

Currently Speaking

**Guernsey-Muskingum
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**
17 S. Liberty St.
New Concord, Ohio 43762
740-826-7661 — 800-521-9879
www.gmenergy.com

Board of Directors

Duane ParksChairman
Ed Bay.....Vice Chairman
Jim Rex.....Secy.-Treasurer
John EnosDirector
Jay GrayDirector
Brian HillDirector
Shirley StutzDirector
Daniel J. GunsettCounsel
Garry MbiadGeneral Manager/CEO

Electric Rates

Farm and Home Service
rate schedule R-1

Service Availability Charge \$15/month
First 500 kWh/month @ 11.419¢/kWh
Over 500 kWh/month @ 9.295¢/kWh

Seasonal Residential Service
annual rate schedule S-1

Service Availability Charge \$180/year
First 800 kWh/year @ 19.419¢/kWh
Over 800 to 6,000 kWh/year @ 10.295¢/kWh
Over 6,000 kWh/year @ 9.295¢/kWh

(Your minimum annual charge will be \$180 per year for service between March 1, 2010, and Feb. 28, 2011.)

Commercial Service
rate schedule C-1

Service Availability Charge \$15/month
First 1,500 kWh/month @ 11.419¢/kWh
Over 1,500 kWh/month @ 9.295¢/kWh

Rider T —

Kilowatt-hour Tax applies to all rate schedules.
First 2,000 kWh/month .465¢/kWh
Next 13,000 kWh/month .419¢/kWh
Over 15,000 kWh/month .363¢/kWh

The 74th Annual Meeting Saturday, April 9

Larry W. Miller Intermediate School, New Concord

REGISTRATION AT 9:30 A.M.

BUSINESS MEETING NEW TIME AT NOON

Mark your calendars now for your cooperative's annual meeting. Join your fellow member/owners in electing members to your board, hearing updates from your cooperative leaders and learning about various programs offered.

As always food, entertainment and demonstrations will be held throughout the day. There is something for everyone!

Be sure to look for your official invitation with your bill mailed around March 10. And check back in the April issue of *Country Living* magazine for more details on this year's meeting.

Election of Directors

The provisions for electing members to the board of directors are included in Guernsey-Muskingum's Code of Regulations. If you wish, please call your cooperative for a copy or go to www.gmenergy.com. In summary:

- **ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS:** One or more member-consumers are eligible for nomination to each available position on the board. Nominees must reside in the cooperative district they are nominated to represent. All nominations are made from the floor at the annual meeting.
- **VOTING:** Each member shall be entitled to one vote and no more upon each matter submitted to a vote at the meeting. All questions shall be decided by a vote of a majority of the members present at the meeting. The spouse of a member not present may vote on behalf of such a member at the meeting.

One director from each of the following districts will be elected for a three-year term:

District 2 – includes Muskingum County townships of Adams, Highland, Monroe, Perry, Rich Hill, Salem, Salt Creek, Union, Washington and Wayne; and Coshocton County township of Linton.

District 6 – includes Guernsey County townships of Center, Jefferson, Londonderry, Madison, Monroe, Oxford, Washington, Wills and Salt Fork.

District 7 – includes Guernsey County townships of Jackson, Millwood, Richland, Spencer, and Valley; and Noble County townships of Beaver and Wayne.



Rate revisions to take effect

No one likes rate revisions, especially in these economic times. Here at GMEC over the

last couple of years, we have tightened our belt by postponing vehicle replacements, eliminated positions through attrition, changed employee benefits and bid out our right-of-way clearing program by the mile instead of by the hour. These are some of the larger ways, but there are also many other smaller ways we have stretched your dollars to go further without impacting the reliability of your electric service.

The rate revisions outlined in this article together will increase the average monthly residential bill by about \$2 per 1,000 kilowatt-hours, or about 1.6 percent. Unfortunately, the rising costs we have all been experiencing continue to hit your cooperative. Although these rising costs have slowed recently, only in a few instances have the costs come down.

Your Board realizes the financial

<i>Rate Change Summary</i>		
	<u>Additional Amount</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Service Availability Charge	\$1 per month	April 10, 2011
Generation & Transmission Component Charge	1 mill	May 10, 2011
Security Lights	No change	

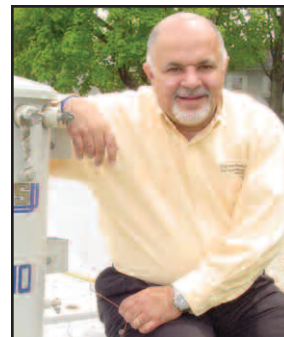
pressure those of us in southeastern Ohio experience, but also realizes our obligation to provide you with reliable electric service. The service availability charge, which is currently \$15 per month, will rise to \$16 per month effective with the April 10 billing. This is a minimal increase (\$1 per month) and will keep the cooperative's distribution costs stable through 2011. This portion of the rate covers the things the cooperative does locally and not that portion which relates to wholesale power costs or high-voltage transmission costs. Those items are recovered separately through the generation and transmission component (GTC).

The GTC, which can change quarterly has been at the 6.65 cents per kilowatt-hour level for the last six months. It recovers only the costs of generating and transmitting power to a substation to be used by cooperative members.

Looking ahead and projecting the rate for the next three months, the generation and transmission component will increase by 1 mill, or \$1 per 1,000 kWh used.

Your board has timed these increases to minimize their impact on the membership. Our goal is to hold the line on rates as long as possible. Although the cooperative has passed on increases in the past, we have been fortunate to be able to handle most of the rising cost by selling more kilowatt-hours.

GMEC is committed to delivering electricity to you at the lowest possible cost and minimize the impact of any rate increases. We regret the need to increase rates at this time; however it is necessary to allow us to continue and improve our programs of maintaining reliable electric service to our membership.



Garry Mbiad,
General Manager/CEO

Ruth Ferguson retires

Ruth Ferguson retired from the cooperative in January 2011 after 39 years of service. Ruth began her employment in 1971 as the staff secretary, became the secretary to the general manager in 1978 and was the administrative services manager for the last 25 years of her co-op career. Ruth lives in Zanesville with her husband, Gary.



Are your name and location/account number here?

If they are, call your cooperative's office and receive a FREE home changeout to compact fluorescent light bulbs. (Limit 12 bulbs.) Thanks for reading the "local pages" of *Country Living* magazine.

- #38-0206-86-00.....Sharon L. Wickam
- #43-0081-90-10David Spears
- #46-0042-72-07William E. Hensley III
- #53-0641-44-01Garen W. Neuhart
- #57-0101-88-02Barbara L. Tidrick
- #60-0559-61-00Jeffrey W. Nalley
- #68-0365-67-01Rose M. Gallagher
- #72-0097-77-06Kenny Merckle

High School Sophomores and Juniors: You could win the trip of a lifetime!



What is Youth Tour?

It's not just another trip! Youth Tour is an annual contest sponsored by the Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives Inc. and your local electric cooperative that gives deserving high school sophomores and juniors like you the opportunity to use your knowledge and wit to compete for a FREE weeklong trip to Washington, D.C., June 10 to 16.

You'll meet up with nearly 1,500 students from across the country in June if you win. You'll get a chance to meet and talk to congressional leaders from Ohio at the U.S. Capitol, plus you'll get to see all the sights and visit a bunch of really cool places.



What are the entry requirements?

Guernsey-Muskingum will sponsor two students on this trip. To be eligible to compete, you must be a high school sophomore or junior whose parents/guardians are members of Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative.

How will the finalists be chosen?

For information on how you can be part of this trip, visit our website at www.gmenergy.com or call Heather Baker at 1-800-521-9879. Application deadline will be Friday, March 4. All qualified applicants will be interviewed on Wednesday, March 16.

Touchstone Energy[®] Achievement Scholarship

Did you overcome adversity, obstacles or personal challenges on your way to excellence?

Tell us about it — you may win a scholarship!

For further information, contact:
www.gmenergy.com

Heather Baker

740-826-7661 or 800-521-9879

Application deadline:

March 4

Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives

Four \$1,675 Scholarships

Guernsey-Muskingum Electric

First Place \$500

Second Place \$300

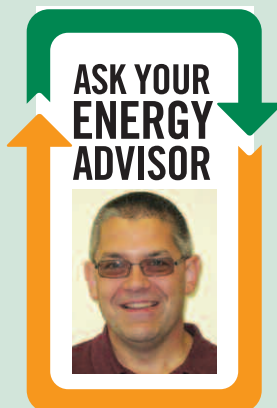


Did you know?

All electric heaters run at about the same efficiency. This includes old and new portable heaters, baseboard heaters, electric furnaces and even the heaters with fancy full page ads. They all produce about 3,413 BTUs per kWh. Most portable heaters are 1,500 watts. They will produce about 5,100 BTU per hour and use 1.5 kWh every hour. And if you are wondering, kerosene heaters cost more per BTU (at current prices) than electric heaters.

The 74th Annual Meeting of Members
Saturday, April 9
 Larry W. Miller
 Intermediate School
 New Concord
 Registration 9:30 A.M.
NEW MEETING TIME — NOON

Surprised when you open your electric bill?



Ray Crock,
 Energy Advisor

Have you ever opened your electric bill and were surprised by the amount of electricity you consumed? Well there are a few simple ways to avoid unpleasant surprises when opening your future electric bills. Here are three tips to make managing your electric bill easier.

1. Read your electric meter; read it every month and read it on the same day of the month. The electric bill you receive from Guernsey-Muskingum is processed monthly based on the reading you provide. If you read your meter at sporadic times of the month you will have some bills that are based on longer time periods and therefore leading to higher consumption for that time and resulting in a higher electric bill. Let's visualize someone using 40 kWh per day for three months.

REGULAR READINGS

Billing Month	Date of Reading	Days of Use	kWh Use
September	August 15	31	1,240
October	September 15	31	1,240
November	October 15	30	1,200

INCONSISTENT READINGS

Billing Month	Date of Reading	Days of Use	kWh Use
September	August 15	31	1,240
October	September 30	46	1,840
November	October 12	12	480

Worse yet, many of our members do not provide us with readings at all or at least not on a regular basis. They then get a bill based on a computer estimate. The estimate is based on the previous three months' average. If those months are inconsistent readings and computer estimates, the result can be very bad. Also, if we do not receive a

reading for two months, a Guernsey-Muskingum employee will read it and you will be charged \$15. So avoid many problems by marking your calendar and reading your meter on the same day every month. You can call your reading into the GMEC office or enter it on our website, www.gmenergy.com.

2. Enroll in budget billing. Budget billing allows you to know about what your electric bill will be every month. If you enroll in the program, GMEC averages your current bill with your previous 11 months' of consumption. The average is then your month's bill. This is a variable budget and will usually keep your bill within a few dollars each month. At all times your bill will show your actual consumption and compare to your average budget as well as the credit or debit balance you have at that time.

3. Reduce your consumption = Reduce your bill. Take advantage of Guernsey-Muskingum's many avenues for reducing your electric bill by reducing your consumption.

You can visit our website, www.gmenergy.com, and get advice under our Touchstone Energy Savers link or our home energy calculator link.

You can also schedule a home energy audit with your Energy Advisor, Ray Crock. The audit includes a blower door test, infrared scan, walk-through inspection and a review of your consumption history.