Understanding SVEC’s Boundary Lines

Have you ever wondered why you receive electricity from Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative (SVEC) and not another electric utility provider? Or, why your neighbor receives electricity from us but you don’t?

These “territories” are a result of a basic regulatory compact that has existed since the introduction of electric service in the early 1900s, according to Ken Schrad, director of division of information resources for the State Corporation Commission (SCC).

“An electric utility company or an electric cooperative (or a municipal electric system) is permitted the exclusive right to provide electric service in a defined geographic area,” he said. “In return, the utility had the obligation to provide service to any customer willing to pay the regulated rate established by the SCC.”

Electricity distribution is a service provided with a regulated rate to ensure that the price paid by customers is “just and reasonable.”

“The capital-intensive nature of providing electric service makes it logical to be a regulated monopoly,” Schrad said. “It simply does not make economic sense to have multiple companies putting up electric facilities to serve customers on a competing basis.”

Electric cooperatives were created in the 1920s and 1930s to bring electricity to rural areas of Virginia, reaching areas where investor-owned electric companies did not extend service. In general, those basic geographic boundary lines still exist today.

However, that does not mean that boundaries never change. Schrad said that occasionally, the Commission receives applications to amend service territory certificates.

“If one company is not willing to surrender its existing service territory to another electric service distribution company, the matter becomes much more complicated,” he said. “Someone would have to prove to the Commission that the existing utility is not providing adequate and/or reliable service. And, even before making such a finding, the utility would have the opportunity to correct any issue regarding the quality of service being provided.”

There are also instances when boundary changes occur with no dispute. In these cases, paperwork is filed with the SCC from the parties involved, and after review, the SCC issues an “order for revision of certificate,” which adjusts the boundary line.

An example of this kind of boundary change occurred in 2010, when the SCC approved the transfer of the service territory of Allegheny Power, legally named as The Potomac Edison Company in Virginia, to SVEC and Rappahannock Electric Cooperative. As a result of this acquisition, SVEC’s service area grew from four counties to eight, plus the city of Winchester, and the Cooperative’s number of meters served increased from about 39,000 to the 93,000 today.

SVEC now serves Augusta, Frederick, Clarke, Highland, Page, Rockingham, Shenandoah and Warren counties; and the city of Winchester.

SVEC Holiday Office Closings

SVEC offices will close at noon on Wednesday, Nov. 21, and be closed all day Thursday, Nov. 22, and Friday, Nov. 23, for Thanksgiving.

For the Christmas holiday, SVEC offices will be closed all day Monday, Dec. 24, and Tuesday, Dec. 25.

SVEC offices will also be closed all day Tuesday, Jan. 1, for New Year’s Day.
SVEC Scholarship Program Creates Lifelong Friends

Submitted by Grace Blanchard,
SVEC scholarship recipient (’16)

During our senior year of high school, Sarah Daley and I both applied for the Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative scholarship. At the time, Sarah and I didn’t know each other. She was a student at Wilson Memorial High School and I went to Highland High School.

After receiving the delightful news that we each had been awarded one of the 10 scholarships valued at $1,000, Sarah and I met at the spring scholarship banquet in Bridgewater.

I remember feeling very excited to attend this event, but I was also a little emotional. A generous gift, the SVEC scholarship was also a reminder that I would be leaving my home to attend college in just a few months. I was nervous! Sitting at our dinner table, Sarah and I soon discovered that we would both be heading to the University of Virginia that fall … a new friend!

It felt meant to be.

Today, Sarah and I are still friends. We share a favorite study spot and, last semester, we even took a class called global humanitarian crisis together. Whenever I run into her around the grounds, I’m reminded of how we met through the SVEC scholarship. I think about my home community and the meaningful support it has given me.

For the SVEC scholarship essay, Sarah and I both answered the prompt: “How a college education would improve ourselves and our community.” As we begin our third year at the University of Virginia, I can say with confidence that we both continue to live out this prompt in our student lives, always making the most of U.Va.’s educational and cultural opportunities.

Both in love with our school, we also agree that our beloved home communities and the valuable experiences we had growing up around the Shenandoah Valley have influenced our interests and guided our majors.

Sarah is currently majoring in global studies with a minor in public policy and leadership. She is the director of community service in her sorority, and she is a youth and school programs intern at the International Rescue Committee in Charlottesville. After interning at America World Adoption Association (AWAA) this past summer, she hopes to work in the nonprofit or NGO sector as an adoption policy analyst or humanitarian to serve international orphans and vulnerable children.

For me, I’m a student in U.Va.’s Frank Batten School, majoring in leadership and public policy with a minor in government. I serve on the third-year Class Council and I’m a docent at the Fralin Art Museum. I’m also the leadership chair of my sorority and an active member in Reformed University Fellowship.

After interning at The Highland Center, a local non-profit organization in Highland County, I’m especially interested in education and economic development policy, specifically in rural localities. I feel a close connection to the rural community and I’m passionate about the future of small-town America.

I’m very grateful for the generous support of Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative and for the wonderful friend it brought into my life, too!

Note to member-owners: Please check svec.coop/scholarships for more information about SVEC’s scholarship program. Applications for 2019 are expected to be available soon.

Apply Now for 2019 VMDAEC Education Scholarships

Any high school or home-school senior graduating in the spring of 2019, and whose primary residence is served by Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative, is eligible to apply for a $1,000 scholarship from the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives’ (VMDAEC) Education Scholarship Foundation. The scholarship is to be applied to a two- or four-year college or trade school.

The online application is posted at svec.coop/scholarships, vmdaec.com and co-opliving.com/community/scholarship. The deadline to apply is Friday, Feb. 8, 2019.

An applicant must be entering his or her first semester at a post-secondary or technical/trade school in the fall of 2019 and scholarship funds must be used towards tuition, student fees, room and board or textbooks.

The scholarship foundation’s board of directors will select recipients based on criteria including financial need, academic achievement and a student’s personal statement. Successful applicants will be notified no later than May 31, 2019.

In 2018, VMDAEC’s scholarship foundation awarded 56 scholarships.
The Following Rates Apply to All Member-Owners of Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative

Listed below are the schedules of monthly rates and availability clauses for the three predominant rates currently in effect for consumers of Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative (SVEC). They include Residential, Seasonal Residential, and General Service rates. Rates not shown below include Large Power, Security Lighting, Churches, and Peak Control (PC-3 and PC-4). For information concerning these or any other rates, please contact your nearest SVEC office, or view them on our website, svec.coop.

These are the rates for our consumers receiving total electric service — both distribution (delivery) and generation (electric supply) from SVEC. The major costs in these categories are itemized on the monthly statement for electric service.

The Cooperative asks that you pay particular attention to the availability clause for each rate. Then compare the information for availability to your own uses to be sure you are being billed under the proper rate. Each electric bill the consumer receives states whether the account is considered residential, seasonal, or general service by the heading “Current Charges.” This is located on the consumer portion of the bill in the upper left-hand side.

**RESIDENTIAL (Schedule A-11)**

**Availability**

Available to consumers for normal uses in full-time, permanent, single-family residences and residential farms, where such residential structure is occupied on a full-time basis as the principal place of residence for at least nine (9) months per year. All subject to the established rules and regulations of the Cooperative.

**Type of Service**

Single-phase, 60 cycles at available voltage. Multi-phase, 60 cycles at available voltage.

**Monthly Rate**

A. Distribution Charge

2. Variable Distribution Charges
   - First 300 kWh @ 11.585 cents per kWh
   - Excess over 300 kWh @ 2.588 cents per kWh

B. Power Supply Charges

1. All kWs/month @ 6.681 cents per kWh
2. The above charges are subject to adjustment for changes in Wholesale Power Costs as per schedule PCA-1 (Power Cost Adjustment).

**GENERAL SERVICE (Schedule B-11)**

**Availability**

Available to consumers for general service, commercial, industrial, single- or multi-phase service, and all other non-residential service for all uses subject to the established rules and regulations of the Cooperative.

**Type of Service**

Single- and/or multi-phase, 60 cycles, at available secondary voltage. Motors having a rated capacity equal to or in excess of ten horsepower (10 hp) must be three-phase.

**Monthly Rate**

A. Distribution Charge

1. Basic Consumer Charge: $15.41 per billing month single-phase; $18.41 per billing month multi-phase.
2. Variable Distribution Charges
   - (a) Demand Charge: First 20 kilowatts of billing demand $1.00 per kW
     All kilowatts of billing demand in excess of 20 – $6.71 per kW
   - (b) Plus RKVA @ $0.56 per RKVA
   - (c) Plus Energy Charge:
     - First 500 kWh @ 5.830 cents per kWh
     - Next 3,700 kWh @ 1.329 cents per kWh
     - Excess over 4,200 kWh @ 0.457 cents per kWh

B. Power Supply Charges

1. All kWs/month @ 6.937 cents per kWh
2. The above charges are subject to adjustment for changes in Wholesale Power Costs as per schedule PCA-1 (Power Cost Adjustment).

Note: the above Distribution Charges and Power Supply Charges apply to those Consumers who have the Cooperative as their energy service provider. Only the Distribution charges apply to those Consumers who have an Electricity Supplier other than the Cooperative as their energy provider.

C. Minimum Distribution Charge

The minimum distribution charge per month or fraction thereof shall be the highest of the following:

1. The Basic Consumer Charge; or
2. The Billing Demand Charge in 2.(a) above for (a) 50 percent of the highest monthly billing demand established during the preceding calendar year, or (b) 50 percent of the consumer's requested capacity; or
3. The minimum specified in the contract for service.

**Billing Demand**

The billing demand shall be the maximum average kilowatt load for any period of fifteen (15) consecutive minutes during the month, as indicated or recorded by a demand meter.

**Determination of RKVA Demand**

The Cooperative reserves the right to measure and bill for RKVA. The RKVA demand shall be the maximum RKVA demand measure in any fifteen (15) minute period during the month for which the bill is rendered.

**Temporary Service**

Temporary service shall be supplied in accordance with the foregoing rate except that the Consumer shall pay in addition to the foregoing charges, the total cost of installing and removing the service, less the value of materials returned to stock. A deposit, in advance, may be required of the full amount of the estimated bill for service, including the cost of installation and removal.

**Service at Primary Voltage**

If primary service is furnished between 2KV to 25KV, a discount of $0.25 per kW of Distribution Billing Demand shall apply to the distribution charges. If primary service is furnished above 25KV, a discount of $0.50 per kW of Distribution Billing Demand shall apply to the distribution charges.
Powering Up After an Outage

When the power goes out, we expect it to be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm or natural disaster causes widespread damage, extended outages may result. Our line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. Here’s what’s going on if you find yourself in the dark:

1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines:
   Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

2. Distribution Substation:
   A substation can serve hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself or if problems exist further down the line.

3. Main Distribution Lines:
   If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.

4. Tap Lines:
   If local outages persist, supply lines (also known as tap lines) are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools and homes.

5. Individual Homes:
   If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issues.

Please call 1-800-234-7832 to report an outage to SVEC and download our MySVEC app for updates.
Kennedy Strickler:
Traveling, Learning and Leading

by Cammie Tutwiler, SVEC Writer

Some people travel during college, some after college and some later in life. For Page County High School junior Kennedy Strickler, who has consistently done things at a younger age than her peers, the time is now. Strickler, whose parents are Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative member-owners, was recently elected the national president of Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) at a conference held in Atlanta, and said her schedule is packed with constant travel.

In a sample of her plans for just half of one week, she met with the State Board of Education on Wednesday in Richmond, then met with state officers for Virginia in Salem and finally, met with the Virginia board of directors in Lexington.

“It’s a lot of fun,” Strickler said. “It keeps me busy and it keeps me going. I think that’s what I like so much about it.”

She joined FCCLA in seventh grade, an organization that “... helps young men and women become leaders and address important ... issues through family and consumer sciences education.” She was elected to serve as state president in ninth grade — the youngest ever. The summer after 10th grade she ran for national office, and was elected national president, one of the youngest ever.

“When I tell people how young I am, I think it kind of blows their minds,” she said with a laugh.

Her family and consumer sciences teacher, Bobbi Comer, saw the unique leadership capabilities early in Strickler.

“I saw that in Kennedy in the ninth grade when she took my class for the first time,” Comer said. “When she decided she wanted to run for a state FCCLA officer position, I had no doubt she would be successful.”

Comer added that they prepared her to interview for all positions, including the president, thinking it would be a good experience if she wanted to run again.

“The nominating committee chose her as the state president as a sophomore over juniors and seniors, and that put her in the unusual position to run for national office this past summer as a rising junior,” she said.

The national election took place during a five-day leadership event, held from June 28-July 2 in Atlanta. She was one of 10 national officers elected during the conference.

“In Kennedy’s role as national president, she will represent the national organization to members across the country, policy makers, education officials and business partners,” Comer said.

Travel is one of the things that drew Strickler to the organization.

“The fact that I could go to all of the places across the U.S. and meet all of these people who are so passionate and such strong leaders really inspired me,” she said.

In another part of her new role, she will help set policies and develop future goals for the organization, in addition to leading workshops and giving speeches locally and throughout the country.

“I’ve noticed a big change in myself due to participation in the organization,” Strickler said. “I used to be shy, but here I am doing an interview, and I’m comfortable. I can talk to political leaders, and I’m OK with it.”

Comer said she has seen a change in Strickler as well.

“Kennedy has become a remarkable leader, who is not afraid to speak up and give her opinions on the direction of the organization,” she said. “She is now able to confidently interact with adults, manage her time wisely and balance her responsibilities between school work, FCCLA and other extracurricular activities.”

Though she has just begun her journey as national president, she said her favorite part so far is getting to know the other nine people whom she is serving with on the council.

“Seeing what everyone brings to the table that I’m serving with is exciting,” she said. “It’s going to be a really good year for us.”

Strickler works hard in FCCLA and in her schoolwork, where she is taking four dual-enrollment courses in governor’s school, and two additional dual-enrollment courses this semester at Page County High School.

“I’ve learned tons of time-management skills and how to get everything done through FCCLA,” she said. “My teachers
are super supportive. Having a supportive school system is so helpful.”

Strickler added that her family is very supportive as well.

“I’ve been living out of a suitcase this last month,” she said. “I am away from home a lot, but my family knows I am doing something I love, so they are very supportive.”

This year, she said she’s headed to Texas, California and New York. First she will visit Louisville, Kentucky, in November for a cluster meeting.

“It’s one of my favorites because it’s small and it’s a good opportunity to network with other FCCLA members,” she said. “You make friends from across the country.”

Strickler serves on both the national FCCLA board of directors and the Virginia FCCLA board of directors as one of the youth representatives.

Give the Gift of Light

Christmas is right around the corner. Are you having a difficult time deciding what to give to Uncle Joe, Aunt Sally or your neighbor down the road? Consider giving a Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative (SVEC) gift certificate. It makes the ideal gift for any SVEC member-owner.

Electric gift certificates are available in even-dollar amounts of $5 or more. You decide the amount you want to give. In return, we’ll credit the recipient’s account and prepare a certificate that we’ll either mail to the gift recipient or send directly to you for personal giving. The certificate tells the recipient the exact amount to expect as a credit on his/her electric bill.

The bills mailed to member-owners in November will contain an insert for use in ordering gift certificates. You can then send that form, pick one up at your local office, or fill in the one below plus a check or money order (payable to Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative) to: Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative, Attn: Electric Gift Certificates, P.O. Box 236, Mt. Crawford, VA 22841.

**Please DO NOT mail with bill payment.**

Orders for SVEC gift certificates must be received in our offices by Friday, Dec. 21.

This year, give the gift of light, an SVEC gift certificate. It’s a great way to get into the true spirit of the holiday season.

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**SVEC ELECTRIC GIFT CERTIFICATE**

PLEASE PRINT

Recipient’s Name ________________________________________ Your Name ____________________________________________

Address ______________________________________________ Address ______________________________________________

City, State, Zip __________________________________________ City, State, Zip ______________________________________

Amount of Gift ___________ Phone No. ___________ Account No. If Known ___________

Signature ______________________________________________

_____ Mail certificate to me _____ Mail certificate to recipient _____ I wish to remain anonymous

Make check or money order payable to Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative — PLEASE DO NOT SEND WITH BILL PAYMENT.

svec.coop
Million-Hour Safety Mark Reached

Safety is of utmost importance at Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative (SVEC), and its Engineering Department recently reached the milestone of safely working 1 million hours without a lost-time accident.

“There is no prouder moment I have than to see our folks reach safety milestones and this one is significant,” said Greg Rogers, vice president of engineering and operations. “The last lost-time accident in Engineering occurred Nov. 2, 2010. Nothing is more of a cornerstone at the cooperative than safety and it is imperative that everyone go home to their families in the same condition as they came to work.”

Each and every day, the SVEC team members are committed to watching out for one another, while trying to work to the best of our abilities, as safely as we can to reach these milestones.

Energy Assistance Helps Those in Need

Please consider contributing to Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative’s (SVEC) energy-assistance program to support fellow member-owners who face financial hardships in paying their electric bills this winter.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the fund should sign-up for the cooperative’s Operation Round Up program or donate a lump sum amount to Operation Round Up. Please note that this arrangement is a new way for member-owners to participate in energy assistance. Contributions will only be accepted through Operation Round Up and can no longer be added onto winter bills.

Operation Round Up is a program where SVEC member-owners voluntarily “round up” their bills to the nearest dollar, and the cents flow into a charitable fund to aid area civic clubs, volunteer organizations, nonprofits and more.

Through partners around the cooperative’s service territory, energy-assistance dollars are allocated to individuals and families who have financial stress during months when bills tend to increase because of colder weather. People receiving the funds must be member-owners of the cooperative, but this does not mean the support will be only for electric bills; it will assist with any type of energy costs (i.e., electric, oil, gas or wood). However, the funds will not be available for use as utility deposits.

The average amount someone participating in Operation Round Up would give is $6 a year. If you want to make a bigger impact for energy assistance and the communities served by the cooperative, please consider giving a lump sum to Operation Round Up.

Please bring a check made out to Operation Round Up to any SVEC office, or mail a check payable to Operation Round Up to Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative at P.O. Box 236, Mount Crawford, VA 22841.

SVEC is working with Virginia’s regulatory agency, the State Corporation Commission, to update our Terms and Conditions to better reflect our business practices effective Jan. 1, 2019.

The current document that we are working from is on our website at svec.coop/newmember if you would like to review it.

We will share more information as it becomes available. Thank you!
Tenacious MaDee

MaDee Project supports children’s fight with cancer.

by Preston Knight, SVEC Writer

Under an unseasonably, if not unreasonably, hot sun in early September, music played, drinks flowed and food trucks offering anything your taste buds could desire lined the grassy field at the Augusta Expo in Fishersville.

If this is what attacking something with tenacity looks like, then MaDee Nicole Boxler would be proud.

The Virginia Food Truck Battle is the signature fundraising event for the MaDee Project, an Augusta County-based nonprofit organization that provides support to pediatric cancer patients and their families in the region. Held the first Sunday in September, the event showcased local and state talent, brews and fare, carrying out the project’s objective of being community driven in its philanthropy.

There’s no doubt that MaDee, who was 22 when she died in 2010 from complications from Hodgkin’s lymphoma, would be delighted to see the event and its host organization growing bigger and better each year, said her sister, Abby Boxler-Arey.

“She was tenacious in her fight. MaDee lived life every day,” she said. “We formed the MaDee Project because it was just important to our family to carry on her legacy every day. We’re not just going to be sad. Let’s turn this into something good.”

Needs-Based Assistance

Founded in October 2010, the MaDee Project relies heavily on referrals, particularly from the University of Virginia Children’s Hospital. Families living in Augusta County or any of its surrounding counties and cities are eligible to seek assistance from the organization. Money is allocated based on need and given only after MaDee’s mother, Tamara Talley Campbell, conducts an interview.

As of late September, the project was assisting 22 local families, which is a number that fluctuates throughout the year. Funds are designated only for cancer patients up to 22 years old and their families, but may be used for any number of expenses, such as travel, medicine or bills.

Boxler-Arey said her family understands all too well the financial hardships that can hit a family with a child diagnosed with cancer. Additionally, the organization supports funding national research in hopes of preventing pediatric cancer from affecting more children and, it is hoped, to find a cure for the disease.

“MaDee was passionate about kids,” Boxler-Arey said.

Eternal Thanks

MaDee’s battle with cancer lasted about a year and a half, from her sophomore year at Roanoke College to just after she completed her studies. A Fort Defiance High School graduate, she pegged her dream job as working for the FBI, her sister said.

MaDee’s life is captured in a book titled Dancing in the Rain by Kimberly Fowler. It pulls from her diaries, journals, private letters and memories from her family and friends. MaDee started working on it when she was diagnosed with cancer at 20. The book is available through the organization.

The inspirational story is in one way a call for families who need assistance to realize they aren’t alone, but also serves to inspire people who may not currently be affected by pediatric cancer to step up. The disease can hit anyone at any given time. In MaDee’s case, there was no family history to suggest she might become sick.

That shock reverberates, but with an organization like the MaDee Project, its impact can be lessened. Jessica Staples, a local mother who provided her family’s story to share at the Food Truck Battle, will attest to it.

“Our world turned upside down in December when [my son] Parker was diagnosed with Burkitt’s lymphoma. It was one of those moments that you felt couldn’t possibly be happening. This happened to other people, not us. It must be a nightmare and we were going to wake up. But, we didn’t wake up. The nightmare became our reality,” she wrote to the MaDee Project.

“One of the most amazing things we learned and what helped sustain us through this ordeal was the love and support from family, friends and total strangers. The outpouring of love was so real and so palpable.

“This love carried us through emotionally, physically and financially. We can’t thank the MaDee Project enough for the love and support provided to us.”

The MaDee Project is well positioned to continue to make an impact locally.

“It’s really important to us to serve the people who live here in the Valley,” Boxler-Arey said. “When my sister was sick, our community did so much for our family. It’s important for us to give back.”

For more information or if you’re interested in volunteering for the organization, please visit themadeeproject.com.