



# WATTS CURRENT

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative  
*Reliable. Affordable. Responsible*



September 2018

## Iowa's Only Nuclear Plant to Close in 2020



On July 27, NextEra Energy, the operating owner of the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC), Iowa's only nuclear power plant, announced that commercial operations at the Palo plant will cease in 2020. Next Era and Alliant Energy have agreed to shorten the term of their existing power purchase agreement for the output of the plant by five years in exchange for a buyout agreement.

Alliant Energy and NextEra Energy said the existence of cheaper forms of energy prompted the decision to shut down DAEC. The market value of other sources — primarily renewables

such as Iowa's growing wind portfolio — have dropped below the cost of nuclear generation.

Corn Belt Power Cooperative, power supplier to RVEC, owns 10 percent of DAEC and sells the output of its 61-megawatt share to Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Bismarck, N.D. Any negative impact of the early 2020 closure has been mitigated to member cooperatives through Corn Belt Power's membership in Basin Electric, which has adequate supplies of generation to cover all member cooperatives' needs.

## Know the Dangers of Large Equipment as Harvest Begins

As farmers begin this season's harvest, it's important to remember some important safety steps. The rush to harvest can reap grim results if steps to ensure safety are bypassed. Each year, across the U.S., hundreds of farm workers are injured and many are killed when their farming equipment makes contact with power lines. Power lines must be avoided — and taking that extra step — can ensure you continue to have a safe and productive harvest.

Today's farming operations often involve large and complex machinery. Large combines, raised dump beds, oversized wagons, grain augers, planters, spraying equipment and metal irrigation pipes are all excellent conductors of electricity. Equipment contacting overhead power lines is the leading cause of farm electrocution accidents in the Midwest. Everyone working on a farm should be aware of power lines and keep farm equipment away from the lines. It's also important to thoroughly evaluate new or used equipment that is being used on your property. Take special note of larger, modern equipment such as tractors and combines with higher antennas that may create a clearance threat. 08.01.02

Moving portable grain augers continues to pose one of the greatest threats to workers. Those who are moving the equipment on the ground can provide a direct path for electricity if there is contact with overhead wires. Grain augers should always be lowered before moving them. Things like wind, uneven ground, shifting weight or other conditions can create an unexpected result. When moving large equipment use a spotter or someone to help make certain that



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## — CEO Comments — Reliability is Our Daily Priority

By Jim Gossett, CEO

We know that our member-owners' satisfaction with RVEC is directly related to the reliability and affordability of the services we provide. The cornerstone of our business model is to safely provide reliable, affordable and responsible service that meets or exceeds your expectations.

Your board of directors and co-op staff filed RVEC's annual **Reliability Report** with the Iowa Utilities Board for the 2017 calendar year. Maintaining a reliable system takes hundreds of hours of planning, maintenance, inspections and system upgrades. Equally important is our commitment to balancing reliability and affordability with member-owners' expectations, which requires a mindset of continuous improvement and looking ahead to anticipate your future needs.

Reliability is not something that happens by chance. Throughout the year, our distribution infrastructure – which includes such things as poles, wires, transformers and substations – is subject to many risks. On any given day, ice storms, high winds, tornadoes, squirrels and birds, and even errant drivers, can interrupt electric service and cause a power outage. We are constantly preparing for the things we can control on our system, such as planned and routine maintenance outages, and for unexpected outages that are often beyond our control. We set high goals for the reliability and accessibility of the power we provide to you.

The Reliability Report is designed to show past performance by reporting on a number of core reliability measures. We use these data points to come up with an Average Service Availability Index (ASAI) – a reliability index commonly used by electric power utilities throughout the U.S. 13.15.01

Now that we have crunched the numbers and analyzed the data, how did we do? We are pleased to report that RVEC's overall reliability rate is 99.9955%. This "four-9's of reliability" is the highest percent of availability on record since RVEC was created by a merger in 2010. The goal for most utilities is "five-9's". We balance the building and maintenance of your system, including proper emergency back-feed capabilities that allow for shorter outage periods, with our need to satisfy your requirement to control costs.

We know that you count on us to provide reliable, affordable and responsible electric service to your homes, farms and businesses. Of course, there will be outages. Looking ahead, we are already planning for your future needs, anticipating the service expectations of the member-owners we serve. You will see this in action as we work in your neighborhoods and across the 1,250 miles of line we maintain to provide you with extremely reliable service.

## Know the Dangers of Large Equipment as Harvest Begins

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contact is not made with a line. Areas near grain bins pose a dangerous threat if equipment is too large or is used improperly. If you're installing new grain bins, contact RVEC to help place electrical service lines.

If the equipment you are in comes into contact with power lines make sure you:

- Stay in the cab and call for help
- If there is imminent risk of fire, jump clear of the vehicle and land with both feet on the ground at the same time – do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and ground at the same time.

If you question the height of power lines nearing your working areas, don't attempt to measure the line heights yourself. Contact RVEC to help determine line height in each area of the farm.

The best way to handle a farm-related accident is prevention. Respect electricity and avoid contact with overhead lines. Look up, look down and be safe this harvest season!

# Grain Bin Notice

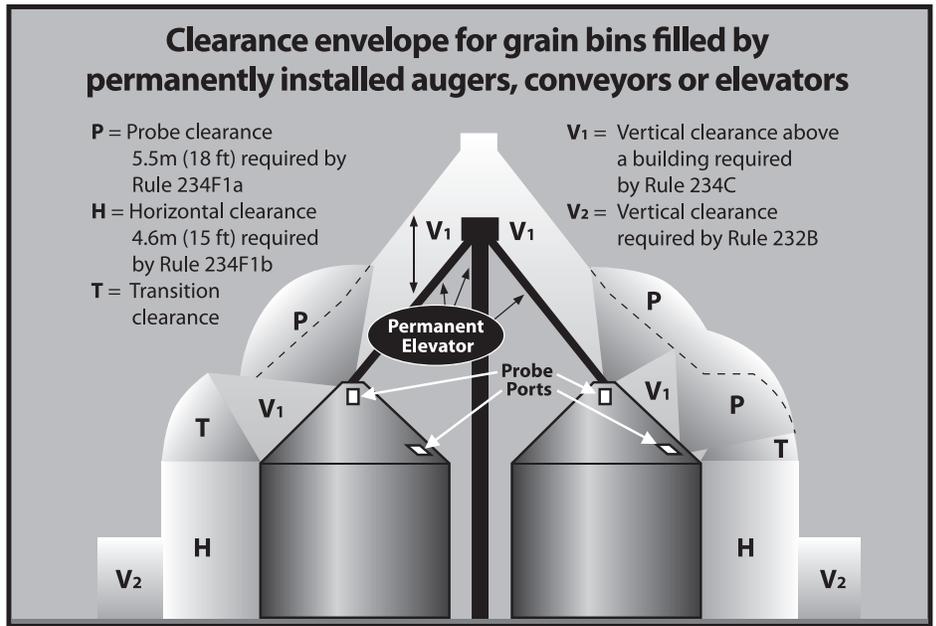
When you start to plan for a new grain bin, please contact RVEC.

RVEC and Corn Belt Power Cooperative will provide assistance in planning for a safe environment for everyone working and living around grain bins. The State of Iowa requires specific clearances for electric lines around grain bins, with different standards for those filled by portable and permanent augers, conveyors and elevators.

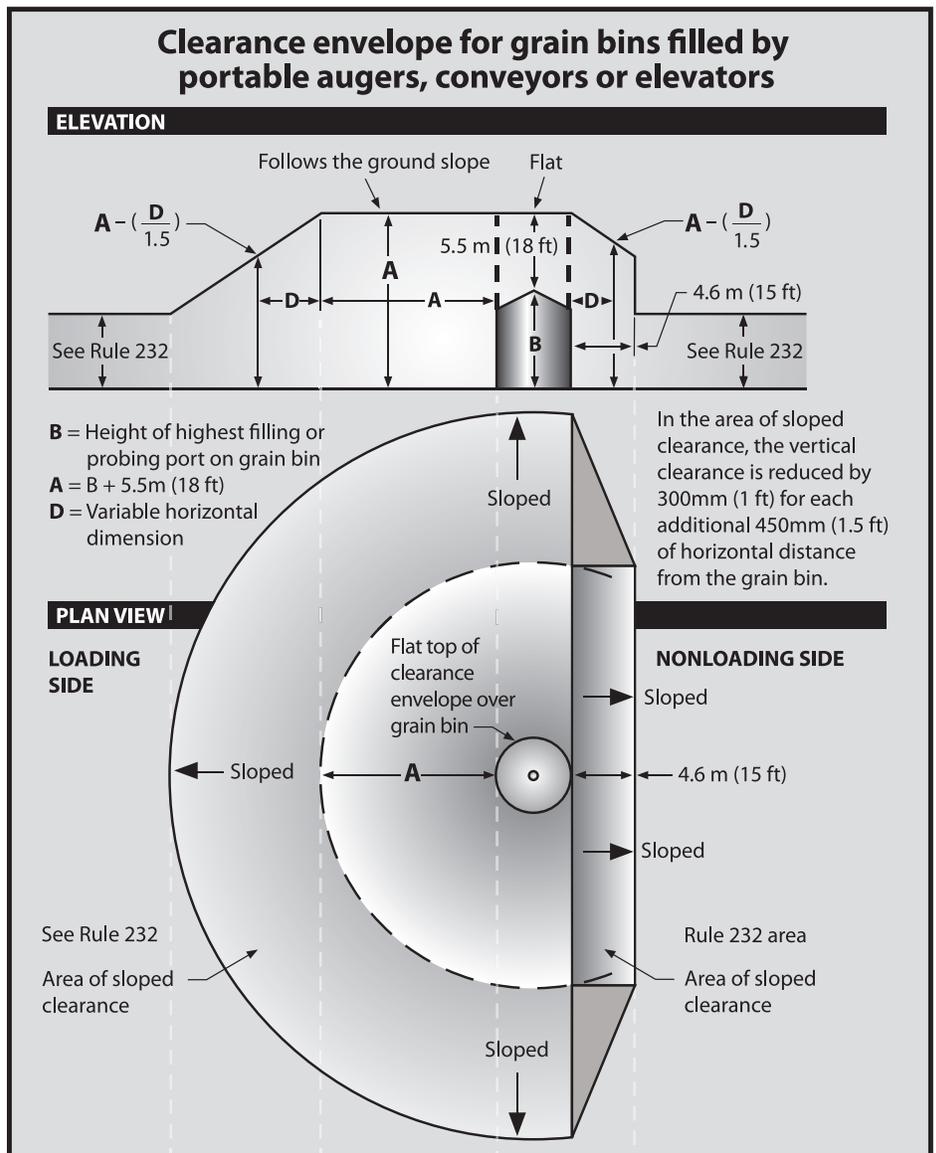
To the right are drawings of the specific clearances required for both scenarios. If you have any questions concerning the drawings, please contact RVEC. 24.31.05

According to the Iowa Electric Safety Code found in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 199 -- 25.2(3) b. *an electric utility may refuse to provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing electric line which does not provide the clearances required by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) C2-2017 "National Electrical Safety Code," Rule 234F. This paragraph "b" shall apply only to grain bins loaded by portable augers, conveyors or elevators and built after September 9, 1992, or to grain bins loaded by permanently installed augers, conveyors, or elevator systems installed after December 24, 1997. (As adopted by the Iowa Utilities Board)*

The cooperative is required by the Iowa Utilities Board to provide this annual notice to farmers, farm lenders, grain bin merchants, and city and county zoning officials. If you have any questions concerning clearance regulations, please call RVEC.



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Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative  
(RVEC) is an equal opportunity  
provider and employer.



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## Make Your Dreams Come True!

RVEC is committed to helping solve Iowa's housing shortage by working with Homeward, Inc.

Homeward, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to help rural Iowans purchase good quality, affordable housing and to improve their existing homes.

Through the Homeward program individuals can receive low-interest loans to help with down payment, closing costs, improve their present homes, or access funds for construction of affordable housing. 25.33.01

\*\* Income guidelines apply.

## MAKE YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE!

Down Payment,  
Assistance Loans &  
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Available from Homeward, Inc.  
A not-for-profit housing organization of  
your local electric cooperative



Raccoon Valley  
Electric Cooperative

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Homeward, Inc. 515.532.6477

## - Outage Information -

If you don't have power or have an emergency  
call 712.659.3649.

RVEC phones are answered  
24 hours a day 7 days a week.

## Spot Your Number

Read Watts Current and watch for your location number. If you spot it, call Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC) by the 20th of the month and you will receive an electrical bill credit for \$25.00.