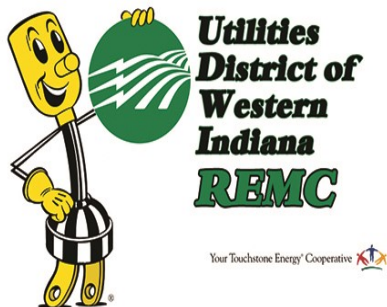


News from Your Co-op

July 2021



Did you know?

UDWI offers members the capability to request tree trimming service online!

To submit a request, visit:

<https://www.udwiremc.com/form/tree-trimming-service-request>



Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/udwiremc



Follow us on Twitter
www.twitter.com/udwiremc

Easements and Right-of-Ways: The Importance of Clearance

UDWI is dedicated to keeping its employees and members safe throughout all steps of construction and repair processes. A big part of promoting safety starts with precautionary efforts of keeping unnecessary equipment clear of power lines and maintaining a clear path for linemen to complete their job.

As home projects continue into the summer months, we want to refresh our members on the right-of-way agreement that exists between members, property, and UDWI.

A right-of-way is an agreement that allows a utility to use or access a piece of property according to the terms of the easement. Easements are areas designated for overhead and underground utility access and are usually defined when a lot or neighborhood is first platted. Easements are implemented because it is more efficient and less expensive to run utility lines straight through neighborhoods than it is to run them around parcels of land.

Having right-of-way means that utilities can access the area to fix a utility-related problem or to perform maintenance.

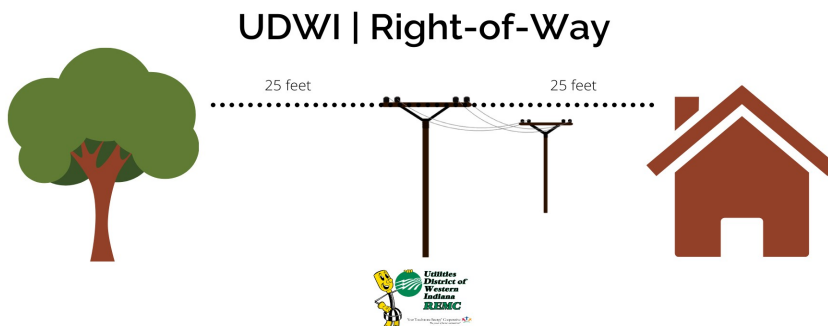
UDWI focuses on keeping certain areas in our service territory clear (the right-of-way), which helps to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs
- Restore power outages more quickly; and
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs

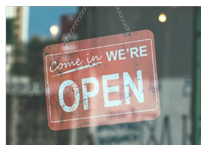
UDWI requires a 50-foot radius clearance around utility poles to achieve those goals. It is important to remember that wire is not static in nature; nature will move the wire, which means the right-of-way is constantly fluctuating.

In addition, different utility equipment has its own safety requirements regarding clearance. Grounded equipment needs 4.5 feet of clearance from any surrounding objects. For higher voltage equipment, 7.5 feet of clearance is required.

The graphic below offers a visual for UDWI's easement policy. Please consult with a member of the UDWI Operations Department if you have any questions regarding your property's easement, and refer to the 'Construction and Upgrades' page on the UDWI REMC website before starting any construction projects.



OFFICE INFORMATION



The UDWI REMC office lobby is open for all business. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Masks are required to enter the building. Visitors should follow the new traffic pattern set in place. Let's help keep everyone safe & healthy!



Our office will be closed:
Labor Day - Monday, September 6, 2021

We wish you a safe and happy holiday!

BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.

■ WATER

Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.

■ TOOLS

Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.

■ FIRST AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.

Learn more at www.ready.gov
Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency

Smithville & UDWI REMC Partnership Update

Construction for Phases 1 and 2 of the Smithville Fiber Project wrapped up over the past few months, with the 3rd phase underway. As part of these completion milestones, Smithville finalized documentation and opened up their scheduling office to begin scheduling new customer fiber connections in this area. Once the entire project is complete, nearly 400 UDWI REMC/Smithville members will be provided with access to high-speed fiber service. The fiber project aligns with the rest of UDWI's capital improvement plans for the year, working to update and enhance our infrastructure to provide the highest quality service to our customers.



UDWI REMC was founded to serve the electric energy needs of its members by adhering to the 7 Cooperative Principles. The 2021 Annual Meeting of the Members focused on these principles and how UDWI has prioritized them throughout the past year. Upcoming newsletters will highlight one of the principles and outline what the co-op is doing to serve its members.

Democratic Member Control | Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Elected representatives (directors/trustees) are elected from among the membership and are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote); cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

- Electronic and Mail-in voting for elections has brought about record-high voting participation
- 2,148 members were able to cast votes in 2020, despite the Covid Pandemic
- UDWI consistently has one of the highest voter participation rates in the country
- UDWI operates with a high degree of transparency. We provide our members with the following information:
 - Monthly Board Agendas, Monthly Board Minutes, IRS Form 990, Audited Annual Financial Report, Annual Budget, Monthly Financial (unaudited) Reports, CFC's Key Ratio Trend Analysis (KRTA)
- Members welcome to attend monthly board meetings
- We actively review our Board Policies and Bylaws for adherence with recommended best practices

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT—Diane Campbell

How long have you worked at UDWI REMC? 27 years

Current position: Warehouse Supervisor

What is your favorite part of working at the co-op? Ordering materials and supplies for the warehouse

Most memorable moment at work: Arriving to work one morning after a tornado hit the building

Favorite food: Most desserts

What are your hobbies? Baking and traveling

Random fact about you: Love spending time with family



Safety Hours Reported

UDWI REMC has a strong commitment to safety and reliability. This refers to the safety of our linemen in the field as well as our employees in the office. One safety goal is to increase awareness of possible hazards and eliminate such issues to prevent accidents. We also focus on enhanced cross training for all linemen which helps to ensure crews are able to safely handle any situation they may encounter in the field.

As of April 30, 2021, all employees have worked over **413,000 hours** without a lost-time accident. We are proud to report this achievement and want to thank everyone who made it possible!

Meter testing continues

UDWI REMC meter technicians will be performing routine meter tests in our entire service territory over the next few years.

Each employee will be driving a white utility van with our logo placard. Be sure to identify these items before approaching any vehicle that may be in your area. Report suspicious behavior to your local law enforcement office.

“Like” us on Facebook to stay up to date on current testing locations.

