

# Co-op News



Bradley Cherry President and CEO

## Game plan

#### Basketball tourney welcomes a return to normal

If all goes according to plan, the 2022 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament will get back on track on March 13 for Selection Sunday, followed by 67 games over the course of the next three weeks, counting the play-in games.

After the pandemic disrupted the tournament, canceling it in 2020 and moving all games within an Indiana "bubble" last year, basketball fans are hoping for a return to normal this year for a great sports tradition. After all we have been through, many of us enthusiastically welcome these three weeks of basketball.

As you arrange your chairs in front of the television and turn on kitchen appliances to prepare the game spread, all of us at Grayson RECC are excited to play our part providing the electricity that powers these celebrations. Even as the pandemic canceled games, closed businesses and shifted students to online learning, we are proud to report that it did not impact service for our consumer-members.

It was two years ago this month that the first case of COVID-19 was diagnosed in Kentucky. Though Grayson RECC communicated the many precautions and proactive decisions we made to keep employees and members safe, we hope that as you look back over all that has happened over the last two years, you have always had confidence



in our commitment to serving you. With so much uncertainty in the world, the reliability of Grayson RECC is something you can count on.

In addition to maintaining electric service, Grayson RECC also recognizes the need to understand the hardships families and businesses face during crises, from the pandemic to natural disasters. If you are struggling with your energy usage or your bill, we continue to encourage you to reach out to us so we can help connect you with resources and solutions.

When the NCAA tournament was scuttled in 2020, it marked the event's first cancellation since it started in 1939, around the same time that electric cooperatives began providing electric service in rural Kentucky. As you root on your favorite team, let them know they can shoot the lights out. We'll keep them on.

## The Steps to Restoring Power

After a major power outage

**Step 1.** Transmission towers and lines supply power to one or more transmission substations. These lines seldom fail, but they can be damaged by natural disasters. Tens of thousands of people could be served by one high-voltage transmission line, so if there is damage here it gets attention first.

**Step 2.** Grayson Rural Electric has 13 local distribution substations, each serving thousands of customers. When a major outage occurs, the local distribution substations are checked first. A problem here could be caused by failure in the transmission system supplying the substation. If the problem can be corrected at the substation level, power may be restored to a large number of people.

**Step 3.** Main distribution supply lines are checked next if the problem cannot be isolated at the substation. These supply lines carry electricity away from the substation to a group of consumers, such as a town or housing development. When power is restored at this stage, all consumers served by this supply line could see lights come on, as long as there is no problem farther down the line.

Tornadoes, ice storms and blizzards: Grayson RECC members have seen them all. And with such extreme weather come power outages. Restoring power after a major outage involves much more than simply throwing a switch or removing a tree from a line. When power goes out, Grayson Rural Electric's main goal is to restore power safely to the greatest number of members in the shortest time possible.

Transmission substation

3

Local substation

Local substation

Grayson RECC members, please call 1-800-562-3532 to report a power outage.

**Step 5.** Sometimes, damage will occur on the service line between your house and the transformer on the nearby pole. This can explain why you have no power when your neighbor does. Grayson Rural Electric needs to know you have an outage here so a service crew can repair it.

I ocal

substation

Area enlarged: Members themselves (not Grayson Rural Electric) are responsible for damage to the service installation on the building. Your co-op can't fix anything beyond this point. Call a licensed electrician.

**Step 4.** The final supply lines, called tap lines, carry power to the utility poles or underground transformers outside houses or other buildings. Line crews fix the remaining outages based on restoring service to the greatest number of consumers.

Tap Line

Tap Line

DANGER! Stay clear of fallen lines

## TREE TRIMMING SAFETY

#### Trimming and removal of trees can be dangerous work

Consider these common dangers before attempting a tree trmming project on your own:

**ELECTROCUTION:** If there's a chance power lines might be involved at all, always call your electric utility first. Even when you think there's room, if the wind blows a limb into a power line as you're trimming it, you can be electrocuted.

**FALLING:** Always make sure you are using appropriate safety harnesses and ropes. Before climbing, inspect the tree to make sure no power lines run through or near the tree.

**BEING STRUCK:** Improper cutting can cause the tree to fall where you hadn't planned. Always have two escape routes planned in case the tree starts going the wrong way.

**OVERESTIMATING:** You can be seriously injured or killed if you overestimate your abilities.



## December 2021 Board Briefs

- The Fuel Adjustment Charge (FAC) from East Kentucky Power Cooperative (EKPC) significantly increased resulting in a substantial increase in our purchased power bill. This will effect our members' bills with the increase likely occurring on the February bill.
- The 2022 capital budget was approved. The work plan projects totaled \$4,953,274 with vehicles totaling \$435,134 and capital projects totaling \$409,326.
- The 2022 annual meeting timeline was approved with the

November 2021 Board Briefs

- The vacant board of directors seat representing Greenup County, due to the passing of Billy E.
  "Eddie" Martin, was filled for the remainder of the term by the appointment of Kayla Webb.
- President Cherry discussed plans to utilize financial resources from Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) to facilitate a comprehensive financial plan for the cooperative.
- The September financial report showed both kilowatt-hour sales and purchases were below budget at 5.41% and 3.62% respectively. Margins were \$469,649.28 and the TIER was 9.20. YTD, sales are 1.19% less and purchases 0.26% more than 2020.

annual meeting being scheduled

• Bylaw changes were approved

restructuring the number of

counties of the cooperative.

board seats representing the six

• Kilowatt-hour sales for the month

gets while purchases were 0.21%

to run less than 2020, while pur-

chases have increased by 0.22%.

• Grayson RECC employees have

worked 464,504.4 hours with-

out a lost-time accident as of

November 30, 2021.

of October were 3.92% under bud-

under budget. YTD sales continue

for May 12.

• Number of hours without a lost-time accident is currently at 458,439 hours.

### SAVE THE DATE ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022 NOON UNTIL 5 P.M.

DRIVE-THRU REGISTRATION, VIRTUAL BUSINESS MEETING AT 5 P.M. ON FACEBOOK LIVE

#### **Office Hours:**

7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Monday–Friday **Contact Us:** (606) 474-5136 (800) 562-3532

#### **Outage Contact Information:**

Call (800) 562-3532 Text 55050

#### **Bill Pay Options:**

Online Mobile device Office Drive-thru Mail Phone

#### **Counties Served:**

Carter, Elliott, Greenup, Lawrence, Lewis and Rowan

#### **Our Mission**

Grayson Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation exists to provide safe, efficient electricity and related services to our members, our communities, and others who may be affected by our actions and decisions.

#### President and CEO

Bradley Cherry

#### **Board of Directors**

Harold Dupuy, Chairman/ East Kentucky Power Cooperative Director Roger Trent, Vice Chairman Jim Bentley, Sec./Treasurer Jimmy Whitt, Kentucky Electric Cooperatives Director Kenneth Arrington Kayla Webb Derrick Willis, Attorney

**Editor** Kim Bush

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