


Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Satisfying our energy appetite requires a diverse menu



by Brooks Shoemaker
General Manager

WE'RE IN the middle of a green revolution in America, with towering wind turbines and bright solar arrays dominating headlines as the future of electric generation. No doubt those technologies will certainly take on a bigger role in "keeping the lights on." However, despite media hype, they won't totally replace conventional sources for producing elec-

tricity, such as coal, natural gas and nuclear power, any time soon.

To meet growing demand for electricity, we will continue to mix and match generation resources, finding the best way to balance environmental concerns while ensuring delivery of affordable and reliable power. Since federal climate change legislation will likely boost the price for every kilowatt generated by fuels that emit carbon dioxide — notably coal and natural gas — nuclear power may very well become an attractive option once again.

Nuclear power is an attractive option because it does not release carbon dioxide into the air. It is reliable because, unlike other renewable energy options that are dependent on wind or sunlight, it is available 24/7. In the past, nuclear power has faced tremendous opposition because of waste and safety concerns. However, nuclear power plants have been operating safely since the 1950s, and have proven to be safe and reliable. In the meantime, other countries have built many nuclear power plants and perfected the technology. For example, during the past 40 years, France has built enough nuclear power plants to provide two-thirds of the nation's energy needs. France has also developed a process that recycles radioactive waste, using it over and over again as fuel. This greatly reduces nuclear waste.

In the United States, largely because of


added construction costs imposed on nuclear plants following the Three Mile Island accident in 1979, no new nuclear facilities have been ordered and built from scratch since 1973. That's more than 35 years! However, that may be changing. There are more than 25 nuclear reactors in various planning stages, some nearly ready to break ground. If they are built, these new reactors will run much more efficiently, generate more power and have state-of-the-art safety features.

Even with a nuclear renaissance, coal will remain a keystone of electric power in the United States. More than half of the nation's electricity is generated by coal; the goal is to burn it as cleanly as possible. One of the most promising options involves carbon capture and storage (CCS), where carbon dioxide emissions are collected before they are released up the plant's smokestack and into the atmosphere. The gas that is collected is then pumped thousands of feet down into geological formations where it will be entombed forever.

Large-scale CCS technology is currently being tested, but it will not be commercially available for at least a decade, if not longer. Ultimately, CCS may become a cost-effective option as generators focus on research and development to lower costs.

So the next time you hear someone talk about nuclear power or clean coal, remember both of these fuels are key to keeping power affordable and reliable. We will have to mix and match our resources if we want to find a balanced, sustainable solution for our energy future!

Interesting tidbit

Did you know that turning the thermostat down one (1) degree saves 2 percent on your heating bill? Turning it down five (5) degrees saves about \$100 on a \$1,000 annual heating bill! 



HISTORY'S HOME: A historical barn located on Route 30 west of Bedford is the new home of the Bedford County Historical Society.

Bedford County Historical Society gets new location

BY LINDA WILLIAMS

BEDFORD COUNTY'S history is a sleeping giant. The website, Roots.com, is where enthusiastic genealogists seek information on ancestry. The Bedford County link has nearly 6,000 questions waiting to be answered.

Folks arrive in Bedford County seeking information on those who have gone before them. They look for cemeteries and, most of all, records such as newspaper clippings with death notices, weddings or birth announcements.

Some of those sources of Bedford County history are now located in a renovated barn easily found on Route 30 just west of Bedford, the new head-

quarters for the Bedford County Historical Society.

Around 1938, resident Simon Lutz saw a need for history keeping and he created the Bedford County Historical Society. When the historical society was disbanded in the 1940s, the memorabilia Lutz had collected went to the Anderson House, and a museum was opened. Eventually, the historic items were relocated to the Fort Bedford Museum.

In the 1980s, another group of historians formed in the Mann House. They later moved to the National House and eventually, the historians purchased the Litzinger House on John Street. This was accomplished through a bequest left by the daughter of Simon Lutz. The

society operates totally on membership dues and donations.

With the rising cost of energy, the Litzinger House became costly to maintain and it needed massive amounts of repair work. There was no handicapped-accessible entrance, and rooms on the second floor that housed the records were small. The lack of air conditioning made summers unbearable and the cost of heat needed for winter was unaffordable.

The board members — Glenden Cas-teel, president; Sue Moffitt, vice president; Dorothy Wyles, secretary; Ray Jackson, treasurer; Joseph Gardner, Jeff Leber, Todd Greenawalt, William Roy Mock, Vonnee Sleighter, Bob Way, Guy Calhoun — along with Jillian Leach,



HISTORY'S KEEPER: Jillian Leach, executive director, works in the new location.

executive director, and Ellen Espenshade, secretary/Pioneer editor, jumped on an opportunity to sell the old house.

One of the board members approached Charles and Priscilla Mackal, owners of the renovated barn on Route 30, and a feasible rental figure was reached. The Bedford County Historical Society had a new, historic location!

William Todd, a resident who fought in the Revolutionary War, built the barn in the early 1760s, according to a plaque in the Bedford County Courthouse. A woman named Mary Todd lived in the log house beside the barn in the 1700s. While it has never been researched, it is believed she is an ancestor of Mary Todd Lincoln.

Forbes Road ran in front of the barn and a sign near the location once indicated Pittsburgh was 100 miles west and Harrisburg was 100 miles east. The barn has been restored in the timber frame style. The upstairs has yellow pine floors. Downstairs, the home of the historical society has tile floors and a chestnut beam ceiling, featuring some beams from an old log cabin. Tall windows look out on the picturesque pastures presently filled with goldenrod.



HISTORY'S FINDER: A member of the historical society does research at the new building.

The historic society quilt show formerly held at Bedford High School moved to the new site during Fall Foliage. Other special events such as book sales are planned. Quarterly meetings will now be held at the society headquarters.

Bedford County may not realize it is sitting on a potential tourist gold mine with the records of the historic society. Folks come from across the country to search such popular names as Koontz, Dibert, Cessna, Imler, Ickes and others. The library contains a good supply of

books and records and the new location allows for more room and organization. Newspapers, including the *Bedford Gazette*, *Bedford Inquirer* and the *Bedford County Press*, are on microfilm.

Hours of the library are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. and every third Saturday from 9 a.m.

until 2 p.m. Membership dues are \$25 per year for singles and \$35 for a family while \$500 will get you a lifetime membership. Those who are not members are charged \$5 for the first hour and \$2 per hour after that. There is a search service for family names at a cost of \$60.

Events sponsored by the historical society include the quilt show, an annual banquet, bus trips, re-enactments, a commemoration day ceremony on March 9, and other historic recognitions.

For more information, call 623-2011. ☎



HISTORY MAKERS: Quilters getting ready for the quilt show held during Fall Foliage include Rebecca Shaffer, Judy Harr and Shirley Whetstone, who are pictured with Bona Kirkpatrick, judge.

DONATIONS FOR LOCAL FOOD BANKS

Bedford Rural Electric directors and employees are asking members to join in and make donations to the area food banks. Those wishing to donate items should bring them to the Bedford Rural Electric office on Lincoln Highway before Dec. 22.



Items needed include: canned goods, paper products, soap and other hygiene-related items, food products such as noodles, cake mixes, spaghetti, or boxed foods of any kind. The items will be donated to local food banks throughout the county.

Your help and kindness will be appreciated during this holiday season.

Persons making a donation will have their names entered for a \$25 gift certificate toward their electric bill.

Office Closing
Bedford REC's office will be closed on Wednesday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day and Thursday, Nov. 26, and Friday, Nov. 27, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

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 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 ...

Greg Miller	Week of November 2	839-0037
Al Hileman	Week of November 9	766-9971
Jim Seymour	Week of November 16	839-2848
Ed Hankinson	Week of November 23	733-4005
Scott Bischof	Week of November 30	839-4640
Gary Lafferty	Week of December 7	842-9925

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

As a service to our members, Bedford Rural Electric needs to be aware of situations where special needs exist. Please provide the following details:

(Please print clearly)

Account: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email Address: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Special Needs: Medical Farming/Livestock

Other _____

Each year, our goal is to provide service with no outages. Unfortunately, that is not a realistic expectation. Outages do occur, and especially during severe storms, service restoration may take several days or longer. Therefore, we strongly recommend that our members with special needs install standby backup generation equipment. Please contact our office for more information on this type of equipment.