



APRIL 2023

HIGHLINES

NEWS FOR THE MEMBERS OF PELLA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

Tim Ver Meer to Retire from the Co-op

After a 44-year career at Pella Cooperative Electric Association, Tim Ver Meer is hanging up his lineman gear on March 22, 2023.

Tim joined the Cooperative right out of high school in 1979 as an apprentice lineman. Later he became a journeyman lineman until his most recent position as the line superintendent leading the PCEA team of lineman and foreman.

"Looking back on the years, Pella Cooperative Electric has been a wonderful place to spend my career," said Tim. "I've really enjoyed working with all the lineman over the years and will remember all the good times."



*Tim Ver Meer
Line Superintendent*

CEO Doug Stewart has worked with Tim for the past 10 years and says he is excited for his retirement plans but will be truly missed at the Cooperative.

"I want to congratulate Tim on an exceptional career at Pella Cooperative Electric," remarked Stewart. "Tim's knowledge, service, and commitment to the membership is unmatched and will be greatly missed. After the many years of hard work, Tim deserves a terrific retirement."

According to PCEA Board President Duane Ver Ploeg, Tim has been an essential leader in his knowledge and dedication to the membership.

"I want to sincerely thank Tim for his service to the PCEA membership," said Ver Ploeg. "Tim has been an integral part of the REC and his dedication and knowledge will always be valued and remembered. He has been a joy to work with and will be missed."

Pella Cooperative Electric extends a sincere thank you to Tim for his service to the membership during his career and wishes him the best in his retirement.

Pella Cooperative Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

2615 Washington St.
PO Box 106
Pella, IA 50219

1-800-619-1040
www.pella-cea.org
service@pella-cea.org



Open weekdays: 7:30 am - 4:30 pm;
excluding holidays



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PCEA Directors Advocate at 2023 REC Day on the Hill

Iowa's 2023 Legislative Session is in full swing and PCEA directors and employees were at the Iowa Capitol on Wednesday, March 15 during the annual REC Day on the Hill advocacy event.

This was a valuable opportunity for PCEA to meet face-to-face with our elected officials and discuss issues that impact our members and our communities.

Pictured right are PCEA Directors and CEO with Representative Barb Kniff McCulla and Senator Ken Rozenboom.



From left to right: Carroll Hoksbergen, Bryce Arkema, Representative Barb Kniff McCulla, Duane Ver Ploeg, Senator Ken Rozenboom, Doug Stewart, and Jon Van Woerkom,

Iowa's YLC Maddie Schmitz Attends NRECA Annual Meeting

Pella High School senior Maddie Schmitz traveled to Nashville, Tennessee in early March to participate alongside nearly 40 other youth in the NRECA Annual Meeting.

Maddie was selected as the Iowa delegate during the 2022 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. to serve from June 2022 through March 2023. She met students from across the country learning and advocating for rural electric.

Congratulations Maddie and thank you for representing Pella Cooperative Electric on a national stage!



Board

- **The board approved the annual CFC Form 7 financial statement for 2022.**
- **Director Carroll Hoksbergen received the NRECA Director Gold Certification.**
- **Line Superintendent Rob Burton reported on the Cooperative's monthly safety meeting.**
- **The board approved the annual Reliability Report filed with the IA Utilities Board.**

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

This planting season, include energy efficiency in your landscaping plans. Adding shade trees around your home can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 6 degrees. To block heat from the sun, plant deciduous trees around the south side of your home. Deciduous trees provide excellent shade during the summer and lose their leaves in the fall and winter months, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Source: energy.gov



Celebrating Our Linemen on April 10

On April 10 if you see a lineman out and about, take a minute to thank him! America's electric cooperatives have designated the second Monday of April as National Lineman Appreciation Day.

Linemen serve on the frontlines of our nation's energy needs, and on April 10, Pella Cooperative Electric, along with other electric cooperatives across the country, will honor the brave men and women who work hard to keep our lights on.

Line crews work around the clock, sometimes in difficult and dangerous conditions, to keep power flowing to our local communities. Whether they're restoring power after a major storm or maintaining critical infrastructure to our electric system, linemen are at the heart of our co-op.

When a storm hits, they set aside their personal priorities because Mother Nature doesn't work around holidays, vacations, birthdays or even pandemics. A service oriented mentality is one of the many admirable characteristics of an electric lineman. PCEA is proud to honor the linemen who maintain miles of power lines in our service territory.

We invite all co-op members to take a moment and thank a lineman for the important work they do to power our lives.



PCEA Directors Awarded Director Gold Credential

PCEA Directors Steve Inskeep (left) and Bryce Arkema (right) recently finished their Director Gold Credential Program (DGC) and were awarded at the February board meeting.

The Director Gold credential recognizes directors committed to continuing their education beyond the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) and Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) and who desire a tangible credential that demonstrates their ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty to the best of their ability.

Congratulations to Steve and Bryce for continuing their education to better serve the members of PCEA.



Left to right: Vice President Steve Inskeep, President Duane Ver Ploeg, and Secretary Bryce Arkema.

Happy Easter!

Our office will be closed April 7 in Observance of Good Friday



Making Plans for a New Grain Bin?

Make Sure You're Compliant

Thinking about building a new grain bin? Before you start planning, contact Pella Cooperative Electric and we'll help you with your plans to ensure compliance with Iowa State Code.

PCEA 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, as well as permanent equipment.

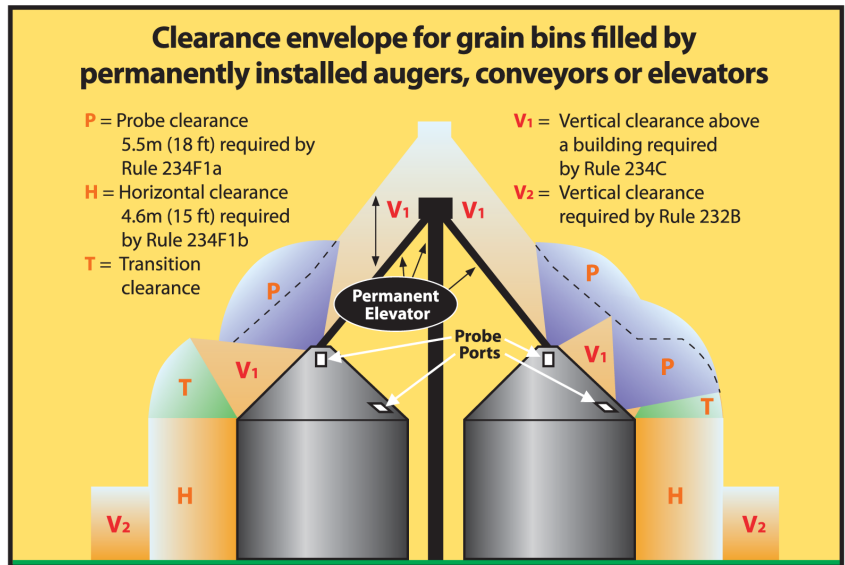
Electric wires should be at least 15 feet from the non-loading side of the grain bin; at least 18 feet from the highest filling or probing port on the bin; and a clearance of at least the bin height plus 18 feet from the loading side of the grain bin. Electric service cannot be provided to a grain bin installation that does not meet these clearances.

The drawing at right shows the specific clearances required for both scenarios. If you have any questions concerning the drawings, please contact PCEA.

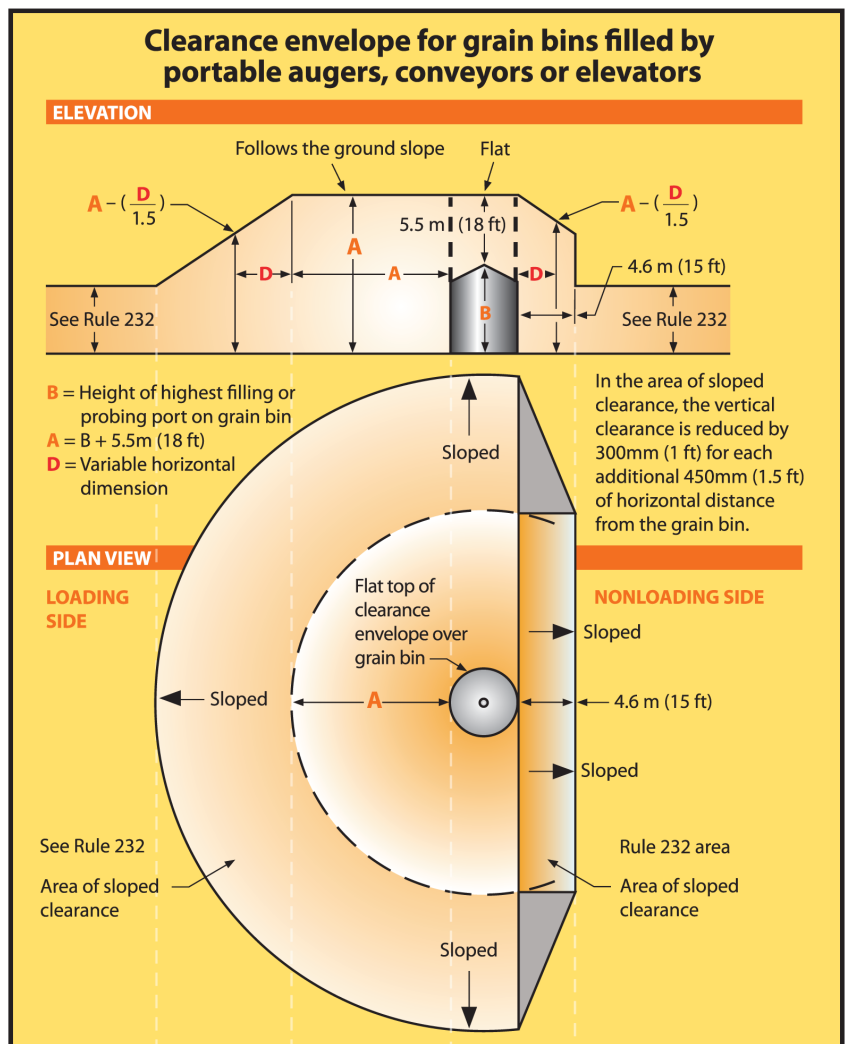
According to the Iowa Electric Safety Code found in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 199 – 25.2(3) b. *An electric utility may refuse to provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing electric line which does not provide the clearances required by the American National Standards Institute (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).*

If the electric wires around your existing or proposed grain bin do not meet the requirements shown in the diagrams, or if you have any questions, please contact our office at (800) 619-1040.

Disclaimer for Artwork: These drawings are provided as part of Iowa electric cooperatives' annual public information campaign and are based on the 2017 Edition of the National Electrical Safety Code. To view the actual drawings, refer to that publication. Every care has been taken for the correctness of the contents for these drawings. However, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and its member cooperatives accept no liability whatsoever for omissions or errors, technical inaccuracies, typographical mistakes or damages of any kind arising from the use of the contents of these drawings, whether textual or graphical.



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