

THE POWER OF LOCAL OWNERSHIP

Community Minded

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June, 2016

DON ROBARGE NOMINATED BY THE WISCONSIN DNR FOR WATER OPERATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Looking to save energy and money? Try turning down your water heater temperature. Most household water heaters should be set at 120°F. Setting your water heater at 120°F will slow mineral buildup and corrosion in the water heater pipes. You will also save money by reducing heat loss and consumption.

For more information about setting your water heater temperature, visit www.energy.gov

The Wisconsin Rural Water Association (WRWA) recently held its annual conference in Green Bay, Wisconsin. At the WRWA conference, Don Robarge, Water Superintendent received the Association's prestigious 2016 District #4 Operator of the Year Award. This award is presented each year to individuals that demonstrate excellence in the field of waterworks operation. The role of a water operator has become increasingly difficult as state and federal governments have imposed tougher standards for water utilities. Don has spent many years maintaining regulatory compliance while protecting the environment and providing excellent service to the Rice Lake Community. He has been recognized by his peers as a well-trained and dedicated operator, deserving of WRWA's highest award for a state licensed water operator. Don would like to thank all of the water department staff and commissioners for making this award possible. "Without teamwork this award would not have been possible to obtain".



Rice Lake Utilities Awarded the 2015 Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin Safety Achievement Award

In a statement from the Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin (MEUW), a safety score of 100 or above is an achievement to be very proud of. It takes hard work and commitment from the employees on the job site watching out for one another, following safety rules and safe work practices every day, on every job. It also takes commitment from the utility management and governing boards to provide the employees with the equipment they need to do the job safely, the training to maintain or improve their skills and knowledge through regular participation in the MEUW Safety Program, seminars and workshops, and the time and effort to promote pro-active safety practices.

Congratulations electric crew!!

Tips for Safe Summer Driving



Summer is the season of vacation and road trips. If you plan on spending time in the car this summer, it is important to be aware of electrical safety risks you may encounter on the road.

If you are driving after a storm, keep away from downed power poles, stray power lines, and damaged electric equipment. Downed and damaged electric equipment can still be charged with electric energy. If you come in contact with the equipment you could receive a severe shock.

Car accidents are another occasion when people may come in contact with electricity. If you are in a car accident with a power pole, do not leave the car until utility professionals tell you it is safe. After a car accident, it may be instinctive to flee the car as quickly as possible. However, if you are in an accident with a power pole, inside the car is probably the safest place.

If the power line involved in the accident is still energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path for that electricity and electrocution is the tragic result. Even if a power line has landed on the ground, there is still the potential for the area near your car to be energized. Stay inside the vehicle unless there's fire or imminent risk of fire.

If you must get out because of a fire, jump clear of the vehicle without touching it and the ground at the same time. Then hop with feet together, this way there will not be a voltage difference between your two feet, which would give electricity the chance to flow through your body.

WATER QUALITY REPORT

 This year's annual Drinking Water Quality Report is now available. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services that are available from Rice Lake Utilities. If you would like a copy of this report you can log onto our website at www.ricelakeutilities.com and you will find it right on our front page or if you would prefer to have a hard copy you may stop by Rice Lake Utilities between the hours of 7:00 a.m-4:00 p.m. and pick one up.

Rice Lake Utilities Financial 2015

(Electric Utility)

Serving 5,610 consumers	
Operating revenues	\$13,046,243
Operating expenses	\$12,968,746
Operating income	\$77,497
Rate of return on rate base	.87%
Total plant in service	\$16,426,030
Purchased power costs in 2015	\$10,872,553
Tax Equivalent paid to the City of Rice Lake in 2015	\$267,748

(Water Utility)

Serving 3,869 consumers	
Operating revenues	\$1,338,799
Operating expenses	\$1,351,934
Operating income	(\$13,135)
Rate of return on rate base	(.29%)
Total plant in service	\$11,375,459
Gals. Pumped in 2015	566,982,000
Tax equivalent paid to the City of Rice Lake in 2015	\$201,603

(Wastewater Utility)

Serving 3,864 consumers	
Operating revenues	\$2,039,090
Operating expenses	\$1,948,478
Operating income	\$90,612
Rate of return on rate base	.72%
Total plant in service	\$19,552,660
Wastewater gallons treated in 2015	509,890,000



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

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