

Lineworkers are Wired for Service

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 14



In the quiet hours before dawn breaks, while many of us are still nestled in our beds, lineworkers begin their day, often clad in flame-resistant clothing, safety goggles, rubber gloves and thick, heavy boots.

They are the individuals who epitomize dedication to service in its purest form. As we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 14, this is an important moment to reflect on the essential role they play in our daily lives.

BARC crews travel across our five-county service territory, building, maintaining and repairing parts of our local system. Their extraordinary skills ensure our homes remain connected to



the grid, businesses stay operational and emergency services remain accessible — a lifeline that connects us all.

In moments of crisis, when the lights go out and we find ourselves in the dark, lineworkers emerge as beacons of hope. Their swift response restores normalcy, offering reassurance in times of uncertainty. Whether repairing storm-ravaged power lines or ensuring continuity during emergencies, their unwavering commitment illuminates life when we need it most.

BARC lineworkers also answer the call beyond the boundaries of home.



Recently our crews traveled to fellow co-op, Southside Electric Cooperative, to help when widespread outages occurred during Winter Storm Harlow and additional support was needed. Cooperation Among Cooperatives is one of our seven guiding principles, and no one embodies this core commitment better than lineworkers.

This month, as we celebrate the remarkable men and women who ensure reliable power, let's recognize their unwavering dedication to the local communities they serve.

The next time you flip a switch, please take a moment to remember those who make it possible — lineworkers, who are wired for service and dedicated to illuminating life.

CEO Message

February hit BARC's territory with two very large outage events. On Feb. 6, an icing event significantly impacted 1,200 members primarily in Highland and Bath counties. Hundreds of downed trees blocking main and rural roads were the biggest obstacles faced by crews, making access to outage locations challenging. Contracts and mutual aid help were brought in from Xylem, Central Virginia Electric Cooperative, Clearway and Stinesprings. Crews worked for days on end to restore and repair the damage.

On Feb. 16, a wind event struck and took out power for almost 3,000 members across BARC's service area. This event caused hundreds of thousands of outages across the state of Virginia. All crews were assigned and able to get all outages restored in less than 48 hours. Great job, team!

I want to take a moment to thank our hardworking crews, our BARC personnel running the dispatching, and our membership. We understand the last month has been a tough one to endure with the winter weather. We thank all of you for your support and trusting BARC to be there for you in these difficult times.

— Bill Buchanan, CEO

BARC ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

P.O. Box 264
Millboro, VA 24460-0264
1-800-846-2272

Office Hours: M-F, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
barcelectric.com
barcconnects.net

Come join us on Facebook
facebook.com/BARCElectricCooperative



Chief Executive Officer
Bill Buchanan

Local Page Editor
Amanda Cunningham

BARC Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Improving Reliability, Protecting Wildlife

Occasional interaction between wildlife and substation equipment often leads to significant damage and service interruptions. In response, BARC is implementing wildlife-mitigation measures within its substations.

Multiple incidents have occurred due to wildlife climbing onto a substation recloser or regulator. Animals reach above the medium-voltage bushing and create a fault between that and the grounded equipment.

Squirrels, raccoons, birds and snakes are the typical culprits, but the result is the same: The animal creates a fault that



catastrophically damages the equipment. The resulting damage is either a complete loss of the equipment or a somewhat less-expensive refurbishment — less than a complete replacement but still expensive.

In 2024, BARC personnel identified a product proven to be effective in mitigating a large majority of incidental

wildlife contact with the system. Prior covered-conductor options had a layer of semi-flexible coating providing some basic protection for incidental contact but was not rated at the voltage levels used in BARC's substations.

The product BARC selected for this mitigation effort is rated for incidental contact at the voltage levels used in its substations. Even with the entire conductor jumper covered between the bushing and the disconnect switch — the point where the conductor is attached to the bushing — cannot be covered to maintain electrical connectivity. BARC selected a bushing cover device that will create a barrier around the top portion of the bushing and the conductor jumper to prevent additional contact by wildlife with the medium-voltage system.

With both mitigation efforts installed, the likelihood of wildlife continuing to cause faults historically experienced by BARC members is significantly reduced.

Attention residents in:

- Bacova
- Bolar
- Falling Springs
- Spring Valley
- Buffalo Creek
- Hot Springs
- Muddy Run
- Warm Springs
- Newport area (Augusta Co.)

You are now eligible for service! Visit barcconnects.net/register

The country life doesn't mean living without

THE BEST CONNECTIVITY

Fast and reliable internet!
Phone service options!
Free mobile app!
Free device security!
AND no contracts!

Connect today:
barcconnects.net
1-800-846-2272

BARC Connects
FIBER BROADBAND

**If you are in these areas and you don't see your address, please call us to check eligibility.*

Introducing the ultimate

Outdoor Wi-Fi Plan

Effortless Wi-Fi for your backyard, patio, farm, workshop and more.

Includes BARC Connects' Wi-Fi control app, with built-in security and device control.

BARC Connects
FIBER BROADBAND

Extend your connected lifestyle outdoors!

\$20/month
Installation fees starting at \$125

1-800-846-2272 | www.barcconnects.net

BARC Communities



BARC linemen Derek Smith (left) and Skyler Merchant answered the call when Southside Electric Cooperative needed assistance with massive restoration efforts following Winter Storm Harlow.

Merchant said, “We were grateful to be able to help our fellow cooperative, SEC, in a time of need. Hundreds of pine trees had fallen and caused major power outages.” Merchant adds, “Unfortunately, our time was cut short due to another wind storm scheduled to hit BARC’s service territory.”

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS ⚠️

Scammers will try anything to deceive utility customers, including a tactic that claims customers have overpaid their bill. If you receive a call, text or email from someone claiming you overpaid a utility bill and need to provide your banking or credit card information to receive a credit, it’s likely a scam. In most cases, your utility will apply a credit to your account to cover future charges or refund an overpayment with a mailed check.

Source: Utilities United Against Scams



23rd Annual Bath Bluegrass Jamboree April 12

The 23rd Annual Bath Bluegrass Jamboree will take place Saturday, April 12, 2025, at Bath County High School.

The event will feature performances by The Little Roy and Lizzy Show, The Mark Templeton Band, and Southern Rail Express. Doors open at 5 p.m., with the show running from 6 to 9 p.m.

Tickets to the 23rd Annual Bath Bluegrass Jamboree will be available the day of the Jamboree. Ticket pricing: adults \$15, age 13-18 \$5 and children under 12 are free. For more details (540) 839-5400.

BARC Connects visits Maury River Middle School

Employees from BARC Electric and BARC Connects visited with students at Maury River Middle School in February to discuss fiber, internet safety and energy efficiency. In the photo, fiber techs David Hamilton and Alex Nicely explain to students how fiber splicing works.



STAY IN THE KNOW



Stay connected by keeping your contact information up to date. Current contact information benefits you in multiple ways.

- ✓ Faster outage reporting and response
- ✓ Timely alerts about planned outages and other important updates
- ✓ Smoother customer service interactions
- ✓ Improved access to member benefits and programs

Ensure your phone number, email address and mailing address are up to date so you can enjoy the benefits of staying connected.

**Login to your SmartHub
or call 1-800-846-2272**