


Norris Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

News

Celebrating 80 years

Norris Electric Cooperative had its beginning in the dreams and hopes of a group of people starting in the year 1936. They wanted something that they and their families they did not have... electricity. These people were pioneers.

These pioneers in their preliminary plans started the long, tiresome job of incorporating Norris Electric Cooperative. On Sept. 18, 1938, Norris Electric Cooperative became a reality and was officially organized.

The first pole was set on Sept. 9, 1939 on the farm of Bud May. On Dec. 21, 1939, the first line was energized. Over 550 farmers, covering a territory of 217 miles, now received power they had been waiting for. Over the years, our membership has grown to 15,205 and 4,089 miles of energized lines in eight counties.

Many things have changed in the last 80 years. Equipment and technology have made a drastic difference in the way the co-op functions today. However, through it all, our one goal that has not changed over 80 years, and that is our mission to provide reliable electricity at an affordable price!

We celebrate and reflect on those strong individuals that were the forefathers of Norris Electric Cooperative. They were fearless in their dreams and goals, and we thank them. Without their tenacity to see this project through, life would have had a different story than as we know it today.



Our office will be closed on
September 3 in observance
of Labor Day. ★

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF

1930s

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order that lit up the lives of people across the land by creating the Rural Electrification Administration.



©NRECA The Next Greatest Thing

Sept. 18, 1938 Norris Electric was officially organized.



NEC's first 215 miles of lines were energized on Dec. 24, 1939 to serve some 550 members.

1940s



Life was consumed by building lines and connecting members.

Through the late 40s and early 50s, Norris witnessed the cooperative's greatest growth period.

1950s

Norris Electric built a new headquarters building where it is still located today.



By 1953, there were more than 11,000 members and 52 employees.

1960s



Growing need for power - 3,452 miles of line.



Hydraulic line trucks began to emerge and quickly became part of the co-op fleet.

COOPERATIVE HISTORY



1970s

1980s

1990s

2000s



First computer system was introduced to Norris employees.



First tree trimming bucket truck.

Early 90s, NEC's first desk top computer.



Technology starting to boom.

Norris Electric made the jump into the 21st century. Technology had exploded giving Norris unlimited resources and data to enhance the jobs of our employees and enrich the lives of our Members.

- Futura GIS Mapping system
- IVR phone system
- AMR
- Online bill presentment and payment
- Digital Radio System
- 18 servers
- desktops, laptops, tablets
- Network connectivity to all substations
- Laserfiche
- Remit Plus



Worst ice storm in the history of NEC - 12 days to restore power to members with 1,000 poles knocked down.



Moved pole yard from Boos corner to current location at headquarters.



Serving 15,205 members with 4,089 miles of energized lines in 8 counties. We still strive for the same thing today as we did 80 years ago...Reliable electricity at an affordable price!

Please enjoy a letter from Senator George W. Norris dated April 1, 1940.

Dear Mr. Yost,

I wish I could be present in person at the first annual meeting of the board of directors and stockholders of the Norris Electric Cooperative.

The advancement which the world has made from barbarism to civilization is, after all, simply a history of the development and advancement of humanity in its struggle to obtain more freedom, more prosperity, and more happiness. The one thing which in modern times has done more than any other one thing to promote this happiness has been the generation, transmission, and distribution of electric current. This unknown element, but little understood even now by scientific men, has relieved humanity of much of the drudgery and labor that comes to all struggling mortals. For many years, it has been apparent to those who had the vision to see into the future and to judge it by the past, that those who live in the country, on the farms, had not been able to share in this development, this advancement. Agriculture, the cornerstone of all that goes to make life more enjoyable, to increase the happiness of men and women, had not been receiving its just share of these blessings. Electricity, given to all the residents of our cities and town, was to a great extent denied those living on the farms.

This injustice came about because the control of electricity was mainly in the hands of men and corporations who were using it to advance their own selfish interests. In their greed to control and monopolize its generation and distribution they had left out the farmer, because other fields offered greater opportunities for them to achieve financial success. In their control of electricity, they were guilty of jugglery and concealment, through the use of mysterious methods little understood by the ordinary person. The establishment of the Rural Electrification Administration has done more than any other one thing to break this vicious chain of greedy manipulators and monopolistic speculators. It has brought this mysterious element of existence into the homes of the farmers and to the firesides of those who toil to produce the things that humanity must have, if it is to live. It has given to agriculture what has heretofore always been denied it, because it was controlled by monopolistic influences of human greed.

This unknown power is an element of nature. Every falling stream, coming from the mountains through the plains, down to the sea, has within it possibilities for happiness, for prosperity, little understood even by scientific experts. The farmer has more use for electric power than the dweller in the city. He is going to become the best customer of all. He has all of the uses for electricity which the city man has, and many more, in addition.

As I have said, it is still in its infancy. Since the creation of the Rural Electrification Administration, even, there have been many advancements and improvements in the field of electricity. We had been taught, or at least an attempt had been made to teach us, that only private initiative could bring about these improvements and advancements, but history shows that what brings about improvement is the widest, most universal use of electricity. The REA has improved and reduced its cost in nearly every avenue through which electricity could enter.

Instead of concealing and withholding for financial benefit any improvement that may be possible in the field of electricity, its public use gives these benefits to all. The REA has reduced the cost of generation and transmission of electricity. To a great extent, it has simplified it. Every farmer has in his home, thanks to the REA, a practical application of many of these improvements. Other improvements are on the verge of general application, brought about by the investigation and experiments of public officials, particularly in the Rural Electrification Administration. History is going to show that this wider use of electricity on the farm is going to rebound to the benefit of the people in the cities as well, because they will be able to profit by the improvements made in rural electricity. You are part of this great army that is bringing about this great improvement, this increased prosperity, and this increased happiness for all of our people.

Electricity has brought a new servant into the homes of millions of people, a servant that pays no attention to hours or labor, or to salary received. This servant brings to the housewife, especially on the farm, a new and efficient hired girl. She is best pleased when she works the hardest. Her salary decreases as her proficiency and ability increase. She has relieved the housewife of the drudgery that has driven many a growing girl from the farm to the city. This new servant is bringing happiness and contentment to farm neighborhoods. She works 24 hours in the day, and never gets tired. She has no Thursday off, and never even stops to go to church on Sunday.

A new hired man has also appeared on the farm. He possesses the same characteristics and is imbued with the same ardor for improvement and desire to relieve the farmer of drudgery and hard work. He works while the farmer sleeps. He never lags in his enthusiasm, even while the farmer sleeps. He does not require the watchful care or supervision of any master. And these servants are doing all of this through one of the natural resources which God gave to His people.

Senator George W. Norris