



Tideland Topics

Real People. Real Power.

Can you dig it?

Dial the digits. 8-1-1. That's the only safe way to approach any potential digging or excavation project.

While we officially recognize August 11 as National 811 Day, safety matters 365 days a year.

Learn more about free underground utility locating services on page E.



Taking it to the top

Biennially, North Carolina's electric cooperatives hold a pole top rescue competition in Raleigh. The Fall 2018 event was postponed by the arrival of Hurricane Florence. Nine months later, Tideland lineman Josh Bain finally got to make his first appearance at the event. How did he do? Read more on page B.

Photo: Apprentice Lineman IV Josh Bain with wife, Hope, and daughter, Aspen.





Remembering Pam Foster Tetterton

The Tideland family mourns the passing of our co-worker Pam Foster Tetterton on June 14.

Pam was born November 7, 1962, in Beaufort County to the late Ellis Garfield Foster Sr. and Frances Kathleen Guthrie Foster. She joined Tideland's member care team at the corporate office in 1997. She married Marvin Pemberton Tetterton, who survives.

Pam began her battle with cancer in 2018 and was thought to be in remission. In May, doctors found a more aggressive form of cancer. Pam and Marvin traveled in June to John Hopkins for further consultation. At that time, Pam became too sick to fly home. Co-workers and friends raised the funds necessary to provide medical transport home via Chocowinity EMS.

Pam's funeral service was conducted by fellow employee Pastor Fred Hackney, a 45-year lineman in our Grantsboro district.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Pam's family and friends.

When life hangs in the balance

"Kool, are you alright?"

Those four words signal the official start of a pole top rescue exercise. It's a timed operation that all co-op linemen must perform within five minutes to remain certified to climb. The best of the best from each of North Carolina's 26 electric cooperatives compete biennially at a competition in Raleigh. This year, Tideland was represented by lineman Josh Bain of our Grantsboro district.

Kool is a 105-pound dummy pre-positioned 20 feet in the air awaiting rescue, simulating a

situation that could all too easily imitate life.

A mad dash ensues to the service truck to call for help and collect climbing gear. "MAYDAY, MAYDAY, there is a man hurt at pole number 54321, send Rescue Squad." Equipment belt, gloves and climbing gaffs are collected and another dash is made back to the pole. After properly adjusting fall protection, the lineman will suit up with over 20 pounds of gear.

He proceeds up the pole then connects a safety strap so he can attend to the victim. He hammers a screwdriver into the pole just above Kool's head and then uses the victim's handline to create an elaborate pulley system. Once Kool is lowered to the ground, the lineman descends. He detaches from fall protection, and removes his climbing gaffs and gloves before shaking the victim and asking again, "Kool, are you alright?" He then begins CPR, counting aloud while delivering five chest compressions. Time ends. Josh Bain completed the exercise in 2 minutes and 59 seconds.





Right-of-way maintenance schedule

Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts to trim trees in our right-of-way. During August they will continue trimming on the Merritt circuit. They will work along Florence and Sanders roads and all side roads in that area.

Another Lucas crew will work on the Pungo circuit along Hwy. 45 and Hwy. 99.

Our right-of-way treatment contractor, Progressive Solutions, will work on the north side of the Pamlico River in August.

Merritt circuit update

\$1.6 million is being invested to make improvements to Tideland's Merritt circuit in Pamlico County. The longest circuit in our six-county service area, it provides power to 1,852 members. The circuit includes 99 miles of overhead line, 45 miles of which are three-phase.

For a detailed look at the Merritt circuit work plan, go to tidelandemc.com/blogs/15#main





**WE'RE
PREPARED.
ARE YOU?**

Team Tideland

Local middle schoolers attend sports camps

Four middle school students received sports camp scholarships from Tideland this year.

Attending the Lady Wolfpack basketball camp at North Carolina State University were Catherine Todd and Chrishaya Gilliam. Todd is a rising seventh grader at Ocracoke School and is the daughter of Andy and Angie Todd. Gilliam is a rising eighth grader at Washington County Middle School and is the daughter of Valaire Norman of Plymouth.

Attending the Roy Williams basketball camp on the campus of UNC-Chapel Hill were rising

seventh graders, Colby Fernandez and Max Vansant. Fernandez attends West Craven Middle School and is the son of David and Sandy Fernandez of Vanceboro. Vansant is the son of Ashley and Kristin Vansant of Washington and attends Bath Elementary School.

During their stay, campers worked closely with the college coaches and camp staff to develop fundamental skills that will help each perform and excel both on and off the court.

Applications for the summer 2020 camp will be accepted starting January 1, 2020.

Standby Generator Tips

- If you don't have a carbon monoxide detector, buy one!
- Stale fuel is the No. 1 cause of a generator's starting problems. Manufacturers advise adding fuel stabilizer to the gas to minimize fuel breakdown, varnish and gum buildup. But it's no guarantee against problems. Repair shops recommend emptying the fuel tank and the carburetor once you're past storm season. If your carburetor has a drain, wait for the engine to cool before draining. If not, empty the tank and then run the generator (without any electric load) until it's out of gas.
- Stock up on oil and filters. Most new generators need their first oil change after just 25 hours of operation. Beyond that, you'll have to dump the old stuff and refill every 50 or 60 hours. So store up enough oil and factor filters to last a few days.

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Top row: Chrishaya Gilliam and NCSU Coach Wes Moore. Max Vansant and UNC Coach Roy Williams. Bottom row: Colby Fernandez and Coach Williams. Catherine Todd and Coach Moore.



5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.



Know What's Below Know The Color Codes

White Proposed Excavation	Yellow Natural Gas	Pink Survey Markings	Red Electric	Orange Cable, Internet, Phone	Blue Water	Green Sewer	Purple Reclaimed Water
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Message to members

After 16-month hiatus, WPCA charge returns to electric bills

by **PAUL SPRUILL**
GENERAL MANAGER &
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Last month I wrote extensively about my annual presentation to the membership at our annual meeting in May. The content of that presentation and the most recent message in the July magazine discussed both our recent capital investments in our infrastructure and our mandated share of costs associated with Duke Energy's project to close coal ash basins in North Carolina. I also forecasted that these cost pressures would lead first to a WPCA charge, and ultimately, an increase in our rates in early 2020. This will be Tideland's first base rate increase since January 2013, and the first rate change since we reduced rates in July 2014.

The summertime WPCA charge is now upon us. Our billing cycles as of July 1 resulted in a WPCA factor of \$3 per 1,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) consumed for all Tideland accounts. The last time we billed a WPCA charge was in February 2018.

For the month of August, we anticipate an increasing WPCA charge from \$3 to \$5 per 1,000 kWh. We'll likely have to confront more increases in the Fall as we wrap up our rate study and prepare for the 2020 implementation of new rate schedules. Once new rates are in place, we anticipate a reduced WPCA of \$0.00 per 1,000 kWh.

The WPCA charge for the basin closure expense is higher in 2019 than we may have otherwise anticipated due in large part to lagging energy sales so far in

the 2019 calendar year. Through June 30, 2019, Tideland's electric sales declined 15 million kWh compared to the same period in 2018. That translates into a revenue decline of approximately \$2 million. The drop in revenue is largely tied to a much milder winter than we typically experience in Tideland territory.

We have also billed fewer accounts since Hurricane Florence due to on-going recovery efforts. Fortunately, the latter continues to improve with each passing month as homes are reoccupied.

How long will basin closure costs impact Tideland members? We are 18 months into what we are obligated to pay, based on successful closure activities to date on the part of Duke Energy. We anticipate the project could require 6 to 8 more years of Tideland expenses. Fortunately, the cost in later years should be significantly less than the work currently underway.

We must prudently emphasize that this is the largest coal ash basin closure in U.S. history. As with any project of such magnitude, there are many moving parts that impact scheduling and future costs. There are also multiple participants and stakeholders involved in the decision making processes that will ultimately determine the scope of remediation required.

Emma Williams of Pantego was one of more than 1,800 electric co-op sponsored students to attend the annual Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. During the week-long event, the students explored historic monuments and museums, learning about the importance of civic engagement. They also ran their own cooperative business in the form of a snack and beverage co-op for the duration of the trip.

North Carolina participants also had an opportunity to visit with U.S. Senators Richard Burr and Thom Tillis.

Emma is the daughter of Chuck and Paula Ruark Williams. She attends Pungo Christian Academy in Belhaven.

Tideland will begin accepting applications this November for the 2020 Youth Tour.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF: **REBUILDING & RENOVATING SAFELY**

Water and electricity do not mix. Follow this guide to quickly

WATER-DAMAGED ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT



see what equipment must be **replaced** and what electronics may be **reconditioned**. Any water-damaged equipment even if thoroughly dried will pose serious long-term safety and fire risk if not properly reconditioned.



ESFI recommends that the evaluation of water-damaged electrical equipment be conducted by **qualified electricians**. Floodwaters contaminated with chemicals, sewage, oil, and other debris can affect the **integrity and performance** of electrical equipment. Ocean water and salt spray can be **particularly damaging** due to the corrosive and conductive nature of the saltwater residue. Returning power to water-damaged electrical devices or equipment without a proper evaluation could result in an **electrical fire, shock, electrocution, or further damage to your device**.

WATER DAMAGED ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

X MUST BE REPLACED

🔧 MAY BE RECONDITIONED

	Arc-Fault and Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupters	X		Panelboards <i>See NEMA Standard: PB 1.1-2013</i>	🔧
	Batteries	X		Receptacles	X
	High-Voltage AC Circuit Breakers	🔧		Signaling, Protection, and Communications Systems	X
	Lighting, Ballasts, and LED Drivers	X		Surge Protective Devices	X
	Low- and Medium-Voltage Fuses	X		Switchboards <i>See NEMA Standard: PB 2.1-2013</i>	🔧
	Low- and Medium-Voltage Switchgear	🔧		Switches and Dimmers	X
	Low-Voltage Power Circuit Breakers	🔧		Transformers <i>All dry type, control circuit, liquid-filled, cast-resin</i>	X
	Molded-Case Circuit Breakers	X		Uninterruptible Power Supply	X
	Motors <i>See Standard ANSI/IEEE 43-2013, A2 & A3, ANSI EASA AR100</i>	🔧		Wire or Cable <i>for dry areas</i>	X
	Outlet and Junction Boxes <i>See NEMA standard OS 1-2008</i>	X		Wire or Cable <i>for wet areas that have not been damaged / ends not exposed</i>	🔧

ESFI has teamed with the **National Electrical Manufacturers Association (www.nema.org)** to provide a detailed explanation on what electrical components can be reconditioned and which need to be replaced.



www.facebook.com/ESFI.org

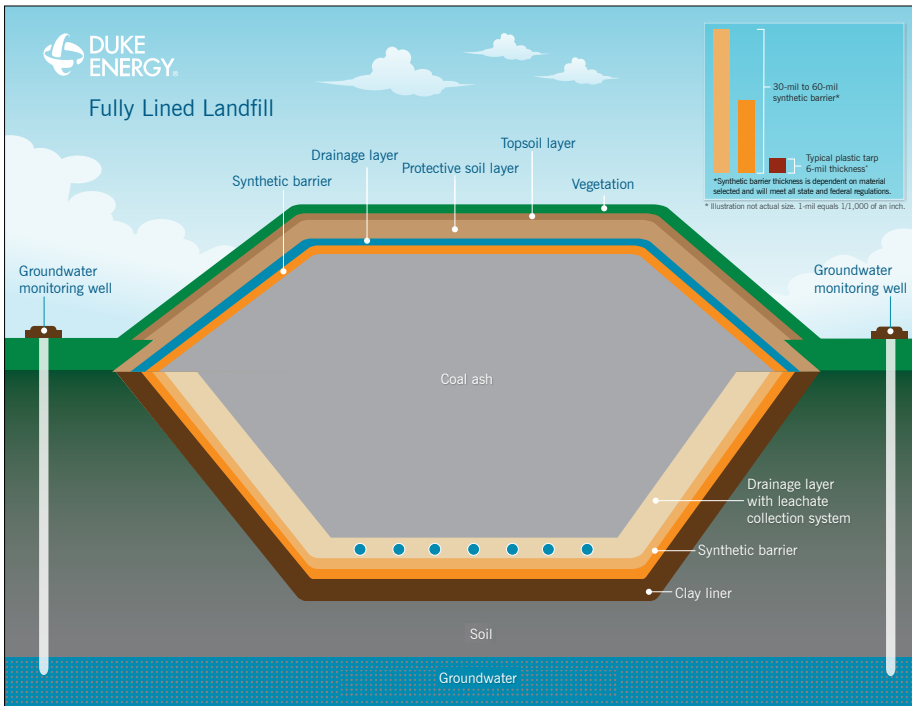
www.twitter.com/ESFI dot org

www.youtube.com/ESFI dot org

We can confidently say, however, that we are increasingly moving away from coal as a generating resource to meet your electricity needs. Furthermore, all new coal ash landfills in North Carolina

will now be fully lined and ultimately capped.

I will keep our membership updated as the forecast provided within this article changes through the Fall of 2019.



All new coal ash retention sites in North Carolina will be fully lined and ultimately capped. Image: Courtesy of Duke Energy

generatorTips

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- Low-cost generators can be damaged by running out of gas. They keep putting out power while coming to a stop, and the electrical load in your house drains the magnetic field from the generator coils. When you restart, the generator will run fine, but it may not generate power. So keep the tank filled and always remove the electrical load before you shut down.
- Lock it down. Unfortunately, generators can often be subject to theft. Combine security and electrical safety by digging a hole and sinking a grounding rod and an eye bolt in concrete that can be used to anchor a chain.
- Inspect and replace as needed extension cords that will be used to plug items into the generator. We recommend a heavy-duty 12-gauge cords no longer than 100 feet in length. Lighter cords and longer runs will result in voltage drop which could lead to appliance motor burnout.
- If you plan to connect your generator to household wiring you are required to install a double-pole, double-throw transfer switch to prevent back-feeding on electric utility lines.

For generator sizing information and additional safety materials, visit our Storm Center online at tidelandemc.com.

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www.tidelandemc.com

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