



Right-of-Way Spraying Schedule

Volunteer Energy Cooperative's right-of-way (ROW) spraying program is scheduled to get under way in early July, according to Steve Scott, VEC's vegetation control specialist.

Scott said the spraying is necessary to help prevent extended power outages caused by falling trees and to assist with quick power restorations by improving access for service crews.

"We spray when growth is most active," Scott said. "We only use EPA-approved herbicides that are rated the safest and we use them in low concentrations."

Scott said the herbicides work on woody growth without affecting flowers and grass. The herbicides VEC will be using have been tested and deemed harmless to humans and animals. Copies of the Material Safety Data Sheets for each herbicide are available at VEC customer service centers.

Organic growers with questions in the Cleveland and Decatur service districts should contact Scott at 423-334-7034. Organic growers in the Crossville service district should contact Tommy Walker at 931-839-2217 ext. 7434 and organic growers in the Jamestown service district should contact Butch Smith at 931-864-3685 ext. 7651.

2007 ROW Spraying Schedule

Decatur Service Area

Ten Mile; Highway 58 north of Hwy. 68; Hickory Flat; River Road; Dry Fork Valley; Paint Rock; Paint Rock Valley; Midway; Hurricane Valley; and Laurel Bluff.

Cleveland Service Area

McDonald; Tunnel Hill; Old Alabama; Bancroft; Baugh Spring; Pine Hill; Blue Springs; Mt. Zion; Harrison Pike; Old Hwy. 58; Gamble; Bates Pike; Cedar Springs; Upper River Road; and Ladd Springs.

Crossville Service Area

Lantana; Pigeon Ridge; Fairview Circle; Homestead; and Hebbertsburg

Benton Service Area

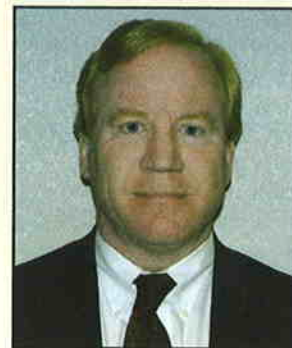
Ball Play; Old Federal; Conasauga; Hiwassee River Estates; Benton Station; Easley Ford; Reliance; Childers Creek; Towee; and Springtown.

Georgetown Service Area

Snow Hill; and Ooltewah-Georgetown Road.

Jamestown Service District

Mt. Helen; and Stockton Road.



Projects put Reliable Service on Front Burner

By Rody Blevins President/CEO

Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) is in the final stages of a pair of projects that will have a significant impact on service reliability.

VEC's new Fairfield Glade Substation will be serving customers in the Hebbertsburg and Fairfield Glades area shortly. We will be tripling our capacity by replacing two 20-megawatt transformers with two 70-megawatt transformers.

We are in the process of powering up and breaking in those transformers, running lines from the substation to tie in with our existing distribution lines, and performing final preparations. We plan to be serving customers from the substation by the first part of July.

The substation will serve about 8,500 customers and was made necessary by the rapid growth the area has experienced over the past few years. J.L. Malone Construction Company handled the construction of the substation which was started in spring of 2004 and completed in the spring of 2005.

Building the 161 KV lines that will ultimately belong to TVA in the Peavine Road area to serve the substation has been a difficult and time-consuming project. But with the completion of these, we are looking forward to providing more reliable service to our customers.

We are also nearing completion of our new South Bradley Substation on Tunnel Hill Road. Construction on the substation, which is adjacent to TVA's new 500 KV transmission substation, is complete and we are currently working on the lines that will tie into our existing lines in the area. The project was started in the fall of 2006 and Service Electric out of Chattanooga handled the construction.

We were able to make the project much more economical by utilizing a transformer from our Sugar Grove Substation.

Around the first of August we plan to energize the substation and begin serving about 2,500 customers in the Tunnel Hill Road, Lead Mine Road, Candies Creek Road, and Blue Springs Road areas. The project was undertaken to relieve our over-worked McDonald Substation and we are confident that once in service, this substation will improve our service reliability in the area significantly.

VEC Co-Sponsors Energy Efficiency Workshops for Builders

Energy efficient home construction begins before the first nail is driven. That's why Volunteer Energy Cooperative teamed up with Cleveland State Community College and TVA to present two energy efficient construction workshops for builders. The first was held in Crossville with almost 90 construction professionals in attendance. The second workshop, which was also co-sponsored by EPB, hosted about 70 attendees in Ooltewah.

Brett Dillon, a fourth generation carpenter and builder as well as a certified home energy rater, was the featured speaker at both events. Participants received complimentary copies of each of the three volumes of the "Energy Efficient Residential Construction Guide," as well as goody bags and door prizes.

Patty Hurley, Volunteer Energy Cooperative's vice president of Marketing and Economic Development said the events were designed to keep builders up-to-date on the latest in energy efficiency technology and construction techniques.

Hurley said Dillon's extensive background in home construction allows him to share energy efficient products, techniques, and trends that cost very little but add a lot of value.

"Many potential home buyers are becoming more and more energy-savvy," Hurley said. "They are looking for homes that have been designed and built with energy efficiency features. Designing and building these features into their homes can improve the builder's homes and their bottom line for years to come."

Dillon frequently teaches seminars and workshops on high performance home building, the International Energy Conservation Code, moisture control, and homeowner education.

The workshops were sponsored in conjunction with Cleveland State Community College's construction technology program. Allan Gentry, of Cleveland State, said the program was designed to be a source for renewable energy and energy efficient construction techniques.

Gentry said there really wasn't one place to go to get all this information on incorporating solar, wind, and geothermal energy sources and other energy efficient construction techniques. He said Cleveland State wanted to become a source for all this information, to incorporate the techniques into its building technologies curriculum, and to reach out to construction and real estate professionals with this information.

VEC's website now offers information on solar and wind generation technology. Links to two informative publications can be found on VEC's homepage at www.vec.org.



Brett Dillon shares energy efficient techniques with builders at a VEC-sponsored workshop in Crossville.

VEC Customers *Share*

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

By allowing their electric bills to be rounded up to the next dollar Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) customers funded \$33,500 in community service grants in March. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, a total of \$2,131,801 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.

Organizations receiving grants in March include:

Friends of the Fentress County Library - \$3,600; Polk County Friends of the Library - \$3,000; Friends of the Pickett County Library - \$1,500; Cumberland County Master Gardeners - \$1,000; Fair Park Senior Center, Crossville - \$1,000; Crawford Community Club - \$1,000; CBC Community Outreach, Spring City - \$1,000; Meigs County Historical Society - \$1,000; Burks Middle School PTSO, Monterey - \$1,000; Riceville Elementary PTO - \$1,000; Birchwood Church of God Community Cemetery - \$1,000; Midway Quarterback Club - \$1,000; Pickett County High School Science Club - \$1,000; Roane Choral Society - \$1,000; Athens Civitan - \$1,000; Pleasant Hill Football Boosters - \$1,000; Women United in Community Service, Athens - \$925; McMinn-Meigs Baptist Association - \$825; Bread of Life Rescue Mission, Crossville - \$700; Youth Group of First Baptist Benton - \$600; Meigs County Chamber of Commerce - \$500; FOP Lodge 22, Hamilton County - \$500; Collegedale Adventist Youth in Action - \$500; Pickett County High School Beta Club - \$500; Chattanooga Central High School Band Boosters - \$500; Royal Family Kids' Camp, Cleveland - \$500; Cub Scouts Pack 3477, Cleveland - \$500; Monterey USSSA Baseball League, Inc., - \$500; Crossroads of East Tennessee, Cleveland - \$500; Powell Cemetery, Georgetown - \$500; Shenandoah Baptist Academy, Cleveland - \$500; University of Tennessee Extension 4-H of Fentress County - \$400; Bradley Initiative Credit Union - \$400; Friends of the Library of Spring City - \$400; Hands Extended, Inc., Cleveland - \$400; Friends of the Parks of Spring City - \$350; St. Alphonsus Community Services, Crossville - \$300; Girls Scout Troops 35 & 70, Spring City - \$250; Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association, Etowah - \$250; Benton Farm and Auto - \$200; and Camp McCroy 4-H Camp, Benton - \$200.

VEC Customers Share Cutline:



VEC Customers Share board members Pauline Sherrer, left, and Roger Thackston, right, present a grant check in the amount of \$1,000 to Kent McCoy of the Cumberland County Master Gardeners.

Young Writers Win Spot on Washington Youth Tour

Four high school juniors within the Volunteer Energy Cooperative service area have been awarded an all-expense paid week in Washington, D.C. Danielle Rose of Cumberland County High School, Erin Penrod of Meigs County High School, Jessica Tompkins of York Agricultural Institute, and Steven Clukey of Walker Valley High School wrote winning short stories to earn their spot on this year's Washington Youth Tour. The tour, scheduled for June 8 through June 14, brings together high school students who are served by electric cooperatives from across the country for a week of sight-seeing and fun in our nation's capital.

The tour is sponsored by Volunteer Energy Cooperative and other rural electric cooperatives from across the nation and is organized by the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. About 140 students from across Tennessee and about 1,700 students from across the nation will be attending. Steven Clukey was selected as the overall winner from VEC's service area. His short story was forwarded for state-wide judging where three winners will be selected. Statewide winners will receive a \$3,000, a \$2,000, or a \$1,000 college scholarship. He is from Cleveland and is the son of Sandra and Tony Clukey. Clukey's English teacher at Walker Valley High School, Suzanne Burrell, was also awarded a spot on the trip.

VEC Communications Coordinator Robert McCarty coordinates VEC's participation in the program. He made in-class presentations at the three participating high schools and will chaperone on the trip.

"These students are in for a great week," McCarty said. "I'm excited for them and I'm looking forward to going on the trip myself. This will be my fifth Washington Youth Tour and it never gets old. Every year I'm very impressed with the caliber of young people we have in our communities. I know we often hear a lot about the young people who are out there making trouble, but my experience with the young people throughout our service area is that there are more students who are already helping to make their communities

better places. When they get their opportunity to assume leadership positions, we are going to be in great shape." Cumberland County High School's representative on the Washington Youth Tour is Danielle Rose from Crossville. She is the daughter of Lisa and Roy Rose. Meigs County High School's Erin Penrod is from Decatur and is the daughter of Lori Penrod.

Jessica Thompkins of York Agricultural Institute is from Jamestown and is the daughter of Rhonda Thompkins. McCarty said that, typically, four high schools are selected each year, on a rotating basis, to participate in the program. "We have 14 high schools in our service area and unfortunately we just don't have that many spaces available on the tour," McCarty said. "So we rotate the opportunity to just four schools each year so that every school gets to send a student on the trip at some point."

Next year VEC will be offering the program to juniors at Pickett County High School, Midway High School, Stone Memorial High School, and Bradley Central High School.

Fall in Love

With Lower Heating & Cooling Costs



Whether you are building a new home or just replacing your old heating and cooling system, Volunteer Energy Cooperative can help you save money.

New homes built to TVA/VEC *energy right*® all-electric standards qualify for a free home energy inspection and a \$50 credit on your next electric bill. If you also install a qualifying lifetime-warranty water heater, you can receive an additional \$100 credit on your electric bill.

Retrofitting **existing homes** with a new, energy-efficient electric heat pump through the TVA/VEC *energy right*® program is a very rewarding experience. You can finance the purchase and installation at competitive interest rates and get a free home energy inspection.

Ask your local Volunteer Energy Cooperative Customer Service Representative for all the details.

Call your local VEC Customer Service Center For more information



A Penny Saved

Save Money on Energy Costs this Summer

In your garden and around your home

- Longer days mean shorter nights. Don't forget to adjust your outdoor lighting timers. You'll save money and extend bulb life.
- Avoid excessive lighting levels on the patio and in other outdoor living areas. Illumination should be just bright enough for safety and for relaxing on summer evenings. Install a timer, or better yet, use patio lights only when needed.
- Gas lawn mowers are a major source of air pollution and smog in many areas. Electric mowers pollute less and are much quieter too.
- Consider using electric grass and hedge trimmers instead of gas-powered trimmers. Well-maintained manual trimmers are preferred by many expert gardeners and professionals.
- A broom will clean your driveway and walkways as effectively as a gas-powered leaf blower; it will also save money and boost your popularity with the neighbors.
- Plan your garden with the changing seasons in mind. Shelter the south side of your home from summer sun with deciduous trees. Evergreens will protect the north side of your home from icy blasts.

For indoor comfort

- Shelter sun-exposed windows with awnings and shrubbery. Keep your blinds and draperies closed on hot, sunny days.
- Keep windows closed in the heat of the day. Open windows in the cool of the night.
- Your attic gets hot in the summer – temperatures of up to 65°C (150°F) are common. Insulation in your attic protects your home from excessive heat penetration in summer and cold penetration in winter. Invest in attic insulation for year-round comfort and efficiency.
- Use floor and ceiling fans to create gentle breezes to keep you and your family comfortable.
- If your basement is dry, use the furnace fan to circulate cool basement air throughout your home. Maintain your furnace air filter at peak efficiency to reduce indoor pollen levels.
- Use compact fluorescent lighting wherever you can. Compact fluorescents use very little energy and produce much less waste heat than incandescent and halogen lights. In general, you will find lower indoor lighting levels more pleasant in warm weather.

Using your air conditioner

- Inspect and maintain your cooling system. Simple measures such as cleaning and replacing clogged air filters can reduce cooling costs up to 10%. An annual service call will extend the life of your expensive cooling equipment and boost efficiency.
- Don't forget cooling system ductwork. Leaking joints, elbows and connections can boost energy consumption 20 to 30%. Seal loose joints.
- Shade your air conditioner from direct sunlight.
- Adjust your air conditioner's thermostat when you go out, and shut your system down when you are away for extended periods. Unnecessary cooling costs money.
- Close all windows, doors and chimney dampers when using your air conditioner. Don't use your hard-earned money to cool the great outdoors.

