

Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER



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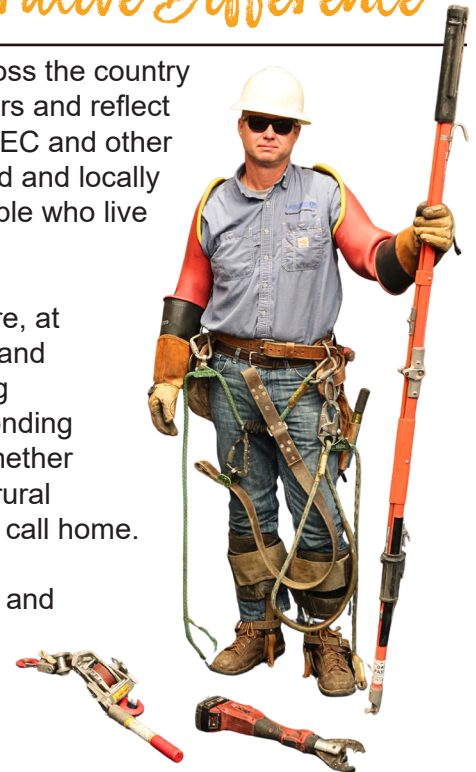
October is National Co-op Month

Powered by Purpose, *The Cooperative Difference*

This month, Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) joins co-ops across the country in celebrating National Co-op Month. This is a time to thank our members and reflect on what makes cooperatives unique. Unlike investor-owned utilities, LREC and other co-ops exist to serve members, not shareholders. We're member-owned and locally controlled, which means decisions are made right here at home by people who live and work in the communities we serve.

Our employees aren't just personnel, you'll see them at the grocery store, at school events, and throughout the community. They're your neighbors, and they care about the same things you do. We are committed to delivering reliable, affordable electricity, investing in local infrastructure, and responding quickly when outages occur. Our purpose goes beyond power lines. Whether it's supporting schools, sponsoring youth programs, or helping expand rural broadband, we're always working to improve life in the communities we call home.

As energy demands grow, we're planning for the future with a balanced and dependable energy mix as we keep our members' needs first. That's the cooperative difference. That's what it means to be powered by purpose.



Pictured above: Kregg Talburt, Working Foreman

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First *Fiber* Connection Installed in Fort Gibson



Pictured left to right: JuaNita Keener, Clay Hobbs, Larry Mattes

We've officially started in-home installations in Phase 1E of our Fort Gibson build, and homes are going live! A huge thank-you to Clay Hobbs, our very first Fort Gibson customer, for helping us celebrate this exciting milestone.

Already connected? Tell your friends why you chose Lake Region Fiber so they can enjoy ultra-fast, reliable, **LOCAL** internet too!

Ready to make the switch? Call us at 918-772-2526 or sign up at www.LakeRegionFiber.com

Co-op Month

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As pictured on page one, Kregg Talburt, LREC Working Foreman, represents the dedication of our employees who are always ready to serve our members and neighbors—any hour, in any weather. Rain or shine, day or night, the LREC team is committed to keeping the lights on and our communities powered.

Thank you for being a valued member of Lake Region Electric Cooperative. We're proud to power your life and our community, not just with electricity, but with commitment, care, and a shared vision for a stronger tomorrow. Your support drives everything we do, and together, we'll continue building a brighter, more connected future for generations to come.

*We shine brighter,
because we stand together!*

Learn How Transmission Planning Delivers Reliability

Electricity is something most of us take for granted — until a storm knocks it out. Behind the scenes, however, keeping the power on takes careful planning, strong infrastructure and constant improvements. That's where LREC, KAMO Power, transmission co-op and Associated Electric Cooperative's (AECI) generation co-op long-range planning comes in.

To deliver power to our local members, Associated's six member-owner generation and transmission cooperatives maintain a massive network of more than 10,000 miles of high-voltage transmission lines, power plants and nearly 1,000 substations. LREC falls under KAMO Power, this network acts like our highway system for electricity — moving large amounts of power from where it's generated to the rural members in our service area.

What Is the Long-Range Transmission Plan?

Think of the long-range transmission plan as a detailed road map for the power grid's future. Every two years, Associated, KAMO, and LREC all come together to review the current transmission system, examine what's under construction and forecast what will be needed over the next decade.

This plan looks at how electricity demand might grow, much like how a city might plan for more cars on the road by adding lanes or building new roads. It also accounts for unexpected events, such as severe storms or equipment failures — similar to how transportation planners prepare for detours or emergencies on the highway.



The result is a set of recommended upgrades to keep the system reliable and ready for whatever the future brings. These projects are added to construction work plans and help member cooperatives apply for federal loans through the Rural Utilities Service.

Lake Region, as your local distribution cooperative, also does a work plan to create a roadmap for the next four years to make sure your electric service stays safe, reliable, and ready for the future. Replacing and upgrading old poles, wire, and equipment, (such as smart equipment that can help re-route power when outages happen), supports growth in our communities by building new lines and clearing lines to improve safety and storm response.

Why a Coordinated Plan?

Before 2009, each member cooperative created its own plan, and Associated combined them afterward. While this worked, it didn't fully capture the big picture. Today, a unified plan covers our entire region. **2266503**

This approach is like having all the towns in a region work together on one shared road plan instead of making separate ones that don't connect well. It improves:

- ⚡ **Regional Coordination** — Important with neighbors like Southwest Power Pool and Midcontinent Independent System Operator.
- ⚡ **Problem-Solving Across Borders** — Aging infrastructure or large projects spanning multiple systems.
- ⚡ **Timing and Accuracy** — Synchronized with energy demand forecasts for current and future needs.

Why Are Upgrades Needed?

The power grid is under more pressure than ever. With an aging transmission system — much of it built between 1940 and 1960 — extreme weather events are causing record-breaking electricity demand. Meanwhile, more homes, businesses and electric vehicles are increasing the need for reliable electricity.

Upgrades are driven by:

- ⚡ Growing demand due to population growth and electrification.
- ⚡ The need for grid reliability under peak loads and emergencies.
- ⚡ The shift in energy resources as coal plants retire and natural gas, wind and solar are added.

What Kinds of Improvements Are Made?

The long-range plan evaluates upgrades based on performance, reliability and cost. Options include:

- ⚡ **New Transmission Lines** — To carry electricity long distances and create redundant paths for reliability.
- ⚡ **New Transformers** — To improve voltage conversion, like widening a bridge for more traffic.
- ⚡ **Upgrading Existing Infrastructure** — Larger wires, second circuits, and improved substations.
- ⚡ **Advanced Technologies** — High-temp wires and better grid monitoring tools.
- ⚡ **Interconnections** — Linking neighboring systems for power trading and resilience.

Working Together

Associated, KAMO Power, and LREC are vital to this planning. They help identify needs, suggest improvements and build and maintain the facilities that ensure the system supports all communities.



Keeping Your Power Lines Clear

Our Investment in Reliability

Did you know LREC budgeted over **\$1,620,636** in 2024 to maintain our right-of-way program? Our crews are responsible for keeping over **3,190** miles of line clear. That is nearly the same distance from Hulbert, Oklahoma to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii! This essential service improves the reliability of your electric service and reduces the length and frequency of outages during Oklahoma's extreme weather events.

Our right-of-way crew works year-round, through every season and weather condition, to maintain and protect LREC's electric and fiber infrastructure. Their work is essential in our region of Green Country, where vegetation grows thick and fast. Thanks to their ongoing efforts, our system remains one of the most reliable in the region.



Tyler Chaffin, LREC Right-of-Way Worker

Report trees growing into power lines or any LREC equipment by calling **918-772-2526** or visiting our website at:

www.lrecok.coop/right-of-way

How Can You Help?

- ▶ Never plant trees under power lines, these will eventually have to be removed.
- ▶ Avoid planting any vegetation around LREC equipment such as poles, transformers, or junction boxes.
- ▶ Follow these tree spacing guidelines:
 - **Small trees:** at least 25 ft. away
 - **Medium trees:** at least 35 ft. away
 - **Large trees:** at least 45 ft. away
- ▶ Trees planted too close to power lines will need frequent pruning, which often leaves them misshapen.
- ▶ Call **811** or visit okie811.org before digging to locate buried utility lines.
- ▶ Never trim trees near power lines yourself. Always leave it to the professionals.

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The amount increases by \$10 with each issue your prize goes unclaimed to a maximum of \$50.

Cooperative bylaws are available upon request at Lake Region Electric Cooperative's office in Hulbert.