserving its system infrastructure, and active measures are regularly taken to do just that.

Ram Utilities is conducting LREC's annual pole inspection. Our pole inspection program involves a sound inspection and ground resistance testing for pole decay or damages. GPS coordinates of poles, are collected as well. The crews are also inspecting power lines, hardware, and right-of-ways. If a pole is found to be in need of repair or replacement, it will be marked.

Each crew will be wearing clothing that will clearly identify them as being employed by RAM Utilities. The trucks they are driving will be marked with LREC logos on the doors. The crews will use ATV's to move from pole to pole.

The pole inspections started in late January and should last anywhere from six weeks to two months. Some of the communities that are listed to be inspected in Wagoner County are: Flatrock, Whitethorn Cove, Lake Crest. Communities in Cherokee County include: Lost City, Clear Creek, East of Tahlequah, Highway 10 Illinois River, Briggs, and Welling.

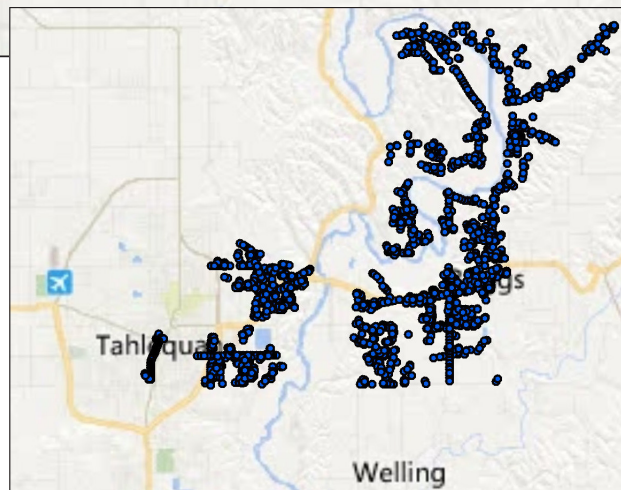
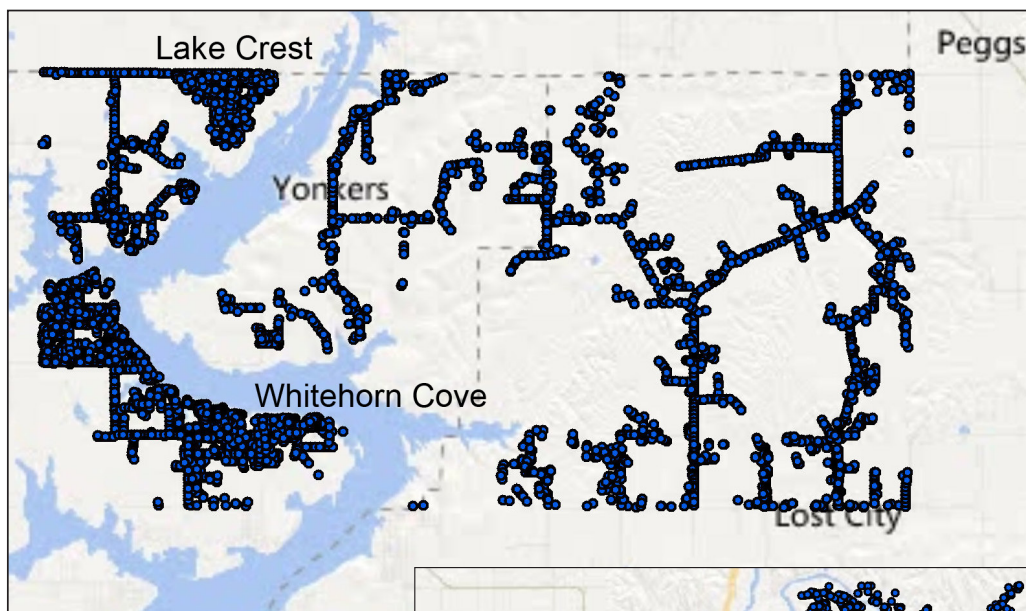
Wood has long been an ideal material for utility poles. They are produced from a renewable resource which is resilient and extremely resistant to oxidation and corrosion. LREC uses poles which are treated with a preservative that further protects them against biological degraders that can potentially cause them to weaken.

LREC utility poles have a life expectancy of 30-40 years.

This annual pole inspection process is another way we are looking out for you; it improves safety and the reliability of our electrical system. If you have questions about pole maintenance and inspections, please call us at 918-772-2526.



Photo provided by: RAM Utilities



Maps provided by: Jerry Latty, LREC Mapping Dept.

LREC Bylaws and eligibility qualifications to run for the Board

Eligibility qualification continued from page 1

Policy Content

I. General Legal Requirements

Basic law provides that a person to be eligible for election or appointment to, and to serve on, the cooperative's board shall, among other things:

- A. Be obedient to the cooperative by adhering to all applicable requirements of law, the cooperative's articles and bylaws, and the cooperative's duly made decisions;
- B. Be loyal to the cooperative, acting at all times in good faith for its best interests;
- C. Be unaffected by any continuing and substantial personal interest that is in conflict with the best interests of the cooperative;
- D. Be possessed of the minimal knowledge and skills necessary to manage the affairs of the cooperative;
- E. And be willing to devote such time and effort to his or her duties as a trustee as may be necessary to manage the cooperative's business and affairs.

II. Bylaw Requirements

Article IV, Section 3 of the cooperative's bylaws provides that a person, to be eligible to serve on the cooperative's Board, shall meet certain qualification requirements.

III. Procedures for Policy Implementation

This Policy shall be implemented as follows:

- A. It shall be timely explained each year in the cooperative's newsletter.
- B. Immediately after receipt of any nomination by petition, the cooperative shall furnish the nominee with a copy of the policy to ensure that he or she is qualified in accordance with it.

- C. The board, in filling any vacancies occurring on the board, shall ensure that an appointee is first fully apprised of this policy and is qualified in accordance with it.
- D. In any event, all individuals actually nominated or being considered for appointment as directors shall, prior to election or appointment, be requested to read this policy and, to then execute the affirmation form. If a potential appointee or nominee refuses to execute the affirmation form or qualifies his execution in any manner that the board considers being inimical to the best interests of the cooperative, the appointment shall be withheld or, as to the nominee, the board may inform the members of such fact prior to the election or disqualify the nominee, whichever it determines to do with the facts and circumstances existing.
- E. In any event, the board shall not allow voting on any nominee, or it shall refuse to seat any nominee elected, as the case may be, who is determined by it to be ineligible under this policy; and it shall remove from office any incumbent who is determined by it to have lost or never had eligibility under this policy.
- F. Timely every year prior to the annual meeting of the cooperative, each incumbent whose office is not up for election at the forthcoming annual member meeting shall be requested to review this policy and to execute or re-execute, as the case may be, the affirmation form.

Responsibility

The board shall be responsible for the enforcement of this policy.

Eligibility qualifications (Bylaws, Article IV, Section 3)

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a trustee of the cooperative who:

- (a) has not continuously been, for at least one (1) year prior to his nomination, or who ceases after his election to be, a member in good standing of the cooperative, receiving service there at his primary residential abode; or
- (b) is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy, or supplies to the cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the cooperative, or
- (c) has been employed by the cooperative within a five-year period from the date of employment termination, or
- (d) is a close relative of an employee or trustee of the cooperative, or
- (e) is the incumbent of or candidate for an elected public office in connection with which a salary or compensation in excess of \$100 is paid.

"Close relative" means a person who by blood or in law, including step, half, foster, and adoptive kin, is either spouse, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, nephew, or niece of the principal. Close relative shall also include more distant relatives who are members of the same household of an existing employee or trustee. The term "spouse" shall also mean persons who are living together in a conjugal relationship, even though not legally married.

Member Satisfaction

survey

During the next few months, Lake Region Electric Cooperative will be sponsoring a telephone survey that is conducted every three years to measure the quality of service provided to you, our member. This survey will ask several questions about your energy usage and your satisfaction with the cooperative. It should take approximately 13 minutes to answer all questions. The call center **3199301** conducting the survey will identify themselves as calling on behalf

of the cooperative. They will be conducting calls Monday-Friday from 5:00 pm until

9:00 pm and on Saturday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the office at, 918-772-2526.

Outage Maps keep co-op members informed when the lights go out

Outage maps are just what they sound like: a graphical representation of an outage displayed on a map of LREC's service area. The map will show where the outage is occurring

and, depending upon our system's capability, include information such as the number of members without power, and members served in each substation area. The map will also display color coded dots on the map for the number of outages on the map.

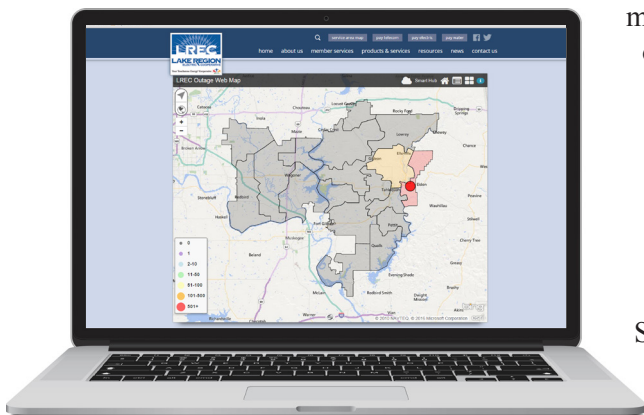
Behind the map is a sophisticated system that provides the data needed to populate the graphic interactive map. LREC considers this technology to be part of the Smart Grid because it does what the Smart Grid is supposed to do:

improve control, reduce outage length, increase reli-

ability and provide better information to employees, co-op members and the public.

Maintaining an accurate outage map starts with all the devices on the co-op's lines that can report their status to the cooperative. These include a growing number of switches and individual meters. "Report their status," means they can report if they have been tripped or if there is power at the meter. This data flows back over the power lines to a computer at the co-op. There it is analyzed, and the results are presented to the engineering and operations folks for action.

The outage map can be found on our website at: **www.lrecok.coop**



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Office Hours

Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Telephone

800-364-LREC or
918-772-2526

Website:

www.lrecok.coop

Locations

Hulbert, Wagoner &
Tahlequah, OK.

Main Office Address

P.O. Box 127
Hulbert, OK 74441

Hidden Account Number

Look for your account number hidden in this issue of the *Powerline Press*. If you find your number, Lake Region Electric will credit your next bill.

To claim your credit, notify LREC's Hulbert office by phone or mail during the month of publication.

The amount increases by \$10 with each issue your prize goes unclaimed to a maximum of \$50.

For more information, call **800-364-LREC** or **918-772-2526**

Cooperative bylaws are available upon request at Lake Region Electric Cooperative's office in Hulbert.