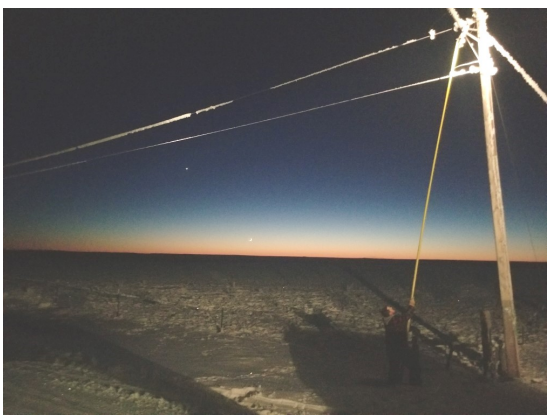



NorVal News

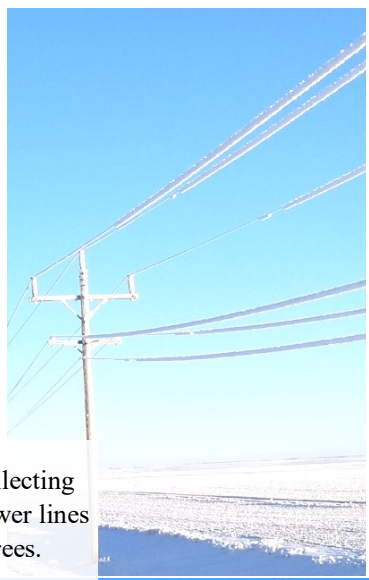
February 2020

Christmas Storm Wreaks Havoc

A week's worth of fog, combined with freezing temperatures, caused the power lines and surrounding objects to collect with frost. The ensuing weight on the line caused transmission and distribution poles and wires to break. Unfortunately, the timing was less-than-ideal with the unplanned power interruption taking place during Christmas Eve, though some members were also affected during Christmas Day and even longer. We are grateful to our members for their patience when the unexpected happens and so proud of our linemen who spent countless hours away from their families to restore the power. Here are a few of the pictures from around the system.

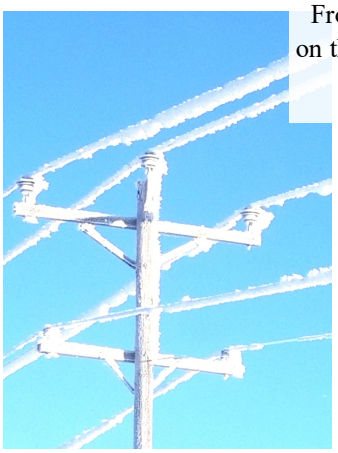


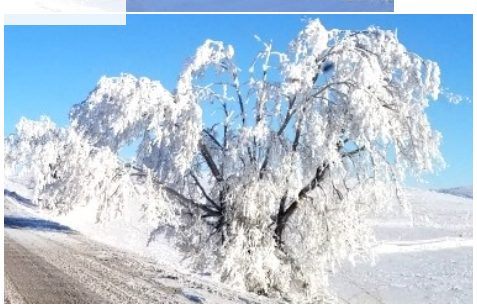
Spotlights shed light on the power line at dusk.



Frost collecting on the power lines and trees.

The ice-laden lines outlined during sunset.





Frost, inches-thick, blankets the lines and poles.

Left: a broken pole is visible with the spotlight. Right: the Opheim Sub encased in an icy mix of frost.

Recipe Corner

One Pot Broccoli Cheddar Soup

Ingredients

- 2 heads broccoli, chopped
- 1/4 c. butter
- 1/2 onion, diced
- 1/4 c. flour
- 2 c. half & half
- 2 c. vegetable stock
- 1/2 c. shredded carrots
- 2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. pepper
- 1/4 tsp. nutmeg
- 2 c. grated cheddar

Directions

Trim the stems off the broccoli heads and chop into small florets. In large pot over medium heat, combine the butter and onion and sauté until translucent. Add the flour and stir until the mixture lightly browns. Stir in the half and half and mix until the contents reach a simmer. Turn the heat to low and add the stock. Simmer for 5-10 minutes. Mix in the broccoli, carrots, salt, pepper and nutmeg. Simmer for 10-15 minutes. Add the cheese and stir until it melts and combines with the other ingredients.

You're at the heart of everything we do.
Happy Valentine's Day
from our Co-op Family to yours.

Emmalynn Page Selected for Youth Tour

Congratulations to Emmalynn Page, whose outstanding essay earned her the distinct honor of being chosen to represent NorVal Electric Cooperative for the 2020 Youth Tour. Emmalynn's essay, which addressed the question of how electricity can save and improve lives in developing nations, has won her an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. to explore our nation's capital and learn more about the vital role of electric co-ops. **Congratulations**, Emmalynn!

Emmalynn's Winning Essay

Electricity is crucial to our everyday lives. We use it in many different ways every single day, often when we do not even realize it. Starting early in the day when one runs water to brush their teeth and being used late into the night to heat a home and charge a cell phone, electricity is an essential part of our lives that we often take for granted. We do not realize just how important electricity is to us until we think of life without it. Without electricity, our everyday lives would cease to exist as we know them and we would be living just as those in developing countries around the world do today. Many areas essential to our lives and well-being depend directly on electricity and we need to look carefully at how lives around the world would be improved by the introduction of a reliable electrical supply.

Electricity is vital to the medical field. With electricity we can diagnose, treat, and cure diseases that are still common and deadly in developing countries. Without electricity, we would not be as technologically advanced as we are today. Electricity is required to operate all of the machine and diagnostic equipment that is used in modern, American facilities. Having the technology that electricity supports would open many new doors in hospitals and clinics in developing countries to treat and cure conditions. These advances could start as small as a refrigerator to keep medication cold, eventually advancing to having a fully functional clinic. These clinics would not only be a place where lives could be saved, but it would also create more jobs, making medical facilities a place where jobs could be saved, but it would also create more jobs, making medical facilities a place where jobs are available and everyone's lives are improved, from employees to patients. Accessing healthcare like this would be extremely beneficial to a developing nation by improving mortality.

Electricity for irrigation would improve the food supply for civilians in developing countries. The food supply would improve drastically if farmers could drill wells and have access to electricity for pumping irrigation water to crops. Being able to pump water and irrigate crops in a timely manner would make a drastic difference in the efficiency and reliability of the food sources. Crops would have the potential to thrive under these conditions rather than relying on unpredictable precipitation. Lives would be changed by creating a thriving agriculture industry and having more plentiful, efficiently grown and reliable commodities.

Electricity plays a significant role in emergency procedures, as well. Electricity is vital for the functionality of ambulances, fire trucks, and police cars. Electricity helps people save people. First responders rely on electricity in almost every part of their emergency vehicle from the rescue equipment itself, to the lights and the communication systems. If developing nations had access to these life-saving tools, response to emergencies and disasters would be more efficient, dependence for assistance from others would be lessened and lives would be saved. It is important to realize that none of this would be possible without electricity.

These are just a few of the many ways that electricity could improve and save lives in developing nations. Electricity would help open new doors in these countries by expanding their medical capabilities. Electricity would also help improve the food supply by providing access to pump irrigation water for crops. The introduction of electricity to developing nations would begin a medical, agricultural and technological revolution that would advance these countries more in the next ten years than in the last fifty.

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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Are you using your fireplace efficiently? Remember to turn down the thermostat when burning a fire, and close the damper when a fire is not burning.

Source: energy.gov