

# The Kilowatt COURIER

November 2012



Homer Electric  
Association, Inc.

A Sustainable Energy Association

## FALL POWER OUTAGES

**H**EA allocates a considerable amount of time and money to ensure reliable electric service for its members. This effort includes clearing trees along the right-of-way, upgrades to transmission and distribution lines, substation improvements, improvements to generator controls, and a cable injection project that prolongs the life of underground cable.

Unfortunately, despite these proactive measures, there are times when the power goes out. There have been an unusual number of incidents that have created power outages this fall.

Some of the outages were related to the strong winds and heavy rain we experienced recently on the Kenai Peninsula. The extreme weather conditions resulted in trees being toppled into power lines and knocking out electric service. Although HEA spends an average of about \$1.3 million a year clearing and maintaining a 20 foot right-of-way, the trees causing the damage are often located outside of the clearing limit.

During a weather related outage, the repair time usually depends on the severity of the damage to the equipment. Sometimes, it is simply a matter of removing a tree off the power line, while other times the damage to the equipment is significant and wires, poles, and transformers need to be replaced. In those situations, the restoration time frame can be several hours or even days, depending on the impact of the storm.

The weather was also the main factor in a series of outages in September related to the transmission system connecting the Kenai Peninsula to Anchorage. These types of outages are called "load sheds" and are necessary to prevent a Peninsula wide blackout. Depending on the severity of the problem, load sheds can affect several thousand HEA members at a time.

While the weather is usually responsible for outages, that is not always the case. In some instances there are unexpected problems with equipment. As we all are aware, even the best maintenance program does not prevent all mechanical failures.

For example, on Saturday, September 29, many of our members in the Kasilof and Clam Gulch area were without power due to a problem at the Kasilof substation. HEA engineers are currently investigating what happened so that repairs can be made to prevent future problems.

Power outages are at times unavoidable, but HEA strives to ensure that they are kept to a minimum and the duration of the outage is as short as possible. But it is still important to be prepared in the event the power is out for an extended period of time.

The following items are suggested supplies to have on hand in case of an outage or any other emergency:

- Battery-powered emergency lighting
- Flashlights, candles
- Portable or battery-powered radio
- Wind-up or battery-powered clock
- Nonperishable foods and water
- Manual can opener
- First Aid Kit
- Telephone that does not rely on electricity

If your power goes out, please make sure to report the outage on HEA's outage hotline at 1-888-8OUTAGE (1-888-868-8243). For additional information on outages you can also check the HEA Facebook page, the HEA website, or listen to local radio stations.

As always, please remember to protect your sensitive electronic equipment and stay away from any downed power line. The lines are very dangerous and can cause serious injury or death if you go near them. If you do see a downed line, leave the area and call HEA or 911. 

## ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

If you're feeling the pinch of fall and winter, keep in mind that there are energy assistance programs to help you with your energy bills.

**Alaska Heating Assistance Program:** This State of Alaska program helps households pay a portion of home heating expenses. The program runs from October 1 through April 30. It is easy to apply. Pick up an application at any Department of Public Assistance office or call 1 (800) 470-3058 to request an application by mail. Or download an application <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Documents/dpa/programs/hap/HAP-APP13.pdf>.

**Alaska Weatherization Assistance:** The Alaska Weatherization Assistance Program is funded by the Department of Energy and administered by the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation. Its mission is to insulate the dwellings of low-income persons, particularly the elderly, persons with disabilities, families with children, high residential energy users, and households with a high energy burden. For more information, contact the AHFC at (907) 338-6100 or go to [www.alaskacdc.org/wa\\_prog.php](http://www.alaskacdc.org/wa_prog.php).

**Kenaitze Energy Assistance:** The Kenaitze Indian Tribe offers an Energy Assistance Program to provide for the payment of home energy costs on behalf of eligible low income households. For more information on the Kenaitze Indian Tribe Energy Assistance Program, call (907) 283-3633 or visit <http://www.kenaitze-nsn.gov/social/index.html>.

**HIDDEN  
ACCOUNT NUMBERS**  
Every month three randomly  
chosen account numbers are hidden  
in the Kilowatt Courier.  
If you find yours, call 235-3338  
and you'll receive a **\$50** credit  
in your next bill.

## VERIFY ACCOUNT INFORMATION WHILE READING YOUR BILL

You may not realize it, but your monthly bill is a valuable tool. It tells you what, when and how you spend your energy dollars each month. By understanding your energy use, you can identify energy and cost-saving opportunities and better manage 65482001 your electric consumption.

Refer to the HEA website at [www.homerelectric.com](http://www.homerelectric.com) for details on how to read your electric bill and a description of the charges.

When reviewing your electric bill, please take the time to verify that Homer Electric has your correct contact information such as member name(s), address, and location. If you notice any discrepancies in your contact information, rates or usage, please feel free to call HEA's member services department to review your bill.

## MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Homer Electric likes to keep its members informed about the financial status of their electric cooperative. Each month in the Kilowatt Courier newsletter there is a brief overview of important financial statistics.

Homer Electric finished the month of August 2012 with a total asset base of \$213 million. Year-to-date operating revenue was \$52.5 million and total cost of electric service was \$50.5 million bringing net operating margins to \$2.0 million through August 31, 2012. This chart is a breakdown of key financial indicators for 2012 as compared to 2011.

Year-to-Date	August 31, 2012	August 31, 2011
<b>Operating Revenue</b>	\$52.5 million	\$49.3 million
<b>Cost of Purchased Power</b>	\$31.0 million	\$29.5 million
<b>Total Cost of Electric Service</b>	\$50.5 million	\$47.6 million
<b>Operating Margins</b>	\$2.0 million	\$1.7 million
<b>Total Kilowatt Hours Sold</b>	317.4 million kWh	311.1 million kWh
<b>Total Number of Meters</b>	32,382	31,929
<b>Total Miles of Energized Line</b>	2,374	2,364

### WATT'S COOKIN': PICKLED BEETS

Lynette Fletcher's recipe submitted by Gloria Corey of Homer

2 cups sugar	1 ½ tsp. salt
3 ½ cups apple cider vinegar	2 sticks cinnamon
1 ½ cup water	3 quarts cooked beets
1 T whole allspice	

Stew ingredients, except the beets, together for approximately 2 hours. Take out cinnamon sticks and pour mixture over 3 quarts cooked beets. Seal and enjoy!

*We're always looking for good recipes! Please submit your favorite recipes to [mcarlin@homerelectric.com](mailto:mcarlin@homerelectric.com).*

*Recipes will be published based on space available each month.*

## CURRENT RESIDENTIAL RATES

As of October 1, 2012

### All Residential Customers

Energy charge = 12.759 cents/kWh  
System delivery charge = \$19.14  
Customer charge = \$15.00

### Cost of Power Adjustment (COPA)

4.884 cents per kWh\*

(\*Subject to change on a quarterly basis.)

See [www.homerelectric.com](http://www.homerelectric.com) for commercial rates and more details on HEA's rate redesign.

## BOARD of DIRECTORS & MANAGER

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## November 2012 Kilowatt Courier

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