

Currently Speaking

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

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Jerry Kackley, General Manager/CEO

Electric Rates

Farm and Home Service rate schedule R-1*

Service Availability Charge	\$18/month
First 500 kWh/month	12.769¢/kWh
Over 500 kWh/month	@ 10.645¢/kWh

Seasonal Residential Service annual rate schedule S-1*

Service Availability Charge	\$216/year
First 800 kWh/year	@ 20.769¢/kWh
Over 800 to 6,000 kWh/year	@ 11.645¢/kWh
Over 6,000 kWh/year	@ 10.645¢/kWh

(Your minimum annual charge will be \$216 per year for service between March 1, 2015, and Feb. 28, 2016.)

Commercial Service rate schedule C-1*

Service Availability Charge	\$18/month
First 1,500 kWh/month	@ 12.769¢/kWh
Over 1,500 kWh/month	@ 10.645¢/kWh

*Rider T —

Kilowatt-Hour Tax applies to all rate schedules and must be added to the rates shown.

First 2,000 kWh/month .465¢/kWh
Next 13,000 kWh/month .419¢/kWh
Over 15,000 kWh/month .363¢/kWh

Communication can be difficult in the modern world

I ENJOY SITTING AROUND a table sharing childhood stories with my brothers and sisters. Laughter and smiles fill the room, and we are reminded how important family really is. Some of the tales are rather disturbing, but most of the adventures are innocent enough. Each story contains just the right amount of embellishment to keep the attention of the listeners who are more than willing to accept a slight misrepresentation of historical facts. It seems, in those moments, that we are actually transported back in time and the table is surrounded by ornery children. Opportunities to meet like this seem to be rare as we are all busy with the frantic pace of our modern lives, and that is a bit sad.



**Jerry Kackley,
General Manager/CEO**

The art and science of communication has changed very rapidly in the past few years. This is true even for your electric cooperative. We are always struggling to find the best method to communicate with our members so that we can provide the best possible service. We still meet with many potential new members as they plan the construction of their homes, or we might deliver an electric water heater to current members' homes or perform an energy audit. But we seldom get to see most of our members face to face. More often, we talk to our members on the phone to answer questions about their bill or their electric service. A few years ago, we developed a website so that folks could obtain information about the co-op with the help of a computer. We have been gathering cellphone numbers and e-mail addresses because many members prefer these methods of communications. You may have noticed an insert with your Feb. 10 bill asking you to review your contact information and update it, if necessary. If you haven't done so already, please take a look at that and send in any changes.

Yes, communication is changing. The delicate, artistic lines of cursive writing have been replaced by the emotionless clatter of the keyboard and the gentle tapping of thumbs on a cellphone. But I sincerely hope that we will each take the time to stand outside after the church service to greet our neighbors. Maybe we could stop by to see a friend who can't get out of the house. Or perhaps we can pause for a brief moment and simply wave to the mailman. Communication can take many forms, but compassion and love are still appreciated most when communicated in person. ☺

*Have a wonderful day!
God Bless!
Jerry*

79th Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 2

Larry W. Miller Intermediate School, New Concord

- Registration begins at 9 a.m.
- Business meeting called to order promptly at noon.
- Food – Entertainment – Displays –
Something for everyone!

Be sure to check for details in the April issue of Country Living. Your Official Notice will be included with your March bill.



How to clean refrigerator coils

... and why it matters

Your refrigerator is one of the largest, most-used appliances in your home. It requires only minimal maintenance — just simple cleaning of the condenser coils, which disperse heat. If the coils are covered with dust, gunk or pet hair, they cannot diffuse the heat properly and will not run efficiently. A bigger problem can result if the compressor burns out from having to run constantly because of the


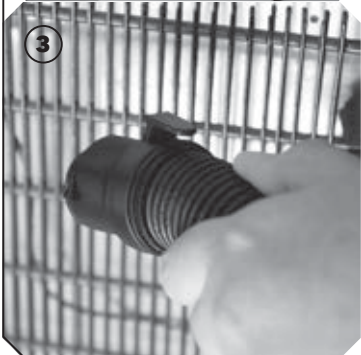
grimy coating. This can be an expensive problem. A minor investment in time once a year can save you cash down the line.

Questions?

Contact Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative at 800-521-9879 or visit www.gmenergy.com.

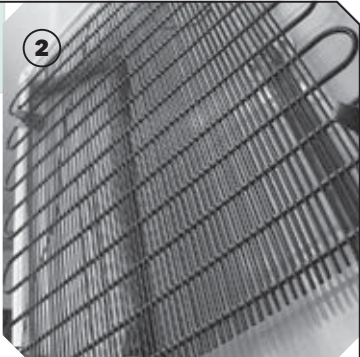



Ray Crock,
Energy Advisor

MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED

• Vacuum cleaner with hose • Damp cloth

- 1.** Locate the refrigerator's coil, a grid-like structure, or fan that will likely have a covering or grate protecting it. The coil is usually concealed behind the front toe kick or in the back. Some newer models have internal coils, so if you don't find them in the front or back, this may be the case with your fridge.
- 2.** If the coil is in the back, slide the refrigerator away from the wall, removing the plug from the electrical outlet when possible. You may also need to disconnect the line to the water dispenser or icemaker to allow enough room to work.
- 3.** Gently vacuum and clean the coil. Using the brush or crevice attachment, carefully vacuum the dust and dirt wherever you see it. If you have pulled the fridge out, vacuum and wipe down the sides and back of the fridge and the floor.
- 4.** Once the floor is dry, plug in the refrigerator and rearrange the power cord and supply lines so they don't get a kink or stuck under the weight of the refrigerator. Slide the refrigerator back into place. Be sure to replace the toe kick panel if this was removed.

Visit GMEC at the home show

The Swing Into Spring Home Show is **Friday, March 11, through Sunday, March 13**, at the Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center in Cambridge. Make sure to stop by the Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative booth to pick up some ideas on improving your home's energy efficiency. We hope to see you there.

Is your name and location/ account number here?

If it is, call your cooperative's office and receive a **FREE** home change-out to compact fluorescent lightbulbs. (Limit 6 bulbs.) Thanks for reading the GMEC "local pages" of *Country Living* magazine.

- #12-0260-04-01**.....Terry Smedley
- #56-0298-40-07**..... Thomas E Miller
- #43-0673-12-00**..... Bernard E Cutlip Jr
- #17-0026-18-00**.....John C McCormick
- #18-0393-01-04**.....Stephen Brown
- #47-0868-21-00**.....Ron Conner

One phone number, multiple scams

GMEC alerts members to scam calls

BY MICHAEL W. KAHN

THE BAD GUYS are becoming ever more flexible and creative in the ways they scam electric cooperative members.

Scammers are using one phone number to impersonate different utilities.

“You never know who they’re going to be in a given day,” said Mike Morley, corporate communications manager at Midwest Energy in Hays, Kan. “They’ve adapted their tactics to where the same group will impersonate a number of utilities.”

Morley said it used to be that victims threatened with disconnection were told by scammers to buy a prepaid card and that they’d be called back in a couple of hours.

“Now they call and say, ‘This is Midwest Energy. Your account is past due, and we need you to call us back,’” Morley said, adding that “spoofing” software fools the caller ID into displaying “Midwest Energy.”

“When they call back, they get a voice menu that sounds exactly like ours. And it’s not just us — other utilities in Kansas have reported this.”

A Midwest Energy staffer called the toll-free number posing as a member, using a phony name and account number, and was told \$780 was owed. The staffer was even instructed to go to a specific nearby store to buy a ReloadIt prepaid card.

When an ECT.coop reporter dialed the same number another day, the recording claimed it was Eversource, a New England investor-owned utility. Upon reaching a live person, the reporter gave a phony location in Eversource’s Springfield, Mass., territory. After tapping on a keyboard, the man on the phone told the reporter there was a \$997.78 delinquent balance and to go to a supermarket 2 miles away to buy ReloadIt cards and call back with the numbers.

When the reporter told the man that the address was actually in the middle of a river, the man responded, “I’m playing around with you.” When asked why on another day the same phone number was Midwest Energy, the reply was, “Because I can do what the hell I want.” Asked how much they were making scamming people, the reporter was told, “All you need to know that we doing OK. [sic]”

Morley knows of two victimized Midwest Energy business members. One lost about \$1,500, the other about \$400.

“The unfortunate thing is for each one that we know of, it’s quite likely there are many others that we don’t,” Morley said.

Meanwhile, in Colorado, Durango-based La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) is warning members

about another scam in which businesses are told to pay \$500 to a “meter man” who will be there within the hour.

“Every time we turn around, there’s a new twist,” said Steve Gregg, LPEA chief operating officer. He said victims are told the person is coming to install a new “GPS meter” — something that doesn’t exist.

“This current scammer is claiming that they will be on-site at the location to pick up funds,” Gregg said.

Scams take many forms and happen all over the country. Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative urges you to be cautious about threatening phone calls and emails that may sound or look legitimate.

If you receive a phone call regarding your overdue account, please do not give your personal, financial or electric account information to the caller unless you can verify that you are speaking with a representative of Guernsey-Muskingum Electric. There are various ways we can assure you that you are speaking with someone at our location and not a scammer.


If you do not feel comfortable making a payment over the phone, please feel free to use our convenient automatic bill pay option, come into our office during normal business hours, mail your payment or drop your payment in the secure drop-box located near the drive-up window.

If you receive a phone call and suspect that you are being scammed, please get as much information as possible from the caller then hang up and contact our office immediately at 800-521-9879!

Guernsey-Muskingum Electric cares about our members, and we want to assure you that we take these reports very seriously. Thank you! ☹

MICHAEL W. KAHN writes for ECT.coop, the online news source for America’s electric cooperatives.

**Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month**



Consider purchasing rechargeable batteries — and an ENERGY STAR charger for them — which are more cost effective than disposable batteries. In the U.S. alone, more energy-efficient battery chargers could save families more than \$170 million annually.

Source: energy.gov