

Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

SULLIVAN COUNTY REC

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***Credentialed Cooperative Director**

****Board Leadership Certificate**

*****Director Gold Certificate**

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Guest Column

Safety and Reliability at Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative

AT SULLIVAN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE (SCREC), the work we do along roads, rights of way, farms, and wooded areas all has one purpose: to serve our members safely and reliably. Tree trimming and mowing, pole inspections, aerial drone inspections of lines, and equipment maintenance may not always be convenient or easy to understand when you see them happening, but each task plays an important role in keeping your power dependable and community safe.

We care deeply about the safety of our employees, our members, and the communities we serve. For our lineworkers, that means taking the time to do the job the right way by wearing proper protective equipment, following proven safe work practices, inspecting tools and equipment before use, following careful switching, testing, and grounding procedures, and maintaining good communication with one another and the office. These steps help protect the linemen working on your electric system.

Safety also means looking out for you. Many of our members live, work, farm, hunt, travel, and spend time outdoors near electric lines and equipment. Aerial drone inspections provide a safe and efficient way to get a closer look at poles, lines, equipment, and rights of way, allowing us to view potential hazards that cannot be spotted from the ground. By spotting concerns early, we can plan repairs before they lead to outages, safety concerns, or reliability issues. Wood pole inspections are just as important. Inspecting poles for decay, damage, or wear is necessary because it helps identify problems before they become safety concerns for our lineworkers or reliability concerns for our members.

SCREC also builds and maintains our electric system with required safety clearances in mind. In everyday terms, that means making sure electric lines have enough space from roads, buildings, driveways, fields, and other areas where people may pass or work. Maintaining those clearances helps reduce the risk of accidental contact with energized equipment and helps keep members, first responders, contractors, and the public safer.

Right-of-way clearing is one of the most visible and invasive parts of this work, and we know it can sometimes be difficult to understand why we trim as much as we do. Trees and low-growing bushes are part of what makes our service territory a beautiful place to live, so we understand why trimming or mowing near or on your property may raise questions.

We do this work because trees and limbs grow into lines, trees fall during storms, and overgrown areas can be a hazard and cause slow restoration times during an outage. Keeping rights of way clear helps us identify trouble areas, restore service more quickly during an outage, and give our line crews safer access when they need to make repairs.

Reliable electric service is something members count on every day, and we do not take that responsibility lightly. A lot of the work that supports reliability happens quietly in the background — before storms arrive, before equipment fails, and before a small issue has the chance to become a larger one.

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Out with the Old and In with the New

SARAH PARRISH, COOPERATIVE COMMUNICATOR

THINK ABOUT EVERYTHING YOU'VE upgraded in your home over the last decade: your TV, smartphone, washer and dryer, coffeemaker, smartwatch, internet service — the list goes on. Your electric cooperative is not much different.

At Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative (SCREC), we are always looking for ways to improve our 900-plus miles of electric line, equipment, and technology to provide our members with the most reliable, cost-responsible power available.

That said, the most recent project SCREC has undertaken to improve system reliability is upgrading all of our members' meters.

Out with the old

Most members currently have PLC meters at their service locations, which stands for "power line carrier." These meters communicate over our power lines just like phone lines — they send communication directly through the neutral conductor. When an employee in our office needs to read your meter, we send a request to the carrier control unit in

the substation, which then calls the meter. The meter responds to the call with a reading that is then sent from the substation to the office.

While this may sound practical, it has its downsides.

Our PLC meters were deployed around 2010, and the communication technology for them is no longer supported.

Also, when there's a major storm outage or power supply failure that requires a substation to be backfed, the PLC meters that respond to that substation cannot be read. This causes major issues during the restoration process because the communication from the meter to the substation is lost.

In with the new

Beginning in 2020, SCREC began replacing PLC meters with new wireless signal meters.

Wireless signal meters do not require a power line to communicate. Instead, they communicate meter to meter until they reach a substation. In sparsely populated areas, nodes, also known as relays, have been hung near pole-mount transformers to

help carry out the meter-to-meter communication.

Wireless signal meters can read every 15 minutes. In contrast, PLC meters read only once every 24 hours. The new meter system gives our members greater insight into their electric use, and for those who call into the office, we can track your use right down to the quarter hour.

Our new meters are also able to report outages, which will be extremely useful for seasonal accounts when no one is at a residence. However, if you are home when your power goes out, we still encourage you to call 570-924-3418 or use your SmartHub account to report issues.

Installing thousands of new meters

SCREC has more than 6,100 meters throughout our service territory. Approximately 1,300 wireless signal meters have been installed since 2020. That still leaves 4,800 meters to replace. To help with the deployment, the cooperative has contracted Davey Resource Group to install the remaining new meters.

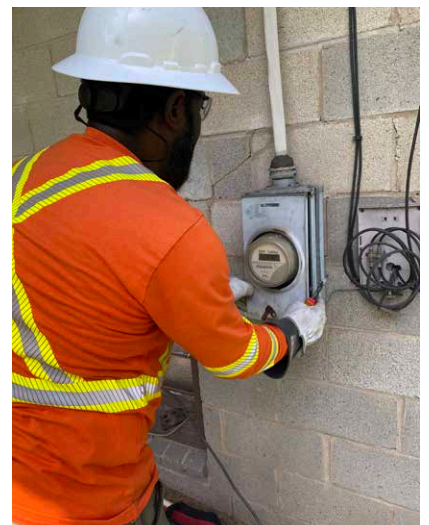
FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2



FIGURE 3



Approximately 2,400 meters will be installed by the end of 2026, and the remaining 2,400 meters will be installed in early 2027.

Step-by-step meter installation

Theo Pryce, Davey Resource Group meter installation technician, began replacing meters in our service territory on Aug. 25. He has been with the company for nine years and loves his career.

“I was born to do electrical,” he says.

During an eight-hour day, Theo can exchange about 60 to 70 meters. Of course, that number varies depending on finding service locations, speaking with members, navigating weather, driving to sites, and so on.

Theo is equipped with an iPad that has the co-op’s entire service territory mapped on it (Figure 1). When he arrives at a service location, he first attempts to contact the member to let them know he has been contracted by SCREC to exchange their meter, and that they may experience a power interruption during the process.

Upon locating the meter, Theo inspects the service for any potential hazards.

Once he determines it is safe to remove, he reads the meter’s class, voltage, wire, type, and serial number to double check it with the information in the cooperative’s

computer system. He then takes a final meter reading, records the meter’s status as retired, and takes a photo of the retired meter for our records (Figure 2).

He then makes sure the new meter is the same class, voltage, wire, and type as the retired meter and scans the new meter’s barcode to enter the information into our computer system.

Now the fun begins!

Once the new meter is ready to be installed, Theo cuts the seal on the meter base and removes the cover (Figure 3). If the meter is equipped with a bypass, he flips this on so the member does not experience power interruption. He then inspects it for any hazards and, if there are none, he pulls the old meter out.

The meter seats into four jaws that hold it in place. Theo has a device that ensures the jaws have enough tension to hold the new meter (Figure 4).

After checking the jaws, he plugs in the new meter (Figure 5), turns off the bypass, reinstalls the meter base cover, and puts on a new seal. After he makes sure the meter is working correctly, he takes a photo of it for our records, and the process is completed (Figure 6).

What sounds like an extremely in-depth, lengthy task only takes about 10 minutes. Theo jokingly

notes that the longest part of the process is usually speaking with our members.

Thank you for your cooperation

SCREC would like to thank all of our members for their cooperation during this meter-exchange process. It will greatly improve our members’ ability to track their electric use, assist our lineworkers during outage restoration, and be more reliable for office staff who are reading meters.

For everyone’s safety, the cooperative would like to remind members, electricians, and general contractors that it is against SCREC Member Policy No. 600, Penalties and Service Charges, to cut meter seals or tamper with the cooperative’s meter. Any tampering may be subject to a penalty fee.

The service drop line from the distribution transformer and the meter are owned by SCREC. The weather head, service entrance cable, meter base outside your home, and breaker panel inside your home are owned by the member.

If you have questions about the new meters or the meter exchange program, we encourage you to call our office at 570-924-3381 between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. 📞

FIGURE 4



FIGURE 5



FIGURE 6



GUEST COLUMN

Continued from page 16A

Every pole inspected for decay or damage, every piece of equipment inspected by foot patrol or aerial drone, and every line section where the right of way is properly trimmed and mowed is part of our commitment to being good stewards of the electric system on which our members depend.

The next time you see our crews trimming trees, mowing rights of way, inspecting poles, flying a drone, or working on lines and equipment, we hope you will know there is care and purpose behind that work. We are working to keep the lights on, protect the people who serve you, and support the safety of the communities we serve. At Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative, safety and reliability are more than daily responsibilities; they are part of our promise to the members we are proud to serve. 🍂

TODD MOLYNEUX

MANAGER, ELECTRIC OPERATIONS

DIRECTOR BEINLICH ACHIEVES GOLD CERTIFICATION

DIANE WHITE, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative Director Karen Beinlich recently earned the Director Gold Credential through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. This status is achieved after completing two other director education programs, the Credentialed Cooperative Director and the Board Leadership Certificate.

Director Gold is geared toward directors who are committed to continuing their education and who desire a tangible credential that reinforces their stature as part of an experienced and educated group of directors. Director Gold also demonstrates to co-op members those directors' ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty to the best of their ability.

Karen represents District 2, which serves members in Elkland and Hills Grove Townships in Sullivan County. She has been on the board of directors since 2022.



WELL DONE: Dr. Steve Brady, chair of the Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors, presents fellow Director Karen Beinlich with a certificate recognizing her achievement of the Director Gold Credential from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Please join us for our
MEMBER MEETINGS

- **Thursday, Oct. 8: 5 to 7 p.m.**
 - The Living Room, Estella
- **Tuesday, Oct. 13: 3 to 5 p.m.**
 - Muncy Valley Volunteer Fire Company, Muncy Valley
- **Thursday, Nov. 5: 5 to 7 p.m.**
 - Plunketts Creek Volunteer Fire Department, Barbours

The SCREC staff and board of directors would like to invite our membership to three regional member meetings.

This is an opportunity to ask questions, exchange ideas, or simply have a conversation with your cooperative.

Whether you have questions about your electric bill, SmartHub, rates, right-of-way maintenance, or another SCREC related topic, we'll be happy to help!

2025 ANNUAL REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

The SCREC 2025 Annual Report is available at screc.com/2025-annual-report. Reference it for employee updates, our board of directors, finances, operations, and member service activities.

