

## How We Install Utility Poles: Equipment, Process and Storm Response

Have you ever looked out your window during a storm, seen a pole down and wondered, “How long is this going to take?” While we always aim for speed, every pole tells a different story. From clear, sunny days to the middle of a mountain trek, here is a look behind the scenes at how our crews get the job done.

### THE PERFECT DAY SCENARIO

Under normal conditions with clear access and plenty of room for heavy machinery, the process of setting a new pole is a well-oiled machine. Our crews use track machines – a combination of a bulldozer and a specialized crane – to dig and set poles. In ideal locations, the job typically takes about six hours from the first shovel hit to the final wire connection.

### WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH

Mother Nature doesn't always play fair. When a storm hits, the biggest hurdle isn't just the pole, it's getting to it. If a site is blocked by downed trees, inaccessible roads or heavy mud, crews may have to winch their heavy equipment into place or, in some cases, revert to old-school grit.

If a machine can't reach the spot,



*Each crew member plays a critical role in spotting hazards, communicating clearly and backing each other up. Teamwork isn't optional in this environment; it's what keeps the job moving safely and efficiently.*

*– Stevie Clark, General Foreman*

our crews dig the six-foot-deep hole by hand. While this isn't common, it is an exhausting, labor-intensive process reserved for the most inaccessible areas.

Sometimes it's not mud but solid stone. In those cases, crews bring in a mini-excavator with a rock hammer to break through the earth before the pole can even be placed.

### SOLUTIONS FOR FASTER RESTORATION

Sometimes a pole is damaged, but the base is still solid. In these instances, crews might “gin a pole,” a specialized technique where we rig a new top section to the existing lower portion. This complex task can take one to two days, but it's often the best way to restore power quickly in tricky situations.

In extreme emergencies, we have one goal: getting the lights back on. If a pole is completely destroyed and the terrain is blocked, our crews might temporarily rig wires to a nearby structure. While this is

not a permanent fix, it does allow us to restore power immediately while we work on a long-term replacement.

### MORE THAN JUST WIRES

Beyond the wires, storm restoration is about community. Our crews are often out clearing paths for neighborhoods and working side-by-side with residents. We know that being without power is stressful, and we strive to keep communication open and honest.

The next time you see a crew out in the field, know that they aren't just setting a pole; they're also working through the obstacles Mother Nature throws at them to get the lights back on.

**MEMORIAL DAY**

### BARC Closed for Memorial Day

BARC Electric Cooperative will be closed Monday, May 25, for Memorial Day. If you have an outage during this time, please use SmartHub or call 1-800-846-2272.

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### BARC ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

P.O. Box 264

Millboro, VA 24460-0264

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Office Hours: M-F, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

[barcelectric.com](http://barcelectric.com)

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# Introducing the BARC Marketplace

We are proud to announce the launch of the BARC Electric Cooperative Marketplace, an online platform that allows member-owners to purchase energy-efficient products with instant, automated discounts.

Designed to make energy-saving solutions more accessible and affordable, the BARC Marketplace offers a wide selection of approved products, helping households take control of their energy use and monthly expenses.

“Our member-owners count on us every day for the energy they need,” says Bill Buchanan, CEO of BARC Electric Cooperative. “Our fundamental responsibility is to deliver reliable power to homes and businesses while keeping bills as low as possible, and the BARC Marketplace is one more way we’re doing that.”



The BARC Marketplace features a wide range of products, including smart thermostats that help reduce unnecessary heating and cooling, energy-efficient LED lighting, smart power strips that cut down on standby energy use, water-saving devices, weatherization products and ENERGY STAR® certified solutions for home comfort and efficiency. Products are selected to help members save energy and money. The BARC Marketplace features the convenience of products mailed to your home and lower prices than retail.

View all the energy-efficient products online at [myco-opmarketplace.com/barc](http://myco-opmarketplace.com/barc).

## Rate Notice

On May 1, 2026, members will see an increase in monthly bills. This is a direct pass-through cost from our not-for-profit wholesale power provider, Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC).

We know our members count on us every day for the energy they need, and we want you to understand what goes into your bill, why bills are increasing and what ODEC and BARC are doing to help manage costs.

### WHY IS MY BILL INCREASING?

Your rates are adjusting mid-year due to two main factors:

- State Policy Changes: Virginia is rejoining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). By law, we must pay for carbon allowances, and these costs are passed through to members without any markup.
- Extreme Winter Weather: During Winter Storm Fern (January and February 2026), natural gas prices skyrocketed from \$5 to as high as \$135 per unit. Because heating systems ran longer and market prices spiked, the cost to supply electricity rose significantly.

While our internal power generation and hedging strategies saved members from even higher costs, this adjustment is necessary to cover the remaining expenses from this winter.

Read more online at : [barcelectric.com/rates](http://barcelectric.com/rates)

Shop energy-saving solutions at:  
[myco-opmarketplace.com/barc](http://myco-opmarketplace.com/barc)

## An Office with a View.

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## Notice of Meetings to Select Nominees for Board of Directors, District 3 and 4

Pursuant to Section 4 of the bylaws of BARC Electric Cooperative, the Board of Directors have called District Meetings to select nominees for the board of directors for districts 3 and 4. The meeting times and locations are as follows:

**CHANGE District 3** – May 25, 2026, 6 p.m., New Bethany Lutheran Church, 1320 Bethany Road, Lexington, VA 24450, Incumbent: Keith L. Swisher

**CHANGE District 4** – May 20, 2026, Noon, BARC Electric Cooperative, 84 High Street, Millboro, VA 24460, Incumbent: Albert J. “Jay” Lewis, II

To determine the district in which you reside, please refer to the mailing label on the front cover of this magazine. In the numbers above your name is a two-digit number starting with “BA.” This is your district. Example:

BA 01  
Mr. John Doe  
Route 3, Box 100  
Anywhere, USA 20156

This member resides in District 1. If your number is not legible or you are unsure of your district, please call us at 1-800-846-2272.

The election of directors will take place at the Annual Member Meeting on July 15, 2026. For your convenience, we are reprinting the qualifications for directors (section 4.3) and the nominating process (section 4.4). Again, if you have any questions regarding the process or location, please contact the office at 1-800-846-2272.

**SECTION 4.3 – Director Qualifications.** Any Director or Director candidate must comply with this Section.

**A. Director Qualifications.** A Director or Director candidate must:

1. Be a natural person;
2. Have the capacity to enter into legally binding contracts; and
3. Be a Member in good standing residing in the Director District from which the Director is elected or chosen or be a duly authorized officer, director or employee of a non-natural person Member located in the Director District from which the Director is being elected.

**B. Director Qualifications.**

1. While a Director, and during the one year immediately prior to becoming a Director, a Director or Director candidate must not be, nor have been:

a. A Close Relative of any existing Director, other than an existing Director who will cease being a Director within one year;

b. A Close Relative of an existing, non-Director Cooperative officer, employee, agent, or representative;

c. Employed by, materially affiliated with, or share a material financial interest with, any other Director; other than an existing Director who will cease being a Director within one year; or

d. Engaged in, nor employed by, materially affiliated with, or have a material financial interest in, any individual or entity other than an entity in which the Cooperative possessed an ownership interest (other than an entity in which the Cooperative possesses an ownership interest):

i. Directly and substantially competing with the Cooperative;

ii. Selling goods or services in substantial quantity to the Cooperative or to substantial number of Members; or

iii. Possessing a substantial conflict of interest with the Cooperative.

2. No current or former employee of the Cooperative shall be eligible to serve on the Cooperative’s Board of Directors.

**SECTION 4.4 – Nominations.** Not less than thirty days nor more than sixty days before any meeting at which Directors are to be elected, the Board shall call a separate meeting of the Members of each district in which the term of the Director serving such district is to expire (“District Meeting”), at a suitable place in each district for the purpose of selecting one person as a Director candidate to represent the Members located within such district. The notice of such meeting shall be delivered to each Member located in such district as provided in Section 3.3 of Article III and shall indicate the district to which such Member belongs. The notice shall state that nominations for a Director are to be made at the meeting. The meeting shall, however, be open for discussion of any other matters pertaining to the business of

the Cooperative, regardless of whether or not such matters were listed in the notice of the meeting, and recommendations with respect thereto may be submitted to the Board or the entire membership.

The District Meeting shall be called to order by the Director representing the District or by another designated representative of the Board, or in his absence, by any Member residing within the District. The Members shall then proceed to elect a chairman, who shall be someone other than a Director, and who shall appoint a secretary to act for the duration of the meeting. Fifteen Members residing in the district present in person at such duly called District Meeting shall constitute a quorum. Members of other districts present at the meeting may be heard but shall have no vote. Nominations for candidates for Director shall be made from the floor at the meeting, and any Member residing in the district shall have the right to nominate one candidate. The meeting shall remain open for nominations until no further nominations are forthcoming, but in no case less than five minutes. Candidates must be Members residing in the district and must possess the Director Qualifications specified in Section 4.3; A, B and C of Article IV of these Bylaws. In the event a quorum is not present for any one of the District Meetings provided for herein, the Director currently serving the district shall be declared the official nominee for the district.

Voting shall be by ballot and proxy voting shall not be permitted at any District Meeting. Each Member may vote for one candidate. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared the official candidate of the district. The minutes of such District Meeting shall set forth, among other matters, the name of each person nominated at the District Meeting and the number of votes received by each, and shall specify the official candidate of the district. A certified copy of the minutes, signed by the secretary and the chairman of the District Meeting, shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Cooperative within five days after such District Meeting. In the event a quorum is not present at a District Meeting, there shall be no minutes taken. Instead, the Director currently serving the district shall prepare a statement to the effect that a meeting took place and a quorum was not present. Said statement shall be promptly provided to the Secretary.