

# Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

**Claverack REC**

570-265-2167  
1-800-326-9799

Email: [mail@claverack.com](mailto:mail@claverack.com)

Website: <http://www.claverack.com>

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**Office Hours**

Monday through Friday

7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Jeff Fetzer, CCC, Local Pages Editor

## From the President & CEO



### Nuclear power is co-op power

By Bobbi Kilmer

FROM THE time our alarm goes off, we're on the grid. Electricity powers much of our daily lives. And as long as the lights come on, we don't give it much thought. We rarely think about where our electricity comes from.

But as a member of Claverack REC, you have an ownership interest in your power resources. Did you know most of the energy used in cooperative homes and businesses throughout the Commonwealth is generated by self-owned nuclear power? It's true. In Pennsylvania, nuclear power is co-op power.

Since 1977, Pennsylvania's electric cooperatives have been partners in the ownership of the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (Susquehanna), a nuclear facility in Berwick, Pa. For decades, this cooperative investment in nuclear power has been a driving force in providing our communities with safe, reliable and affordable electric energy. The plant supplies approximately 60 percent of our energy needs and is one of the main reasons cooperative consumers enjoy one of the lowest and most stable electric generation rates in the region.

But cooperative members aren't the only ones benefitting from nuclear power. According to a report by the General Assembly's bipartisan Nuclear Energy Caucus, without the state's nuclear plants, Pennsylvanians would pay close to \$800 million more annually for electricity. The plants annually contribute \$2 billion to the state's economy, pay \$69 million in net tax revenues and employ 16,000 Pennsylvanians.


Nuclear power also provides 93 percent of the state's carbon-free energy,

helping Pennsylvanians avoid billions in health and environmental costs. No other generation resource comes close to having this kind of impact.

The future of our nuclear plants, however, is a matter of serious concern. Recently, two plants — Beaver Valley and Three Mile Island — have announced premature closures if action is not taken to correct current market dynamics. Such closures would have devastating, long-term consequences, because once a nuclear plant closes, it's closed forever.

While our Susquehanna plant is not currently in danger, if this troubling trend continues, it will result in higher energy prices and higher environmental costs for us all — something that will hit our rural communities particularly hard.

To avoid this fate, Pennsylvania needs a market design that recognizes nuclear power's positive contributions. Electric cooperatives are working with legislative leaders on a bipartisan effort to secure the future of nuclear power in Pennsylvania. These lawmakers are introducing legislation to equitably compensate nuclear power for its zero-carbon emissions and grid dependability.

Rural electric cooperatives understand the benefits of nuclear power, and we can help to educate others on its importance. Please take a moment to visit [PARuralAction.org](http://PARuralAction.org) and send an email to your local legislators urging them to support efforts to ensure nuclear power remains viable in Pennsylvania. After all, nuclear power is co-op power. 

# Lineworker Appreciation Day – April 8, 2019

## Laying it on the line

*What our co-op linemen like about the work they do*



**Paul Huffman, journeyman lineman, Claverack employee since 2009**

"I went from the military, where I was serving the country, to Claverack, where I am helping to serve the people in the community, and that's what I enjoy the most about my job – being able to contribute to society and to help people. I also like being able to work outside and climbing. It can be challenging at times, and I like that, too."



**Shawn Robinson, journeyman lineman, Claverack employee since 2011**

"The best part of my job is putting people's power back on during an outage. It's a great feeling when the lights come back on. I also enjoy working for the co-op. It has that small-town feeling, where you know everybody and you know the area."

AT CLAVERRACK, we appreciate the hard work and dedication of our linemen every day they report for duty. We have a talented team of employees who are dedicated to keeping the power flowing to members' homes and businesses, in good weather and bad, day or night. We are truly thankful for our lineworkers' 24-7 commitment to their communities and to our cooperative consumer-members.

In recognition of Lineworker Appreciation Day, Monday, April 8, we invited some of our linemen to share what drives them to do what they do and what they enjoy about their jobs. Their responses appear on this page.



**Lindsay Chamberlain, crew chief, Claverack employee since 1984**

"I can't think of anything I would rather have done as a career. The guys I work with are a big part of it. Probably the most enjoyment I get is storm restoration. It's the adrenaline rush. You are out there working for people who genuinely appreciate you being there. I like having the feeling that what I am doing is making a difference in somebody's day or in somebody's life. I'm doing something that makes me feel good about myself because I am helping someone."



**Leonard Fowler, apprentice lineman, Claverack employee since 2014**

"I like restoring power to people during storms. I like being someone the members can count on. I enjoy the work, and I like the challenge and the satisfaction that comes with getting people's power back on."



**John "Bucky" Camburn, district supervisor, Claverack employee since 1997**

"I think the biggest reason I like being a lineman is because it's all outside, and every day is different, every circumstance is different. As far as the role with my job now, the most exciting thing is the teamwork part of it. We have a great team and that makes a big difference."

## Claverack helps members save even more when buying Energy Star appliances

WHEN you purchase an Energy Star-rated appliance, you are conserving energy and saving money on your electric bill.

To encourage members to practice energy conservation and responsible energy use, Claverack offers rebates of \$50 to \$100 to members who purchase qualifying Energy Star refrigerators, washers and dryers.

Energy Star certification means products meet energy-efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Energy Star-rated products are expected to help consumers reduce their energy bills, conserve energy and help protect the environment.

With Claverack's Energy Star rebate program, members not only benefit from energy savings generated from

the product itself, they get the added benefit of a direct rebate from the co-op for their purchase. For Energy Star-rated refrigerators, the rebate amount is \$100; for washers or dryers, members will receive a \$50 rebate.

To apply for the rebate through the Claverack Energy Star Rebate Program, members must:

- ▶ Purchase an Energy Star-rated refrigerator, washer or dryer in the current calendar year
- ▶ Complete a rebate form. The form is available by clicking on the "rebate" button on the Claverack homepage, [claverack.com](http://claverack.com), or by calling the office at 1-800-326-9799
- ▶ Include a receipt or invoice showing



the date and purchase price of the Energy Star items

- ▶ Include a copy of the Energy Star label from the appliance
- ▶ Mail all documentation to: Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative, Attn: Appliance Rebate Program, 32750

Route 6, Wysox, PA 18854

Once all documentation is received, a bill credit will be applied to your account. Rebates are available on a first-come, first-served basis. There is a limit of one rebate per appliance type per member account, and appliances must be installed within Claverack's service territory.

Please note that funding for rebates is limited and the rebate program is subject to change or being cancelled without notice.

For more information, contact the Claverack member services department at 1-800-326-9799. ☀

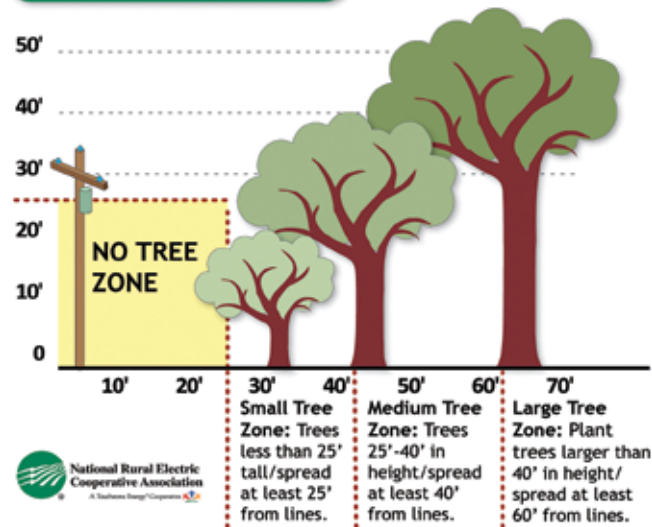
### Plant the right tree in the right place

Trees beautify the landscape around our homes and, when planted in the right spot, can even help lower energy bills. But the wrong tree in the wrong place can be a hazard to electric lines.

Claverack discourages members from planting trees of any kind under our electric lines. Low-growth trees such as magnolia, lilac, crabapple, and fruit-bearing trees with maximum height and spread of 25 feet should be planted at least 25 feet from our lines.

Members with concerns about trees growing on or along rights of way on their properties are asked to contact the Claverack office at 1-800-326-9799.

#### Tree Planting Guide



### SmartHub: Manage your account from anywhere

SmartHub, Claverack's online bill payment and account management program, lets you manage all aspects of your account online or with your mobile device.



#### WITH SMARTHUB, YOU CAN:

- ▶ View bills online
- ▶ View billing history
- ▶ Change account information
- ▶ Receive billing notifications
- ▶ Pay your bill online using your checking account, credit or debit card
- ▶ Receive a paperless bill
- ▶ Access your account info on your smartphone or tablet with free mobile app
- ▶ Report power outages

Signing up for SmartHub is easy. Visit our website, [claverack.com](http://claverack.com), click on the "Pay Bill" button on the left side of your screen and follow the registration instructions. The SmartHub mobile app is available for download through your app store.

## Call 8-1-1 before digging in to spring projects

WITH THE arrival of warm weather, many members are gearing up for outdoor construction projects. If you are planning excavation work, get your project off to a safe start by calling 8-1-1 before you dig. 8-1-1 is the abbreviated national telephone number homeowners and professional excavators can call to contact their state's One Call center.



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

State law requires that anyone doing excavation work moving earth with power equipment is required to notify the Pennsylvania One Call System three days before digging begins.

The purpose of the Pennsylvania One Call System is to prevent damage to underground facilities such as electric, cable, telephone, gas, water and sewer lines during excavation projects.

Digging by an uninformed homeowner or contractor not only has the potential to damage utility lines, it can also be extremely dangerous when underground electric or gas lines are involved.

By calling 8-1-1 at least three work-

ing days before you plan to begin your project, you or your contractor will know exactly what lies beneath the surface — safeguarding everyone involved.

State law requires that the person performing the excavation be responsible for notifying the Pennsylvania One Call System. There is no charge involved when a homeowner is doing work on his or her own residential property.

If you are a homeowner who has hired a contractor to work on your property, the contractor is required by law to make the call to the system to have underground lines located.

Additional information about the Pennsylvania One Call System is available on the web by visiting [palcall.org](http://palcall.org).

**OFFICE CLOSING**  
All Claverack offices  
will be closed  
Friday, April 19,  
in observance of  
Good Friday.

## Even out your payments with Levelized Billing

You can avoid large fluctuations in your electric bill from month to month by participating in Claverack's Levelized Billing plan.

The program allows you to level out your monthly payments throughout the year.

Levelized Billing is available to members with at least one year of electric use, provided they have fewer than two late payments in the prior 12 months.

This plan is particularly helpful to members with electric heating or central air conditioning systems, since their electric bills tend to increase significantly during the heating and cooling seasons. It's also convenient for those on fixed incomes.

If you are interested in a Levelized Billing plan, please call the financial services department at 1-800-326-9799.

## Operation Round-Up

### MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS

With today's higher energy costs, more and more cooperative families struggle to keep up with their energy bills.

You can help some of your neighbors in need by participating in Claverack's Operation Round-Up program.



This voluntary program allows you to assist members of the cooperative who are experiencing difficulties paying their electric bills. Participating in the program is inexpensive – less than \$1 a month – and allows you to help make a difference in a neighbor's life.

### CONTRIBUTING IS EASY

The concept is simple. Claverack rounds up your monthly electric bill to the next dollar amount. The difference between the round-up amount and your actual bill amount goes into our member assistance fund.

For example, if your electric bill is \$100.32, then you would pay \$101. The extra 68 cents goes into our member assistance fund for needy families of the cooperative.

In addition to being a great way to help neighbors in need, participating in the program can also make balancing your check book easier.

### A FEW PENNIES CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Each year, hundreds of Claverack members receive energy assistance in the form of government money. That financing is often targeted in congressional budget cuts; so help for needy families is never certain. That's why we began Operation Round-Up – to help more members.

### BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

If you would like to help others, Operation Round-Up is an easy way to do so. An average yearly donation is about \$6. And if you change your mind and decide to quit, just call the office and ask to stop.

The choice is yours. Sign up today to start helping others by calling us at 1-800-326-9799. You can also sign up through our website, [www.claverack.com](http://www.claverack.com) by clicking on Operation Round-Up under the "Your Bill" drop-down menu at the top of the screen.