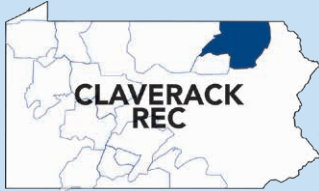


Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

CLAVERACK REC

32750 Route 6
Wysox, PA 18854
570-265-2167
1-800-326-9799

Email: mail@claverack.com
Website: <https://www.claverack.com>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Robert R. Faux, Zone 2
Chairman

570-574-3531

Angela S. Joines, Zone 3
Vice Chairman

570-756-4979

Danise C. Fairchild, Zone 1
Secretary/Treasurer

570-265-3599

Timothy T. Tewksbury, Zone 6
Vice Secretary/Treasurer

570-833-2320

Charles R. Bullock, Zone 7

570-280-8470

Robert W. Fearnley, Zone 5

570-278-2288

Gary L. Hennip, Zone 4

570-250-2200

Charles R. McNamara, Zone 8

570-553-4385

Anthony J. Ventello, Zone 9

607-765-2615

Steve Allabaugh
President & CEO

STAFF

Annette Koder, Executive Assistant
Nick Berger, Sr. Director,
Engineering and Operations
Kylie Slater, Interim Director, Finance
Brian Zeidner, Director, Member Services

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Jeff Fetzer, Local Pages Editor

New Rates Come Into Focus



BACK IN MAY, I WROTE an article for our website and social media, titled “Inflation and Claverack Electric Rates,” in which I described how inflation and soaring energy prices were impacting electric utilities throughout the state.

At the time, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) had just announced generation rates for investor-owned electric utilities in the state would be increasing by as much 45% in June. I also explained that Claverack was seeing dramatic increases in the cost of the basic materials and equipment we require to distribute power to our members. For example, the price of the standard overhead wire we use had risen by 65% year over year.

Wishful thinking had me hoping prices would moderate over the course of the year. Since then, however, generation costs have continued their upward trajectory, and material costs continue to rise. Many investor-owned utilities in Pennsylvania raised generation rates again on Dec. 1, with some going up by an additional 20% to 30%. And the price we pay for that same standard overhead wire has climbed by another 14% over the past seven months.

I mentioned in *Penn Lines* and during our annual meeting in August that we were not immune to increasing costs and that a rate increase was anticipated for 2023.

After completing a comprehensive rate study this fall, it became clear that we would need to make significant adjustments to our rates for the first time in many years.

The new rates took effect Jan. 1 and will be reflected on the electric bills members will receive in February.

For the average Claverack residential member consuming 980 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per month, the total bill will increase approximately \$37 per month. For the average seasonal member who uses 277 kWh, the bill will increase about \$16 per month.

Of course, not everyone uses the same amount of electricity, so we have included more detailed information illustrating how these changes affect a member’s electric bill depending on electric use and customer class in this issue of *Penn Lines*.

The need for the rate change was driven by three primary factors: inflationary rises in the cost of materials, equipment and labor; increased generation and transmission costs from our power supplier, Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny); and increased costs associated with vegetation management.

In addition to inflationary pressures impacting our distribution costs, we are also seeing higher generation prices, mostly due to rising natural gas prices and increases in our transmission costs. Fortunately, Claverack is a member of Allegheny, which provides 100% of our power supply.

In the late 1970s, Allegheny made the decision to invest in a nuclear plant, becoming a part-owner in the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station near Berwick.

Continued on page 16B

How Claverack's New Rates Will Impact Your Electric Bill

CLAVERACK MEMBERS WILL SEE SOME changes to their electric bills beginning in February as a result of new rates implemented in January. The following is a breakdown of the new rates for the cooperative's residential, small commercial and seasonal members:

- ▶ The cost-of-service charge will increase from \$33 to \$36.
- ▶ A \$5 accelerated ash removal charge rider will be added.
- ▶ The distribution charge will increase from 3.84 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to 5.281 cents per kWh.
- ▶ The generation charge will increase from 6.155 cents per kWh to 7.673 cents per kWh.

The accompanying tables depict how the rate changes will impact the monthly electric bill for the co-op residential, small commercial and seasonal members based on varying monthly energy use. 📊

Residential, Seasonal and Small Commercial Members

Claverack's New Rates

RESIDENTIAL, SEASONAL AND SMALL COMMERCIAL RATES

Cost of Service:	\$36 per month
Accelerated Ash Removal Charge:	\$5 per month
Distribution:	\$0.05281 per kWh
Generation and Transmission:	\$0.07673 per kWh

RESIDENTIAL TIME-OF-USE RATES

Cost of Service:	\$39.30 per month
Accelerated Ash Removal Charge:	\$5 per month
Distribution	
Summer (June - September) On Peak:	\$0.05448 per kWh
Winter (October - May) On Peak:	\$0.05448 per kWh
All Off Peak:	\$0.04872 per kWh
Generation and Transmission	
Summer (June - September) On Peak:	\$0.2574 per kWh
Winter (October - May) On Peak:	\$0.1810 per kWh
All Off Peak:	\$0.0341 per kWh

COMMERCIAL THREE-PHASE RATES

Cost of Service:	
For Secondary Service:	\$50 per month
For Primary Service:	\$81 per month
Accelerated Ash Removal Charge:	\$5 per month
Distribution	
Demand:	
For Secondary Service	\$8.40 per kWh
For Primary Service	\$7.93 per kWh
Energy:	\$0.01135 per kWh
Generation and Transmission	
Demand:	\$3.80 per kWh
Energy:	
First 400 Hours Use of Billing Demand:	\$0.0715 per kWh
All Remaining kWh:	\$0.0575 per kWh

Kilowatt-hours used	Bill amount at previous rate	Bill amount at new rates	Increase in monthly bill
0	\$33	\$41	\$8
100	\$43.01	\$53.95	\$10.94
277*	\$60.73	\$76.88	\$16.15
500	\$83.05	\$105.78	\$22.73
750	\$108.07	\$138.16	\$30.09
980**	\$131.09	\$167.95	\$36.86
1,500	\$183.14	\$235.32	\$52.18
2,000	\$233.18	\$300.08	\$66.90

*denotes the monthly kilowatt-hours used by the average Claverack seasonal consumer
 **denotes the monthly kilowatt-hours used by the average Claverack residential consumer

FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Continued from page 16A

Today, Allegheny's 10% share of the plant provides more than 50% of our energy needs.

Allegheny also owns the Raystown Hydroelectric Plant in Huntingdon County. In addition, we have been receiving generation since the 1960s through long-term hydropower agreements Allegheny negotiated with the New York Power Authority.

Combined with Susquehanna's output, these investments have provided tremendous generation rate stability to Claverack and our sister cooperatives over the past two decades. They represent roughly 65% of Allegheny's power portfolio, requiring the purchase of only about 35% of its remaining needs on the market. This portfolio has been a bulwark against market volatility and recent rising energy costs and has shielded

us from the much higher generation price spikes our neighboring investor-owned utilities are experiencing. Nonetheless, beginning on Jan. 1, 2023, the cost for us to purchase power through Allegheny will be rising approximately 30%.

Another change that will appear on members' bills beginning in February is related to our efforts to improve reliability. We have implemented a temporary

Continued on page 16C

FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Continued from page 16B

\$5 monthly surcharge, referred to as the accelerated ash removal charge rider on your electric bill, to enhance our efforts to remove off-right-of-way danger trees across our system.

As we've discussed in *Penn Lines* and at our annual meetings in recent years, the reliability of our system has been negatively impacted by the wide-scale die-off of ash trees due to the invasive emerald ash borer. Since 2020, we have seen a fourfold increase in the amount of time our members are without power. Over the same period, our lineworkers have put in thousands of hours repairing damage and restoring outages caused by dead and dying ash trees — mostly from outside of our maintained rights of way — falling onto our lines.

The revenue generated by the ash removal surcharge will help improve reliability for all Claverack members. The rider is scheduled to apply to member bills beginning Jan. 1, 2023, and will expire Dec. 31, 2024, when the accelerated ash tree removal work is completed.

The decision to raise rates is never taken lightly. It's made by your fellow cooperative members who serve on the co-op board and understand what a cost increase will mean to the local community. That's why we work hard to keep costs down.

The rate increases for 2023, while necessary for the financial stability of the cooperative, also reflect the understanding that you value affordable electricity, reliable service, quick outage restoration during storms and friendly customer service. We are committed to continuing to provide that, and more, as we have for the past 85 years. 📍

STEVE ALLABAUGH
PRESIDENT & CEO

Options Available for Members Struggling to Keep Up with Energy Bills

CLAVERACK OFFERS A VARIETY OF financial assistance and bill payment options for members experiencing difficulties keeping up with rising energy costs.

To learn what options will work best for you, the first step is to contact the Claverack office by calling 1-800-326-9799. In addition to offering payment arrangement plans and leveled billing options, Claverack's member service representatives can direct members to programs that provide energy assistance to qualifying households.

Available bill management and assistance options include:

Levelized billing. Participants in this program receive a monthly bill based on the average of the previous 12 month's billing history. This means that the high and low bill amounts experienced throughout the year are "levelized" monthly so members can better budget electric bill costs.

Payment arrangement plans. Members who are behind on their electric bills can catch up on past-due bills over a specific period of time by entering into a payment arrangement plan with the cooperative.

Claverack H.O.P.E. This program provides assistance to eligible members struggling to pay their electric bills. Donations from Operation Round-Up, our member-to-member program, as well as escheats monies from unclaimed capital credits, comprise this fund. Claverack has partnered with Trehab Community Services to administer this program

Emergency financial assistance. Claverack can direct members to outside sources to assist with energy costs. Assistance may be available through the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), as well as various agencies and organizations based in the county in which a member resides.

Please contact our office to let us help you determine the best way to assist you in keeping up with energy costs. We also offer a variety of energy conservation and efficiency tips on our website, claverack.com, to help you save on energy expenses, so be sure to check them out as well. 📍

10 Quick Tips to Avoid High Winter Bills
Looking to lower your bills this winter? Use the 10 tips below to conserve energy.

- 1 Seal air leaks and insulate well to prevent heat from escaping and cold air from entering your home.
- 2 Reduce waste heat by installing a programmable thermostat.
- 3 Turn off lights when not in use.
- 4 Lower your water heater temperature. The Dept. of Energy recommends using the warm setting (120 degrees) during fall and winter months.
- 5 Unplug electronics like kitchen appliances and TVs when you're away.
- 6 Open blinds and curtains during the day to allow sunlight in to warm your home.
- 7 Close blinds and curtains at night to keep cold, drafty air out.
- 8 Use power strips for multiple appliances, and turn off the main switch when you're away from home.
- 9 Wash clothes in cold water, and use cold-water detergent whenever possible.
- 10 Replace incandescent light bulbs with LEDs, which use at least 75 percent less energy.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

Students Can Compete for all-inclusive Tour of Nation's Capital

THE NATIONAL RURAL Electric Youth Tour, cancelled the past three years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, is back!

With its return, Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) will sponsor up to four students from the cooperative's service territory on this week-long trip to the nation's capital this summer.

If you are a high school junior who enjoys sightseeing, history, politics and making new friends, then this trip may be for you.

The lucky students will have the opportunity to explore Washington, D.C., with a group of their peers from across the country during the 2023 Rural Electric Youth Tour, a six-day sightseeing excursion that mixes fun and education.

During the tour, which takes place June 18-23, participants will have the opportunity to explore Washington's historic sites, visit world-famous museums, make lifelong friends, meet with federal legislators and learn about electric cooperatives and the cooperative movement. Students selected for the trip will also be eligible for special scholarship opportunities.

If you are interested, here's what you need to know:

Rules for 2023 Rural Electric Youth Tour

1. This contest is open to any high school junior (2022-23 school year) whose parents or legal guardians are members of Claverack REC.

2. Create a 3-5-minute video to include the following:

- ▶ Introduce yourself and state what cooperative you are from.
- ▶ Talk about your extracurricular activities in high school.
- ▶ Cover what you do when you are not in school — work, hobbies,



YOUTH TOUR RETURNS: Claverack Youth Tour student delegates stand in front of the Capitol during a week-long tour of Washington, D.C., in June 2019. Students representing the cooperative on the trip were, from left, Kemuel Laudermilch of Wyalusing, Katrina Roof of Wysox, Emily Moyer of Wyalusing, Mary Stretch of Laceyville, Dawcin Jones of New Albany and Logan Newton of Wyalusing. After a three-year hiatus caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Pennsylvania electric cooperatives will once again participate in Youth Tour this summer, and Claverack will send up to four students on the all-inclusive trip.

community service.

- ▶ Discuss your plans for the future — what you want to do after you graduate from high school.
- ▶ Answer this question: If you could have lunch with anyone — dead, alive or fictional — who would it be and why?

3. Complete the online Youth Tour application form, which can be found at claverack.com/youth-tour. Be sure to attach an appropriate school photo of yourself as required on the form and provide the link to your YouTube video.

4. In lieu of providing a link to your YouTube account, you may bring a flash drive of your video to the Claverack office in Wysox.

5. Questions should be addressed to: Karen Evangelisti, karene@ctenterprises.org, 570-268-1332.

6. Entries must be received by 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10.

7. Cooperative employees will select the finalists based on the application and video submitted. One student will also be chosen as Claverack's Youth Leadership Council (YLC) candidate. The YLC candidate will compete with other candidates for the chance to be the Pennsylvania YLC representative (see online application for more details). The decision of the judges is final.

7. The cooperative will mail notification of results to all applicants by Friday, Feb. 17. 📧

Looking Back with Claverack



Follow Claverack REC & Revolution on Facebook to see even more historical photos and help us fill in the blanks! New photos are posted on the 21st of each month.

YOUTH REPORT: Claverack's 1964 Annual Meeting featured three special guests who participated in the day's activities, from left: Linda Palmer, Rosa Lee Morse and Linda Hefferan. Palmer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Palmer of Canton, reported on her participation at the Summer Institute of the Pennsylvania Association of Farmer Cooperatives. The four-day event, held at Slippery Rock State College, was sponsored by the Sulbra Youth Council of Farmer Cooperatives. Reigning Pennsylvania State Dairy Princess Morse, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Morse of Canton, was on hand to promote milk consumption and dairy products. Hefferan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hefferan of Tunkhannock, reported about her experience representing Claverack during the four-day Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. Claverack sponsored three high school youths on the 1964 Youth Tour, one each from Bradford, Susquehanna and Wyoming counties.



It's going to be a great new year!

Soon many in the Lime Hill and Herrick substation areas will have access to reliable, high-speed Revolution fiber internet. Construction is nearing completion in the Lime Hill substation area, and we are making great progress on the Herrick substation area network. Next up: Litchfield construction, with the start of the Plank Road substation area not far behind!

Although construction activity may vary during the winter months due to weather conditions, Claverack is very busy behind the scenes preparing everything needed to make your experience with Revolution Broadband the best it can be!

This winter we're...

- expanding our member services team to maintain our exceptional level of customer care
- training staff on the many facets of Revolution's options to help answer your questions and provide the services you need
- partnering with suppliers to provide you with the best internet and Wi-Fi experience
- teaming up with first-class fiber-to-the-home installers to ensure the process goes smoothly
- making plans for future builds and exploring additional funding options

Our local team is looking forward to hearing from you – or seeing you at the office. Revolution internet. Made better by being local.

REVOLUTION
BROADBAND

Visit revolutionbroadband.net to register your interest. We'll contact you when services are available in your area and it's time to place your order.

revolutionbroadband.net | 570-268-1349 | 888-907-8655