
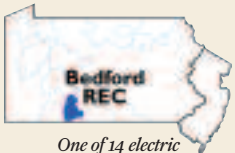


Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Bedford REC
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Bedford, PA 15522
814/623-5101

Email: support@bedfordrec.com
Website: www.bedfordrec.com

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Attorney

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

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Rate changes on the horizon



Brooks Shoemaker
General Manager

IN NOVEMBER 2007, I first reported that the cooperative had undertaken a Cost of Service and Retail Rate Study. Basically, this means that we have been examining our current rates to determine if they provide enough revenue to cover our costs. Secondly, a rate study determines if each separate rate class (residential, seasonal, small and large commercial)

is paying its fair share of the cost of operating the cooperative. This is important, because one rate class should not be paying for costs created by another class. Initially, I believed that an increase would be required during 2008. Fortunately, we were able to avoid that. However, an increase is necessary and it will be implemented in 2009, along with changes to our rate structure. Both of these changes are designed to be fair and equitable to all members.

I am pleased to note that the average increase will be 3.3 percent. The rate classes have been rebalanced so each class pays its proportionate share of our costs. Some members' rates will actually go down, while some will increase by as much as 5 percent. The percentage will fluctuate based on a member's use of electricity.

Generally speaking, the monthly increases will vary from less than \$1 to \$6. To put it in perspective, our average member's monthly bill is for 970 kilowatt-hours (kWh). Once the new rates take effect in 2009, it will increase by \$0.43 (43 cents). However, on the extreme end of the spectrum, members who have meters, maybe on a garage or storage building, that use less than 100 kWh per month will experience the largest increase, up to \$9 per month.

Members with no or very low use will

experience the biggest increases. The current base charge is \$15 per month for residential accounts and \$18 for seasonal. Beginning in January, the base charge will be \$24 per month. As I mentioned earlier, our rate structure is also changing. Currently, the distribution charge is blocked, \$0.336 for the first 500 kWh, \$0.026 for the next 500 kWh, and \$0.015 for all remaining kWh. Our new structure eliminates these blocks, and simply charges a flat rate of \$0.0204 for all kWh. Hopefully, this results in a bill that is easier to read and understand. Remember, the base charge and the distribution charge provide the revenue necessary to operate a \$28 million, 1,265-mile distribution system, serving the electrical needs of over 9,000 members.

The base charge represents your share of what it costs for us to maintain the basic distribution system, including poles, wire and other fixed equipment charges. Your share of these costs does not change, regardless of how much electricity you use. In essence, it is the basic minimum cost of having a meter on the side of your home or garage, regardless if you use any kWhs. The variable distribution charge reflects capacity-related costs, which change based on our membership's consumption patterns.

The changes take effect on Jan. 1, 2009, and the first bill you receive will be in early February. Look for additional discussion of the new rate structure in the January *Penn Lines* issue. In the mean time, visit our website, www.bedfordrec.com, for additional information.

While virtually all aspects of today's cost of living continue to rise, we've successfully avoided routine price adjustments. Since 1994, Bedford Rural Electric members have enjoyed stable rates. Including this 2009 increase, they have risen less than 5 percent during those 15 years. We are proud of that, considering that a gallon

(continues on page 12d)

Blackstone combines shooting, running at biathlon world championships

BY LINDA WILLIAMS

EVERETT NATIVE Stephanie Blackstone placed 12th in the 2008 IBU Summer Biathlon World Championships held in France, holding her own in competition with women from around the world. A biathlon combines the endurance of cross-country running with the intense concentration of shooting.



CONCENTRATION: A close-up of Stephanie aiming her rifle. She hopes to improve in this part of the biathlon.

Stephanie was a runner in high school, but her serious biathlon training began when she decided to participate in the Altoona Summer Biathlon in 2003. She continued to participate in the Altoona event through 2007 and in the past year began competing regularly across the northeastern United States. Stephanie, a former Bedford Fair Queen, was undefeated in six races this year and won her first national championship in July.

A Kent State University graduate, Stephanie is a decorated high school and college athlete in both cross country and track and field. She competed four years at each level.

“Running has always been more of



TAKING AIM: Another scene of Stephanie shooting.

a way of life for me than a sport or activity,” Stephanie reports. “After I crossed the finish line this May in my last collegiate race, I felt empty. I knew there was never any doubt that I would continue running as long as my legs were capable of doing it. I had

planned to start fall marathon training after my track career ended. I never imagined I would be competing at France in September at a world championship level.”

Shooting, however, still feels a little foreign to her and she considers herself

a novice shooter. She plans to keep practicing her shooting skills to become faster and more accurate. This year, she went to France with a rifle borrowed from a close friend, Sonja Hinish, a former Penn State track athlete.

"I want to return Sonja's rifle and get her to join me next year," Stephanie says. "I think Sonja will be a great contributor and training partner."

Another friend and biathlon competitor also figures into her success. Doug Hoover, Williamsburg, encouraged Stephanie to attend the national trials this year and mentored her throughout the event.

"I know I would not have made it to the world championships without him," Stephanie notes.

In France, both Stephanie and Doug participated in the sprint races, which included three running loops separated by two shooting stops. The next day, they competed in the longer pursuit races that included five running loops separated by four shooting stops.

"The chance to be a part of the American team and to put on a U.S.A. uniform was humbling and a great honor," Stephanie emphasizes.

Her fellow U.S.A. team members, in addition to Doug, were Kaitlyn Bernard and Molly Susla of Maine, Danny Fink of West Virginia and Anthony Rizzo of Pennsylvania.

Her first experience in the French competition is one she will never forget. The country was beautiful and there were many funny moments.

"The first day eating at the venue we



TEAM USA: Stephanie is in the middle front and Doug Hoover is standing behind her.

were told we would be eating monkey," not something she really wanted to hear, Stephanie reports, adding that the confusion over the main dish was due to a language misunderstanding, not an actual cultural difference in food choices.

She also was amused at comments directed toward her. Tall and thin, Stephanie's size was thought to be unusual by many of the competitors

from around the world, many of whom were shorter than her. They referred to her as "Stephanie Blackstone, the tall American."

When she's not competing in biathlons or training for them, Stephanie reports she leads sort of a nomadic existence. A little more than

two years ago she began a photography business on a freelance basis.

"I would love to continue working for myself," Stephanie adds, "But I do plan to get a job in the magazine industry around the first of the year."

She has worked for Rodale Inc. in the photography department at the magazine *Runner's World*.

"Rodale was a perfect fit for me," she explains. "Even if I don't work for *Runner's World* again, Rodale's publications are centered on health and fitness and their employees reflect that lifestyle. I feel that working for them, or a similar company, would do more than just surround me with highly qualified professionals and great experience. I believe it will help keep me motivated to continue my running and biathlon training."


Stephanie is the daughter of Stephen and Cindy Blackstone. 🌟



FRENCH COUNTRYSIDE: The picturesque scene of the race in France.

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

(continued from page 12a)

of gas has increased 195 percent during that period. Rest assured, these adjustments are something we only consider when absolutely necessary. We believe that reliable electric service at a reasonable price is something you can count on and that we deliver on a daily basis. 

Office Closing
 Bedford REC's office
 will be closed on
 Tuesday, Nov. 11, in
 observance of Veteran's
 Day and Thursday, Nov.
 27, and Friday, Nov 28,
 for the Thanksgiving
 holiday.

GEOHERMAL COMFORT
Harnessing the Energy of the Earth...
 V250 per ton
 rebate available

"Geothermal Systems"

Geothermal systems offer a safe, renewable energy resource by transferring solar energy from the earth to your home. Open loop geothermal heat pumps use supply and return water wells, while closed loops (either horizontal or vertical) use fluid filled underground vertical, horizontal, slinky, or pond piping to transfer geothermal energy. They produce up to 5 times more energy than they consume, resulting in unparalleled energy efficiency and reduced utility bills. Your family will enjoy comfortable, constant temperatures; healthy, clean air all day and night, during both summer and winter, with no more blasts of hot or cold air. Plus, built-in humidity control will even make your basement recreation room humidity friendly.

There are several different types of systems shown on the right. Each one designed specifically for different preferences or situations.

Why choose a Geothermal System?

1. Enjoy both heating and cooling
2. Warm, comfortable air flow from supply ducts
3. More economical than oil, gas, or propane systems
4. Long Life—average 20-25 year span
5. No unsightly outdoor unit to maintain
6. Environmentally friendly—no explosive fuels, flame, smoke, soot or other pollutants
7. Low maintenance—just clean the filter periodically
8. Increases resale value of home
9. Bedford Rural Electric offers a \$250 rebate per ton of capacity installed.



Open Loop



Pond Loop



Horizontal Loop



Vertical Loop

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.
 "People You Can Count On" Phone: 623-5101
 A TrueGreen Energy Company  www.bedfordrec.com

TROUBLE CALL SCHEDULE

In case of trouble ...

- First Check your fuses or circuit breakers.
- Second Check with your neighbors, if convenient, to see if they have been affected by the power failure.
- Third **Call 24-hour number, 623-7568**
OR call 1-800-808-2732 during office hours
 (Please help us save money - only use this number if toll charges apply.)

Please give person receiving call your name as it appears on your bill, your telephone number and your map number if known. Any specific information about the outage will also be helpful in pinpointing the problem.

Alternate numbers ...

Ed Hankinson	Week of November 10.....	733-2495
Scott Bischof.....	Week of November 17	839-4640
Gary Lafferty	Week of November 24	842-9925
Scott Shook	Week of December 1.....	623-2395
John Karns	Week of December 8	977-5109
Troy Mock	Week of December 15.....	276-9759

In case you cannot reach any of the above ... Call:

Jim Wood	Bedford.....	623-6121
James Clark	Everett	652-9791
Mark Rowan	Bedford.....	623-7890

During widespread power outages, many members are calling to report power failures, so you may receive a busy signal. Please be patient and try again in a few minutes.

Emergency Power Needs

During outages, as a service to our members with special needs (specifically members who need continuous electricity for life support apparatus or farming operations), Bedford Rural Electric attempts to prioritize service restoration. If a special need exists, we need to be aware of the situation. Please provide the following details:

Reason: _____

Type of life support machine: _____

Doctor's name (please print): _____

Doctor's signature: _____

Name, address, and telephone number of the person Bedford REC may contact about this form, or in an emergency.

Unfortunately, service restoration may take several days, especially during severe storms. Therefore, we recommend that our members with special needs consider stand-by back-up generation equipment. Please contact our office for more information on this type of equipment.