

## Powering Up

When electricity goes out, most of us expect power will be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm causes widespread damage, longer outages may result. Co-op line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark.

### 1 High-Voltage Transmission Lines

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

### 2 Distribution Substation

Each substation serves hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself, or if problems exist down the line.

### 3 Main Distribution Lines

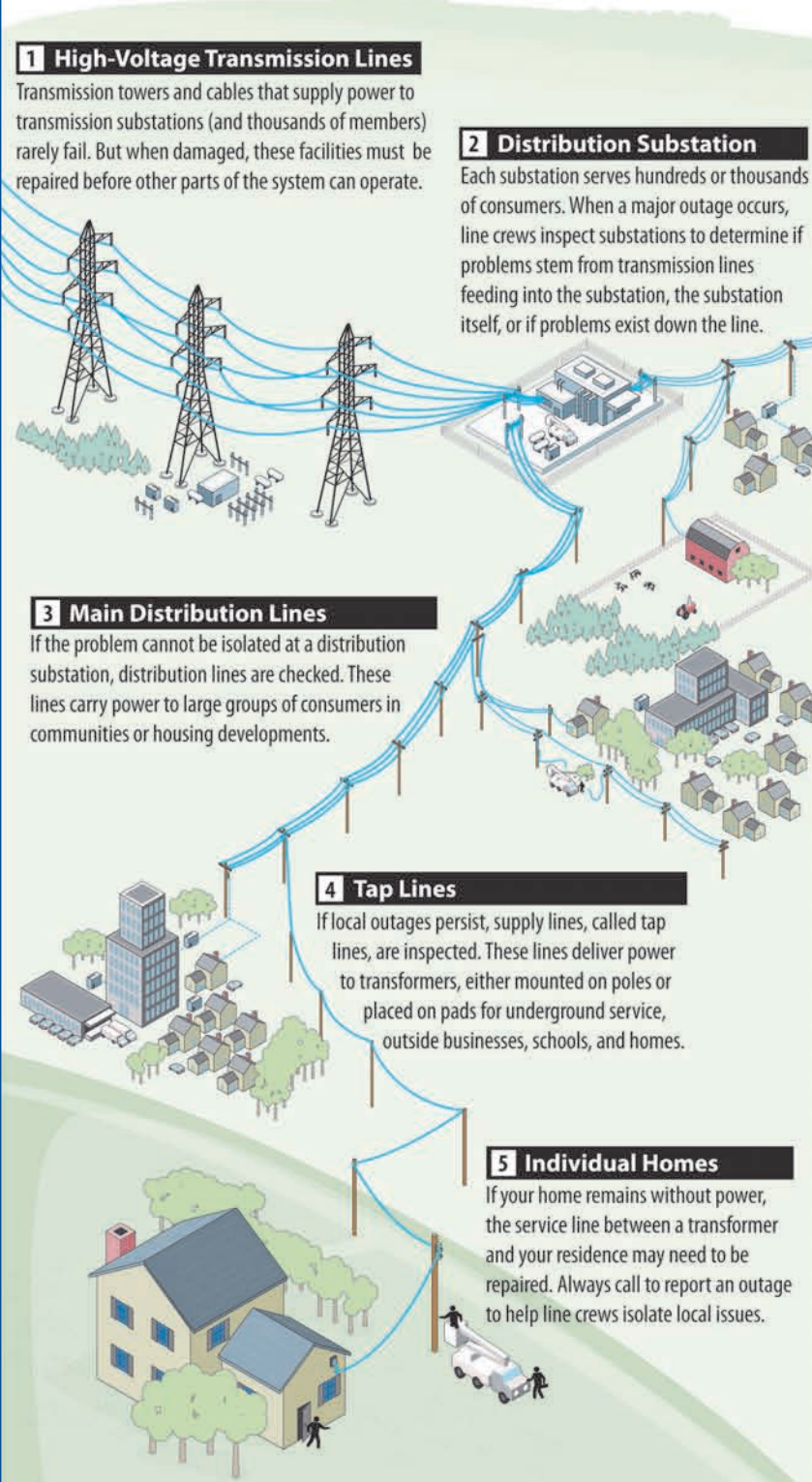
If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.

### 4 Tap Lines

If local outages persist, supply lines, called tap lines, are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools, and homes.

### 5 Individual Homes

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issues.



graphic by Funnel Inc.

## 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 (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, 2016** the law requires us to submit this property to the Tennessee Treasury Department Unclaimed Property Division.

**ALLARDT** - Garrett, Jeffrey; **ARNOLD, MD** - Chapin, Gailya L; **ATHENS** - Rick Wade; Similey, Andrew; Haire, Jerry L; Gordon, Tashea N; Ward, Roger L; **BENTON** - Billy And Brandy Cochran; Loo, Linda R; Martinez, Raven E; Sharpton, Charles A; Hill, Chris Allen; **BIRCHWOOD** - Lopez, Misty Ann; Shannon, Greg A; Brown, Patsy L; Wilson, Dustin J; **CALHOUN** - Morgan, Billy R; Moore, Brenda A; Maddox, Clint; **CEDAR PARK, TX** - Jamerson, Michael S; **CHARLESTON** - Brown, Judy B; **CHARLOTTE, NC** - Carey, Lee; **CHATTANOOGA** - Parris, Jennifer; Goodwin, James; Roberts, Roxsann L; Rodgers, Charles; Chattanooga Human Services; **CLEVELAND** - E.J. Buckner; Ownbey, Wilburn Hugh; O'connor, Melanie; Mcphail, Shawn Edward; Brackett, William H; Zipperer, Lee M; Stakich, Jeremy; Kocsis, Frank C; Brooks, Scott; Vaughan, Dustin; Douglas, Brooke M; Acosta, Jorge; Harp, Daniel L; Garner, William; Wiley, Thomas; Norwood, Lauren; Smelley, David; Stinnett, Lonnie; Paine, David B; **COLLEGEDALE** - Hawkins, Macy Raenn; **CONASAUGA** - Charles S Mcentyre; **COOKEVILLE** - Hall, Kenneth Blaine; **CRAWFORD** - Herrin, Gabriel Aaron; **CROSSVILLE** - Houston, Teresa Ann; Pleasant Hill Market & Deli; Creech, Alyssa Nicole; Davis, Jessie F; Dwyer, Kenneth; Bottoms, Bob; Holtzapple, Todd Alan; Hurd, Randy; LLE Stormer, Mark; Marshall, Breeana; Eagles Wings, Inc.; Key, Michael; Kennedy, David; Morgan, Travis Hondo; Hays, Joshua Wiley; Burgess, Royce Eric; Scheele, Earlene; Griffith, Kimberly; Brown, Donna J; Bowman, Jamie L; Blaylock, Amber; Adams, William E; Grey, Wanda; Taylor, Brittany N; Farley, Heather Leigh; Fenner, Joni Lea; Sullivan, Aaron James; Stoeff, Anthony Alex; Crowley, Mary Harris; Stottlemire, Brett L; McClain, Mary Gwynne; Pleasant, Jack L; Wright, William Sampson; Hodge, Adam Delbert; Queen, Christopher Lee; Thompson, Ramona; Hall, William Harvey; Owens, Ricky Lewis; Binish, Ali; **DAYTON** - Pass, Phillip; **DECATUR** - Jones, Daniel; Williams, Christy; Powell, Charlotte R; Fairbanks, John M; Knox, Justin; A & M Used Cars & Wrecker Serv; Clayton, Donald; Davis, Roy; Little, Lacosta Ann; Swafford, Crystal J; Robert T Vann; Cub Scout Pack 615; **DELANO** - Cross, David C; St Clair, Janet L; **ETOWAH** - Massey, Kisha N; **FAIRFIELD GLADE** - West, Frederick; Raney, William R; Tiffany, Jamica; **GREENEVILLE** - Superior Financial; **HARRISON** - Hickok, Harold L; Hansard, Waynette L; **HIGHLAND, NY** - Stanford, Raymond; **HIXSON** - Underwood, Louise; **JAMESTOWN** - Karate For Kids; King, Teri; Swafford, Keisha; Pullins, Billy M; Volunteer Staffing, Inc.; Todd, Brandy L; Frazier, Nick; West, Ryan; Amaro, Luis Roberto; Burton, Thomas; **KINGSTON** - Wilson, Penny; Griffith, Brenda Alice; Beaty, Paige; **KNOXVILLE** - Retreat Development, LLC; **LA MARQUE, TX** - William D Harden; **MCDONALD** - Frost, Frederic; Pettyjohn, Juanita H; Dress, Katharine A; Burns, Timothy; **MEMPHIS** - Thurston, Linda; **MENOMONIE, WI** - Schulz, Brittany Marie; **MONTEREY** - Bazan, Jose; Hull, Johnny; Harris, F William; Wynn, Shannon Amber; Taylor, Danny Oneal; **NAHUNTA, GA** - Lunsford, Shirley Patricia; **NIOTA** - Ramsey, Jason R; **OCOEE** - Fuller, Derrick; Philip B Drope; Cavett, Ray; Polly, Elizabeth A; **OLDFORT** - Stamper, Edie L; Swearengin, Micah L; Higdon, Rachel; **OLTEWAH** - Michaels, Ken G; Appliance Gallery; Crooker, Gregory A; **ORANGE CITY, FL** - Jackson, Connie Bedgood; **PALL MALL** - Daniels, Garry; Cjr Bottling, LLC; **PHILADELPHIA, TN** - Baxter, Ronda S; **PIKEVILLE** - Gross, Michael; Patton, Angela Rose; **PLEASANT HILL** - Parks, Andrea D; **RICEVILLE** - Giffin, Jon; Ingram, Glen; Martin, James S; Carroll, Billie; **ROCKWOOD** - Daugherty, Wanda S; Wilson, Blair; **ROMULUS, MI** - Weaber, Joseph; **SPARTA** - Sorrell, Barbara J; Meadows, Dellene; **SPRING CITY** - Curtis, Margaret; Dyer, Michael; Howard, Holly; **TEN MILE** - Hamby, Michael; Ledbetter, Shane; **YOUNGSTOWN, OH** - Burgess, Terri J

## VEC System Maintenance Does Pay Off

By Rody Blevins, VEC President/CEO



Rody Blevins  
President/CEO  
Volunteer Energy  
Cooperative

The VEC electric system includes over 9,000 miles of overhead lines and more than 177,000 power poles. The job of maintaining these facilities and right-of-way areas is a daunting task.

Over the last several years VEC has been dedicated to increasing our efforts in the areas of system maintenance and right-of-way work. We have nearly tripled our budget that is dedicated to clearing the power line right-of-way areas and have significantly increased our pole inspection and replacement programs.

As this issue of *Powerlines* was being finalized, a large snowstorm hit our northern counties of Fentress, Pickett, Cumberland, Overton and Putnam; snowfall ranged from 7 to 14 inches. The VEC system experienced a few outages in these counties. With such significant snowfall amounts, our customers could have experienced widespread outages. The major outages did not occur. We were reminded that our system maintenance efforts are paying dividends to our members.

Last year we had a massive ice storm on the Cumberland Plateau which caused power outages for several thousands of our members. Even with a storm of that size, damage to the VEC system would have been significantly worse if not for all the right-of-way clearing that has been done over the last ten years.

The job of maintaining a power system the size of VEC's spread across 17 counties is a never ending one. The continual power system upgrades and improvements will always be a priority as we work to improve the service reliability to our members.



Snow is cleared during the snowstorm in late January 2016 at the VEC Monterey office.





The VECustomers Share program funded \$30,000 in community service grants in February. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, more than \$5.5 million in grants has been awarded. The deadline for grant applications is the last working 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](http://www.vec.org).



Members of the York Institute Bowling Team receive a VECustomers Share grant from Share Board member Jim Taylor.

### Organizations receiving grants in January

Benton Lions Club	\$2,750	Byrdstown/Pickett County Chamber of Commerce	\$550
Monterey Civitan Club	\$2,500	Ooltewah High School Band Boosters	\$500
Pickett County Soil Conservation Club	\$1,400	Midway Soccer Club	\$500
Royal Family Kids	\$1,052	Meigs County Relay for Life 2016	\$500
Mt. Carmel Baptist Church Youth Group	\$1,000	Rhea County United Way	\$500
Polk County High School Club 21	\$1,000	Burks Baseball Booster Club - Monterey	\$500
Calhoun School PTO - Art Dept	\$1,000	Bay View Arabian Equestrian Team - Ooltewah	\$500
Manna House Ministries	\$1,000	Byrdstown Senior Center	\$500
The Art Guild of Fairfield Glade	\$1,000	Bon Air Mountain Historical Society and Museum	\$500
Hamilton County Special Tactics and Rescue Service (STARS)	\$1,000	Birchwood Wild Game Dinner	\$500
Midway Middle School Football Booster Club	\$1,000	Spring City Cub Scout Pack 3239	\$500
Trinity UMC Children's Team - Athens	\$750	South Polk Elementary Junior Beta Club	\$500
Rhea County Imagination Library	\$750	Midway Quarterback Club - Ten Mile	\$500
Cumberland County Community Chorus	\$750	Midway Youth Cheerleading Organization - Kingston	\$500
Calhoun School PTO	\$750	Tennessee Shooting Stars - Crossville	\$500
Allardt Volunteer Fire Department	\$750	Monterey Lions Club Disaster Response Team	\$500
Food Force - Jamestown	\$750	Bigby Creek Working Team - Charleston	\$448
Spring City Chamber of Commerce	\$750	College Access Program - Meigs Middle School - Decatur	\$400
Meigs South Elementary PTO	\$600	Meigs County Quest for Success - Decatur	\$400
Meigs Senior Center	\$600		
The Borderlands Foundation - Byrdstown	\$550		

## Cooperatives are a Big Part of Our Lives

How did you spend your day? Chances are, cooperatives were a big part of it from dawn until bedtime. Let me provide some examples of how co-ops might be impacting you every day.

Your morning orange juice might have come from Florida's Natural, a producer-owned cooperative based in – you guessed it – Florida, but distributed throughout the U.S. If your morning coffee came from Equal Exchange, you are touching a cooperative again because they source their coffee from farmer-owned co-ops in developing countries, and they are a worker-owned co-op. If you like milk in your coffee or cereal, check this out: more than 86 percent of all fluid milk flows through a co-op.

The wheat in your muffin or toast was most likely processed through a farmer-owned grain elevator in the Midwest. If you had cranberries in that muffin, they likely came from Ocean Spray, or maybe you used Land O'Lakes Butter or Welch's Concord Grape Jam – all producer-owned co-ops that make the products we love on our toast.

Next, working parents might drop off their young children at one of the over 1,000 pre-school co-ops that operate throughout the U.S.

Perhaps this is the day to make some improvements to your home. Ace Hardware and True Value are examples of purchasing co-ops. These are small businesses that come together to form a co-op so that they can compete with big box retailers that are not owned by people in the local community.

On your way home, you may stop at one of the 300 community-owned cooperative grocery stores in the country. Many of the meat products and vegetables are also sourced from co-ops. If you are in a hurry, maybe you swing by KFC, Taco Bell or Pizza Hut to pick up dinner. The franchise owners of these fast food restaurants are all members of a purchasing co-op, just like the hardware stores above. So are the owners of Dunkin Donuts and many other franchises.

After dinner, perhaps you are watching TV from one of the more than 1,000 small cable companies that serve rural America that have come together to form a co-op that helps keep costs as low as possible. Or maybe you are surfing the Internet through services provided by your local telecommunications co-op. Travel plans? If you are on a business trip or vacation and staying in a Best Western – that is also a purchasing co-op.

And when it's time for "lights out," you can flip that switch knowing you're receiving safe, reliable electricity from your local electric cooperative, your friends at Volunteer Energy Cooperative.

From morning until night, we wish you a very *cooperative* day!

Are you wondering what makes a cooperative special? Read about the Seven Cooperative Principles



## VEC SURPLUS AUCTION SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2016



Details available at your local VEC office, on the VEC Facebook page and web site, or by calling 423-334-7031.

## The Seven Cooperative Principles

- 1 Voluntary and Open Membership** – Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political, or religious discrimination.
- 2 Democratic Member Control** – Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership.
- 3 Members' Economic Participation** – Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. This capital is the common property of the cooperative.
- 4 Autonomy and Independence** – Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members.
- 5 Education, Training, and Information** – Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives.
- 6 Cooperation Among Cooperatives** – Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures.
- 7 Concern for Community** – While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

## Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

Residential & Outdoor Lighting Fuel Cost Adjustment  
Effective March 1, 2016

**1.881¢**

For the most current FCA information, visit [www.vec.org](http://www.vec.org)



Volunteer Energy Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer.