

VEC is Holding Unclaimed Property

Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) is holding unclaimed property of at least \$50 due to the persons listed below. The owner may claim this property by contacting VEC at the address and/or telephone number listed below:

Volunteer Energy Cooperative, 18359 Highway 58 N. P.O. Box 277, Decatur, TN 37322, (423) 334 – 7013.

If an owner has not contacted us by April 25, 2014 the law requires us to submit this property to the Tennessee Treasury Department Unclaimed Property Division.

Athens, TN: Bowman, Brandy C.; Gibson, Thomas R.; Evans, Terry R.; Evans, James; Burns, Troy A.; Graham, Eugene. **Baxter, TN:** Daniels, Terry. **Benton, TN:** Williams, Johnathan C.; Mundt, Christopher P.; Douglas, Oval D.; Lewis, Vickie E.; John Bramlett. **Birchwood, TN:** Chingo, Diego. **Byrdstown, TN:** Madison, Michael L. **Charleston, TN:** Green, Billy; Graham, Richard D.; Teasley, Bryan; Lattimore, Austine Michelle. **Chattanooga, TN:** Stappenbeck Signature Homes. **Clarkrange TN:** Molina, Elsa Bertha; **Cleveland, TN:** Kersey, Chelsie N.; Koronich, Chelsey; Tyre, Phillip R.; Thomas, Dawn; Buenostro, Fernando; Goins, Jacquelin Trubeth; Stuart, Frank; McGahee, Cynthia; Garza, Krystal; Johnson, Debbie; Phelan, Tim; Mabry, Jennifer C.; Kertesz, Ryan W.; Southeastern Reo; Diana Ledgett Brown; Southern Smokhouse. **Clinton, TN:** Smith, Pamela J.; **Cookeville, TN:** Gonzales, Juan J.; Cumberland Regional Development Corp.; Bearden, Gloria. **Crab Orchard, TN:** Hensley, Michael; Naoumov, Svetoslav. **Crossville, TN:** Holly Neal; Claar, Allen Wayne; Lukoss, Brian; Willis, Matthew Darrell; Carter, Rebecca Lee; Lowe, James Glenn; Ellinwood, Sheila; Jorgensen, Cassandra; Abernathy, James; Sherrill, Stephen; Anderson, Jason; Goss, Gary Dana; Green, Jeremie J.; Varney, Verlin L.; Wilson, Joseph; Doggett, Leroy; Winters, John; Benson, Cheryl E.; Guilds, Paul Michael; Nadiger, Robert; Hughes, Catherine Lynn; Bohannon, Claude; Cole, Brittany M.; Morris, Tracy; Seickendick, David Edward; Mcneil, Sherrie A.; Key, Marie; Bayless, Cody Leon; Morales, Francisco; Bravo, Martha; Eggleston, Paula; Horn, Dustin James; Pippin, Curtis; Selby, Nathan; Sevenstar, Jackie; Davis, James G.; Wilmarth, Amber; Donithan, Vicki; Thompson, Chasity Nicole; Knight, Stacia; Millard, Stuart Daniel; Davenport, Chascidy; Lewis, Jeremy Allen; Dwiggin, Ginger Renee; Spivey, Sammy; Geary, Joshua A.; Barnwell, Brenda; Parker, Jessica. **Decatur, TN:** Carroll, Jennifer R.; Turner, Shelia; Shadwick, William D.; Finnell, Justin; Lamb, Judie E. **Delano, TN:** Ross, Bobbie M. **Etowah, TN:** Allen, Kenneth. **Evensville, TN:** Williams, Chris S. **Fairfield Glade, TN:** Swinford, Michael William; Harris, Kelly F. **Georgetown, TN:** Moore, Kelly. **Glen Carbon, IL:** Beal, Joe M. **Grand View, TN:** Andrews, Rose Marie. **Harriman, TN:** Hamby, R. B. **Harrison, TN:** Reed, B. F. **Hermitage, TN:** Sides, Wanoka R. **Hixson, TN:** Owensby, Alberta L. **Jamestown, TN:** Schultz, Teresa L.; Atkinson, Joshua; Abston, Woody; Bailey, Aimee; Davis, Roger Michael; Scroggins, Frederick; Gilbert, Christine; Stinson, Misty R.; Union Bank. **Kettering, OH:** McAvane, Emilie. **Kingston, TN:** Barnard, John H.; Robinson, Stephanie Y. **Knoxville, TN:** First State Finance. **Livingston, TN:** Hilltop Barber Shop. **Louisville, KY:** Charter Communications. **McDonald, TN:** Cross, Jonathan L.; Dasilva, Ricardo; Murphy, Kate W. **Monterey, TN:** Gentry, Angela Amy; McCowan, Carrie Celeste; Rose, Lori Denise; Stouder, Paul Sumner. **Ocoee, TN:** Jenkins, Anthony R.; Natola, Alyssa; Falkenhagen, Gordon M. **Old Fort, TN:** Walker, Joshua L.; Martineaux, Raven E.; Belcher, Curtis W.; Swallows, Mark A.; Swallows, Denver D.; Self, Jerry R. **Ooltewah, TN:** Lambert, Laura W.; Tolley, Breann; Young, Cori M.; Gail C. Link; Susan McGuire. **Philadelphia, TN:** Tilley, Stefanie. **Poughkeepsie, NY:** Sexton, John A. **Pulaski, TN:** Akins, Alisha. **Reliance, TN:** Hester, David R. **Riceville, TN:** Wilson, Keith; Lane, Robbie E.; Gertie M. Sledge; Sweet, Anthony; Craig Brymer. **Richmond, KY:** Moore, Preston. **Rockwood, TN:** Woods, Patrick B. **Sparta, TN:** Kirby, Terry D.; Bryant, Eric. **Spring City, TN:** Wilson, Millard H.; Neal, Vicky; Lockwood, William P.; Jones, Kevin; Lockwood, William P. **Spring Hill, TN:** Burak, Karen. **Tellico Plains, TN:** Taylor, Samantha J. **Ten Mile, TN:** Allmon, Michael W.; Roberts, Earl B.

Don't Let Thunderstorms Come as a Shock to You

As temperatures start rising, so do the chances of thunderstorms. And when thunderstorms hit, lightning can be a serious threat to personal safety. It can also cause power outages and create serious problems for your electronic equipment and electric appliances.

The best atmospheric scientists in the world cannot determine exactly when or where lightning will strike, but there is one thing we can be certain of – it will strike. And when it comes to thunderstorms and lightning, the best defense is to be prepared.

Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) offers Midland weather radios at all its customer service centers. The Midland weather radios offered by VEC can be set to monitor several different counties and provide an alert when threatening weather is approaching. They have a battery backup and also operate on your regular household current.

VEC also offers surge protection that can help protect your homes electronics and appliances from electrical spikes that often occur during thunderstorm season. For more information about Surge Guard and weather radios, visit www.vec.org.

Lightning has been known to strike more than 10 miles from the storm in an area of clear sky above. So just looking up at the sky may not provide a true indication of whether or not a threat exists.

It's also important to prepare a thunderstorm/ power outage kit that includes:

- Canned/package food
- A manual can opener
- Fresh water (bottled)
- Blankets
- Battery-operated radio
- Flashlight with fresh batteries
- Extra batteries

It's also important to prepare now by making sure VEC has your correct phone number on file. This insures an outage at your home can be restored in the most efficient way.

During a thunderstorm:

- Do not take a shower or bath. Water and copper tubing are excellent conductors of electricity.
- Stay away from windows. A central location in the house in an area away from doors and windows is the safest.
- If your power goes out, immediately report it to VEC and then avoid using the phone. (Phone lines may also conduct electricity.)
- Never touch downed power lines. Dial 911 or VEC immediately to ensure that the line is turned off so repairs can be made.

During a power outage:

- Report the outage immediately to VEC.
- Unplug major appliances to prevent a system overload when power is restored. Gradually plug in and turn on appliances after power is restored.
- Avoid opening your refrigerator and/or freezer. The appliance will keep food fresher longer if the door is kept shut.
- Use battery powered flashlights rather than candles whenever possible to avoid the threat of fire.



Clean Energy and Common Sense – We Can Have Both

What a winter it has been in the Tennessee Valley: record cold temperatures, rare snowfall and icy conditions in the Southeast, an unprecedented demand for electricity. VEC customers are now feeling the effects of the icy January in the form of high electric bills. TVA and VEC both experienced all-time records for peak electrical demand in the last few weeks. **In fact, five of the top 10 energy usage days in the history of TVA occurred during January 2014.**

During this extremely cold weather, TVA sent out a call for distributors and their end-use customers to use all means necessary to conserve power. Larger power users actually were required to temporarily curtail power use, effectively shutting down their operations during hours of highest demand. Workers were sent home and production ceased so that TVA could avoid a critical power supply situation.

TVA's generation resources were stretched to the limit for a few hours during a few days in January 2014. Customers were using electricity at the same rate that TVA was generating. This situation occurred with TVA's generating facilities – including the coal-fired power plants which made up nearly one-third of TVA generating resources during this peak – operating at their capacity.

I wonder what would have happened in January 2014 if those coal-fired power plants had been idle.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently issued a ruling that would likely cause the rapid closure of coal-fired power plants operated by TVA and other power generators. This proposal requires coal-fired plants to deploy clean technology that is currently not even available on the commercial market and, as such, would be extremely expensive to implement. If this proposal would have been in effect during January 2014 and coal-fired generation was absent, blackouts in the Tennessee Valley would have been certain. The rates that customers pay for electricity year-round would be increased dramatically.

Please don't misunderstand. No one is opposed to moving toward cleaner generation of electric power. In fact, power companies are working every day on new and improved methods of environmentally-friendly generation. In fact, VEC has been praised by the Sierra Club and others for our efforts in promoting energy efficiency and discouraging the wasting of kilowatts. However, sweeping changes in regulation of carbon dioxide emissions such as those recently proposed by EPA are not the answer.

EPA is currently taking public comments regarding its carbon emissions proposals. **VEC and other power companies are advocating using common sense and practical methods when moving toward cleaner power generation.** You can add your voice to the millions of Americans who have already told EPA how they feel. Log on to www.action.coop and encourage EPA to employ workable strategies for greener generation that will not put an undue financial burden on ratepayers.

Together we can work for a common-sense approach to affordable, greener electric power for now and in the future.



Rody Blevins
President/CEO
Volunteer Energy
Cooperative



VEC Customers Share Your Change Changes Things



The VECustomers Share program funded \$31,200 in community service grants in December. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, more than \$4.7 million in grants has been awarded. The deadline for grant applications is the last day of each month. For additional information, contact the office of Marketing and Economic Development, at 423-334-7051. Applications are also available online, at www.vec.org.



VECustomers Share Board Member Jim Taylor (center) presents a grant check to Don Padgett (left) and Doug Farney (right) of the Fentress County Food Bank.

VEC Members Join with Other Cooperative Customers to Deliver a Powerful Message to Legislators

One voice can still make a difference, and more than 180 board members and employees representing electric cooperative member-owners across Tennessee spoke with one voice during the 2014 Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association Legislative Day in Nashville on Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 3 and 4. Attendees met with their legislators on Capitol Hill to help them better understand electric cooperatives and the issues that impact delivering safe, reliable and affordable power to their communities.

President/CEO Rody Blevins was one of VEC's representatives at this year's Legislative Conference. "The decisions made in Nashville affect our co-op and our co-op members," Blevins said. "We have an obligation to our members to see that their voice is heard."

Joining Blevins in representing VEC were VEC's Vice President of Marketing and Economic Development Patty Hurley; Crossville Service Area Manager Bobby Randolph; VEC Board Chairman Laney Colvard who represents West Cumberland County; VEC Board Secretary/Treasurer Sammy Norton who represents Meigs County; VEC Board Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Larry Storie who represents Pickett County; VEC Board Member Jerry Henley who represents Rhea and Bledsoe counties; VEC Board Member Keith Phillips who represents Putnam, White, and Overton counties; and VEC Board Member Tim Handler who represents Roane and Loudon counties.

Attendees reminded legislators that co-ops are not-for-profit, member-owned and -regulated private businesses. Legislators were told of the enormous impact co-ops have on their communities. Co-ops own and maintain more than \$2.8 billion of infrastructure, including 86,000 miles of power lines, pay \$63 million in taxes, employ more than 2,600 Tennesseans and have a payroll of \$94 million. Tennessee's electric co-ops kept the power on 99.96 percent of the time in 2013 and secured more than \$4 million in economic development loans for their rural communities.

Attendees also shared the results of a recent member satisfaction study. Tennessee co-op members are extremely pleased with the efforts of their local co-op, giving them high marks for satisfaction, trust and loyalty.

"Educated and informed legislators are a key component of low-cost, reliable power in Tennessee," says Mike Knotts, director of government affairs with TECA. "The collective voice of co-op members makes a powerful impression on Capitol Hill."



State Sen. Bo Watson (second from left) meets with (from left) Jerry Henley, Rody Blevins, Bobby Randolph, Larry Storie, Keith Phillips, Sammy Norton, Tim Handler, and Laney Colvard.



VEC Board of Directors Secretary/Treasurer Sammy Norton (left) meets with State Sen. Mike Bell.

The primary issue discussed with legislators this year was a bill requiring all electric co-ops to join the Tennessee One-Call system, a company that provides services to utilities that own and operate underground infrastructure. While many Tennessee co-ops do participate, a few have virtually no underground utilities, so the service would provide little to no benefit. Co-ops believe that the local board should decide if the co-op should join One Call, not Nashville bureaucrats.

"We believe that our members are best served when local decisions are made by local board members elected to run the cooperative," says Knotts. "We are concerned when legislation limits a board's ability to act in the best interests of its members."

"Tennessee's electric cooperatives maintain a visible presence in Nashville and Washington, D.C., to be certain that the interests of co-op members are protected," says David Callis, TECA general manager. "We are here to protect rural Tennesseans. Our legislators make decisions and pass laws that can have serious consequences for Tennessee's electric cooperatives and the members they serve. It is important that we tell the electric cooperative story and inform and educate legislators on the impacts of proposed legislation."

Some VEC Customers Receiving Scam Email

Several VEC Customers have reported receiving an email that claims to be from Volunteer Energy Cooperative saying "Your latest Energy bill is now available to view online."

It instructs customers to "log-in to your account or register for an online account to view your statement. The email also contains a link to an outside site where scammers are attempting to collect credit card and bank account information.

The sender is listed as "Energy Billing Service."

These emails are not from Volunteer Energy Cooperative. **Please do not provide any sensitive information to these scammers. VEC does send emails when bills are available to view online and VEC's emails do contain a link to VEC's online bill payment service.**

If you are in doubt as to the source of the email, close the email without using any of the links and log onto VE-Bill at www.vec.org.

VEC is Now on Facebook



Now you can get Volunteer Energy Cooperative's latest information, energy-saving tips, scam alerts, and more in a lively, interactive format. This January VEC launched the "Volunteer Energy Cooperative - Official" Facebook page.

This latest social media outlet was designed to complement VEC's *Powerlines* newsletter and VEC's website (www.vec.org) as one more method to reach out to member-owners and communicate in a convenient and useful way.

Get in on the conversation - like us on Facebook.

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

Residential & Outdoor Lighting Fuel Cost Adjustment
Effective March 1, 2014

2.913¢

For the most current FCA information, visit www.vec.org

