

“Our vision is to provide access to safe, dependable and affordable electric services.”



*Tom Miller
General Manager*

Progress Update – Ice Storm

A normal (affordable) construction year consists of approximately 20 miles of line and related distribution equipment. This is somewhere near the \$1.2 million mark. We have already built nearly 36 miles of line (\$2.6 million) en route to 400 miles. Crews continue to work between Alta Vista and Elma and near Cresco. Also, work is being done between Protivin and Jackson Junction. We are keeping Hawkeye REC crews, Highline Construction crews, and the Tunnels Rats busy with ice storm rebuilding.

Are we done yet?

Folks are asking if we are finished with repairs. We are finding members do not understand the scope of damage the cooperative experienced. If the stars and moon line up perfectly, it will take us two years to recover from the February ice storm.

The weather caused so much damage around the United States that staking engineers are in high demand. Our lines will be rebuilt to current codes and standards, which are much different than years past. Bigger poles, new conductor, different assemblies and newer technology all play into the layout of our electrical grid. It takes time and well thought-out planning to design and stake a line. We are using line stakers from four different engineering firms plus our own staff to design line. No staked line means no construction. Right now, we are trying to get ahead of the construction crews so we can keep them moving without a hiccup.

This planning takes time and we are making good head way.

FEMA reneges

On Friday, June 29th, we learned that the current Iowa FEMA director has been

reassigned and the new director is going to renege on mutually agreed upon project worksheets. In Hawkeye REC's case, FEMA is holding 11 project worksheets hostage in the amount of \$1.5 million. It seems the new director believes repairing and re-sagging the old line is a better philosophy than replacing with new line. He doesn't understand that in our case, there are no poles and much of the conductor is gone! Further, we were solicited by Iowa Homeland Security representatives to apply for mitigation assistance (a different program). We identified 11 mitigation projects amounting to \$255,000 that is being "re-evaluated" as well. And finally, there is question as to the definition of debris removal and repair. To state it briefly, FEMA is re-evaluating all \$9.6 million they have approved for Hawkeye REC. We have no idea where we stand!

Conductor Theft!

Outages the night of June 22nd were not caused from animals, trees or even a passing lightning storm. The blinking lights were caused by thieves trying to steal conductor. The would-be thieves were trying to pull down our lines when the conductor came in contact with an energized power line. It appears one of the thieves was burned by the electrical contact as tools and equipment were left to lie at the scene of the incident. This is not the first time we have experienced this problem. **IF YOU SEE ANYONE TRYING TO ROLL-UP CONDUCTOR, CUT-DOWN POWER LINES, OR MILLING ABOUT OUR DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES PLEASE CONTACT 911 IMMEDIATELY.**

Enjoy your Summer!

We hope your summer is going well. Enjoy everyday!



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