

Tideland Topics

REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEMBER-OWNERS OF TIDELAND ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

WPCA DECLINE: Long, hot summer exacerbates credit drop

Before summer officially arrived this year, Tideland territory was hit with 20 consecutive days of 90°-plus temperatures. As a result, Tideland members used 36.9 million kilowatt hours (kWh) this June, exceeding all previous Junes. With kWh consumption up so drastically and the downward trend of wholesale power cost adjustment (WPCA) credits, the vast majority of members saw electric bill increases when comparing bills to June 2014. In fact, the WPCA credit dropped nearly 75 percent between May and June of this year.

WPCA Credit Comparison				
Billing month	Credit per 1,000 kWh in 2014	\$s credited to members	Credit per 1,000 kWh in 2015	\$s credited to members
Jan	\$3.17	\$96,272	\$4.25	\$134,501
Feb	\$3.17	\$117,912	\$6.33	\$214,693
Mar	\$3.17	\$87,714	\$5.91	\$207,836
Apr	\$3.17	\$77,917	\$4.89	\$113,038
May	\$8.80	\$179,958	\$2.58	\$50,772
Jun	\$7.83	\$204,751	\$0.65	\$17,136
YEAR TO DATE		\$764,423		\$737,976

Despite the recent per kWh credit decline, total dollars credited through the WPCA remained largely on pace with the first six months of 2014 when credits totaled \$764,423. Through June 2015, the credits stood at \$737,976. For July the WPCA credit increased slightly to \$0.80 per 1,000 kWh but that is still a far cry from earlier highs in the year which were further multiplied by record setting winter energy use.

While the WPCA credit is not likely to rebound to earlier year highs, we do not anticipate billing the WPCA as a surcharge either. So through the end of 2015 billed costs to members should remain at or below published rates.

Shakera Davis shines at youth leadership week



Shakera Davis, the daughter of Anthony and Linda Davis of Scranton, represented Tideland EMC during the 2015 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, DC.

Shakera is a rising senior at Mattamuskeet Early College High School. While attending Youth Tour, she met several members of North Carolina's congressional delegation and toured numerous sites including Arlington National Cemetery, the Holocaust Museum, and the Smithsonian.



Message to our Member-Owners: Blinks protect utility equipment & lives

Right-of-Way Maintenance Update

Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts to trim trees in our right-of-way. During the month of August they will be working in mainland Hyde County.

Our right-of-way mowing crews will be working in East Lake and Stumpy Point.

Please lend your full support to our tree trimming efforts. Trees are the number one cause of outages on the Tideland EMC system.

By Paul Spruill

General Manager & CEO

Tideland EMC strives to provide the most reliable electric service possible. An important part of outage prevention is an equipment operation we generally refer to as a "blink."

Blinks occur when a breaker, or switch, opens along any portion of the power system. The breaker usually opens because of a large, quick rise of electrical current. This large rise, called a fault condition, can occur when a tree branch touches a line, lightning strikes, or a wire breaks. It can also happen when a bird with a large wing span comes in contact with more than one energized wire. It can also happen when a vehicle or farm equipment come in contact with utility equipment.

When this happens, a relay senses the fault and tells the breaker to open, preventing the flow of power to the

problem site. After opening, the breaker quickly closes. The brief delay, which allows the fault to clear, usually lasts less than two seconds. If the fault clears, every home or business that receives electricity off that power line has just experienced a blink but not an outage. This could include thousands of accounts if the breaker protects a transmission line or a substation.

If, after the breaker closes, the fault condition is still detected the breaker will open again and repeat the process. If after the third time the fault condition has not cleared the breaker locks out and a co-op crew must be dispatched to resolve whatever issue caused the fault condition.

This is exactly what happened on July 2 and July 6 in Pamlico County when loggers were clearing property on Cooper Road. Both days they came in contact with overhead lines. Every home downstream

of the closest breaker saw a blink but the resulting outages were both isolated to 103 members thanks to properly synched breaker operations.

We also had a rash of blinks in June on the Merritt circuit, most of which occurred after dark. We subsequently discovered hairline cracks in several porcelain insulators. Those cracks did not interfere with the flow of electricity until heavy dew collected on them overnight or during a rainstorm. Our crews were able to locate the problem insulators after doing an intensive pole to pole bucket truck inspection.

Without these breaker operations our lines and equipment would be vulnerable to major damage resulting from pole fires or high voltage conditions. These operations can also prove to be potentially life saving should someone come in contact with an energized line.

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Annual Meeting Recap

Tideland's annual meeting of members was held on Thursday, May 28, at Beaufort County Community College. Incumbent directors Charles Slade, Paul Sasnett, Wayne Sawyer and Clifton Paul were each re-elected to a three year term on Tideland's board.

General manager and CEO Paul Spruill delivered the executive report to members touching on recent co-op accomplishments, current projects and future challenges.

TOUCHSTONE ENERGY BASKETBALL SCHOLARS

One-on-one with the best

For the 12th consecutive year, Tideland EMC provided Touchstone Energy basketball camp scholarships to deserving middle school students.

Attending the Roy Williams Basketball Camp June 20-24 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill were Edmond Brown, Jr., Eli Moore, JayQuahn Blackledge and JayShawn Blackledge.

Attending the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp at NC State University June 14-17 were Sarabeth Boyd, Candace Bailey and Macy Radcliffe.

Brown, a rising eighth grader at P.S. Jones Middle School, is the son of Lokendra and Edmond Brown, Sr. of Washington.

Moore, a rising seventh grader at West Craven Middle School, is the son of Sandy Moore-Fernandez of Vanceboro.

The Blackledge twins, rising eighth graders at P.S. Jones Middle School, are the sons of Yulonda Blackledge of Washington.

Boyd, a rising eighth grader at Bath Elementary, is the daughter of Tammy and Doug Boyd of Pinetown.

Radcliffe, a rising eighth grader at Northeast Elementary, is the daughter of Penelope and Reid Radcliffe of Pinetown.

Bailey, a rising eighth grader at P.S. Jones Middle School, is the daughter of Matthew Bailey of Washington.



Edmond Brown, Jr.



Sarabeth Boyd



Eli Moore



Candace Bailey



Jayquahn Blackledge



Macy Radcliffe



Jayshawn Blackledge

During their respective camps, the students ran daily drills and participated in team play designed to develop fundamental basketball skills including teamwork. Leading the women's camp was

head coach Wes Moore, the 2014 ESPNW ACC Coach of the Year, his coaching team, and current and former NC State women's basketball players. The Carolina camp was led by two-time NCAA national championship coach Roy Williams, his staff, and both current and past Tar Heel players.



1.

ONLINE OUTAGE MAP
Found at www.tidelandemc.com

2.

FACEBOOK
<https://www.facebook.com/TidelandElectric>

3.

TWITTER
[@TidelandEMC](https://twitter.com/TidelandEMC)

4.

OUTAGE TEXT MESSAGING
Text "TEMC" to short code 85700 to enroll then reply with your electric account number so we can assign you to the proper substation message group.
To opt-out text "STOP" to 85700.

Marthina Cartwright of Washington was our annual meeting grand prize winner. She received a \$350 electric bill credit.

Speaking at the annual meeting were three Tideland Electric Care Trust college scholarship winners, Quashema Lovick, Jessi Gibbs and Lauren Rogerson, and the co-op's 2014-2015 youth tourist, Shakera Davis.



Blinks *continued from page 22*

Thanks to Tideland's automated metering infrastructure we now receive daily blink counts for every service on our system. When we see high blink counts on a circuit, tap or individual service we dispatch crews to investigate. Early corrective action results in the prevention of what often would be an eventual power outage.

Unfortunately, summer is prime time for blinks on our electric system due to increased lightning strikes and thunderstorms, rapid seasonal growth of trees and other vegetation, and increased outdoor activity related to farming, land clearing and recreational sports. Even salt accumulation on power lines at Ocracoke and our more coastal service areas can contribute to blinks.

Nevertheless, we know blinks can be very irritating for co-op members because they often require resetting timers and clocks left flashing "12:00." It can also be worrisome to have a blink occur while HVAC systems are operating or any appliance or device equipped with a motor or compressor. The sudden

interruption of operation followed by an immediate restart can leave such equipment vulnerable to failure. That's why many newer model HVAC systems now come equipped with a delay start feature to protect the compressor after an interruption of service. The delay start feature typically gives the compressor a five minute break before resuming operation.

An uninterruptible power supply (UPS) on your computer can help prevent information losses of unsaved work during a blink or outage. The UPS incorporates surge suppression features with a battery backup and can provide you with enough time to save your work and shut down your computer properly if needed.

Despite the best information and maintenance systems possible, our system will never be blink free. However by working harder and smarter and heeding the concerns of our members we can minimize the effects and frequency of such interruptions.

REAL PEOPLE.
REAL POWER.

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www.tidelandemc.com

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Tideland EMC is an equal
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The cooperative's website received a much-needed facelift this summer. While site navigation remains virtually unchanged, there are a few added features. You will now find both the cooperative's Facebook and Twitter feeds at the bottom of the home page. That means you do not have to be a registered user of either social media service to read the latest Tideland updates. The feeds are especially helpful during outages and storm recovery efforts since the outage map content is fairly static once an outage has been logged.

Tidelandemc.com also remains your gateway to the secure member portal where you have incredible and empowering account information at your fingertips. Logging into the portal allows you to track both your daily and hourly kilowatt hour consumption. You can also overlay your personal consumption history with any number of weather and climate variables.

ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

