



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

MIDSTATE CONNECTION

Office Hours: 7:00 am-5:30 pm, Monday-Thursday
Closed Fridays & Holidays

Business Hours: 541-536-2126
After Hours Outages: 800-752-5935



Touchstone Energy® Co-op Connections® Update

The Co-op Connections Card is a money-saving member benefit program that provides valuable local and national discounts. The most widely used benefit of the card, the pharmacy discount, has saved members \$1,010,844 since June 2009.

For more information call 541-536-2126 option 5.

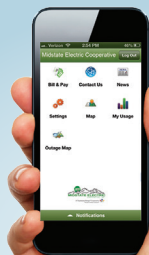
The Center of Member Engagement



Manage your electric account 24/7 by accessing SmartHub at www.mse.coop.

With SmartHub, you can:

- Pay your bill online
- View billing history
- Monitor energy use
- Receive notifications via email or text message
- Report outages and track outage restoration progress
- Check MEC's newsfeed



Friends Stay Connected



Like us on
Facebook



Follow us on
Twitter

The Power Behind Your Power – *MEC Line Crews*

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 12.



During the month of April, if you see a lineworker, please pause and say thank you to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on, regardless of the conditions.



Update from MEC General Manager

Over the Thanksgiving holiday, the State of Oregon had filed a 60-day notice of intent to sue the federal government over the Columbia River System Operations. This was perplexing because just the month prior on October 9, 2020, the governors of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington issued a statement committing to “work together to rebuild the Columbia River salmon and steelhead stocks and to advance the goals of the Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force.” The statement said the states will work together with Indian tribes, federal agencies, and stakeholders in a collaborative, science-based effort to develop strategies and actions. The first collaborative meeting was held on February 24, 2021.

On March 4, 2021, the State of Oregon followed through on its intent to sue by filing a lawsuit in district court. Ted Case, the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association Executive Director, said it best, “Governor Kate Brown’s decision to litigate on federal hydropower operations one week after the start of a historic four-state collaborative process is truly confounding.

With this action, Governor Brown chooses to make our electric grid less reliable, dramatically increase Oregon’s carbon emissions and harm rural communities who depend on the federal dams for affordable electricity.”

The Governor certainly sends a confusing message. On one hand, she commits to collaboration, and on the other, she chooses to pursue litigation. For collaboration to have a fair chance of succeeding all stakeholders must partner in trust and sincerity and the governor puts both in question.

The past has proven that the endless cycle of litigation only achieves division. We strongly encourage Governor Brown to put a halt to Oregon’s litigation efforts and instead make the collaborative process she helped initiate a priority.



Dave Schneider,
General Manager

MEC 2021 Scholarship Applications Available

MEC is offering seven \$2,500 scholarships for those seeking to continue their education.

The applications are available at www.mse.coop/scholarship-programs. The final deadline for submitting the applications and all required materials is Monday, May 10. For additional information call 541-536-2126 option 5.



5 Steps for Safe Digging

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 8-1-1 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:



1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.

4. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.



5. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.



2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.

ARE YOU

Operation Round Up®

You can support worthwhile projects in MEC's service area by rounding up your monthly electric bill to the next whole dollar. Every penny donated is used to support charitable causes and nonprofit community services and programs.

Call 541-536-2126 option 3 to sign up. Single donations can be made by mailing a separate check to Operation Round Up®, PO Box 127, La Pine, OR 97739.



Join ORECA-Action Grassroots Effort



To keep up to date on issues that could affect you and your cooperative, join ORECA-Action today! As an ORECA-Action grassroots member, you are provided with background material on important state and federal legislative electric utility issues. Sign up at www.ORECA-Action.org. Together we can make a difference.

Annual Meeting Save-the-Date

Be sure to mark your calendar for MEC's Virtual 69th Annual Meeting to be held on Saturday, May 8, 2021. We are currently confirming the details for the meeting. All members will be mailed an annual meeting packet of information this month which will include instructions on how to register to attend the virtual meeting.