

HIGHLINES

NEWS FOR THE MEMBERS OF PELLA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

April 2025

Scholarship Applications Due April 25

One of Pella Cooperative Electric's principles is a concern for community. Through this principle, we believe in empowering our youth through scholarship opportunities to students looking to pursue a higher education.

PCEA awards \$1,000 scholarships in our service territory annually - one per school district - to encourage and recognize the achievements of area students.

These districts include:

- Grinnell
- Knoxville
- Lynnville-Sully
- Newton
- North Mahaska
- PCM
- Pella Christian
- Pella High
- Pleasantville
- Twin Cedars
- Home school student in any of the above districts



To apply, visit pella-cea.org/scholarships and download the application to complete. Return all application materials by either mail or email to:

MAIL

Pella Cooperative Electric
Attn: Emma Henning
PO Box 106
Pella, IA 50219

EMAIL

ehenning@pella-cea.org

For students not in either of the Pella districts, applications are due to the PCEA office by April 25, 2025 by 4:30 p.m. Pella students should have applied through Dollars of Scholars by February 28.

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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Pella Cooperative Electric is a not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperative, governed by an elected Board of Directors. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. See pella-cea.org > Nondiscrimination Statement for more information.

Celebrating Our Linemen on April 14

On April 14 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 14, 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, or birthdays. 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.



PCEA Lineman from left to right: Rob Burton, Randy Reincke, Owen Ellingson, Shawn Williams, Matt Ainsworth, Spencer Nagel, Grady Kurfman, and Lance Freml.

Pole Inspections To Start Soon

With the arrival of spring, SBS Inspections will be testing Cooperative poles in northern Knoxville, eastern Pleasantville, and southern areas near Lake Red Rock. These annual inspections are essential for ensuring the safety and reliability of the Cooperative for all members. Stay tuned - we'll be sharing the inspection dates on our Facebook page as time gets closer.

Board Briefs

- Directors shared reports from recent state and national meetings including the NRECA PowerXchange, the IAEC REC Day on the Hill, and the CIPCO Annual Meeting.
- The Board of Directors approved the allocations of 2024 margins.
- The Board of Directors also reviewed final plans for the 2025 Annual Meeting scheduled for April 8th at Pella Christian High School.

Happy



Easter!

Our office will be closed April 18 to celebrate the Easter weekend.

Congratulations to Bob Van Soelen on 12 Years of Service

The Cooperative congratulates Bob Van Soelen on 12 years of dedicated service to the Cooperative. Bob is retiring this year and has written a letter to express his appreciation and joy over the past 12 years.

"I would like to thank the member-owners of Pella Cooperative Electric for putting their trust in me by electing me to four 3-year terms as your Director. Many exciting things were accomplished over the past 12 years. In 2013 when I started, your Cooperative was just starting to replace many miles of poles and wires through a \$7 million FEMA project. A new AMI meter system was installed. Three new substations - Howell, Knoxville, and Thunder Creek - were built. The Zon Veld Solar Farm was installed. Several properties were bought and sold for future benefits of the Cooperative. I served under three CEO's as well. John Smith who retired, Jon Miles who also retired, and now currently Doug Stewart. All these CEO's surround themselves with excellent staff and line crews (second to none) to take care of each of you, member-owners.

Rest assured that you are in capable hands with Doug as your CEO and the current staff, line crew, and Board of Directors. It has been my pleasure to have served as a Director these past 12 years. We have seen steady growth and the future looks like the Cooperative will continue to have many more years of steady growth. May God continue to bless you all and keep you safe.

- Bob Van Soelen, At-Large Director and Board Treasurer



Bob Van Soelen
At-Large Director

Congratulations Bob! Thank you for your dedicated service over the years and we wish you the best in your future!

Director Jon Van Woerkom Receives Director Gold Certificate

Jon Van Woerkom, PCEA District 1 Director recently received the Director Gold Credential Program certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

An ever-changing business environment has imposed new demands on electric cooperative directors, requiring increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills, and a solid knowledge of the cooperative principles and business model. Electric cooperatives in Iowa have a commitment to work through NRECA to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of their electric cooperative consumer-owners.

The NRECA DGC program does not replace or change any of the existing Director Education credentials earned by directors, including the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) or Board Leadership Certificate (BLC). With Director Gold, directors now have another option for education beyond the CCD and BLC to work toward and add to their list of professional accomplishments.

NRECA represents the nation's more than 900 private, consumer-owned electric cooperatives, which provide electric service to more than 42 million people in 47 states.

Van Woerkom has been a Cooperative member since 1986 and was elected as the District 1 Director in 2020.



Jon Van Woerkom (left) was honored at the February board meeting with his certificate presented by Board President Duane Ver Ploeg (right).

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.

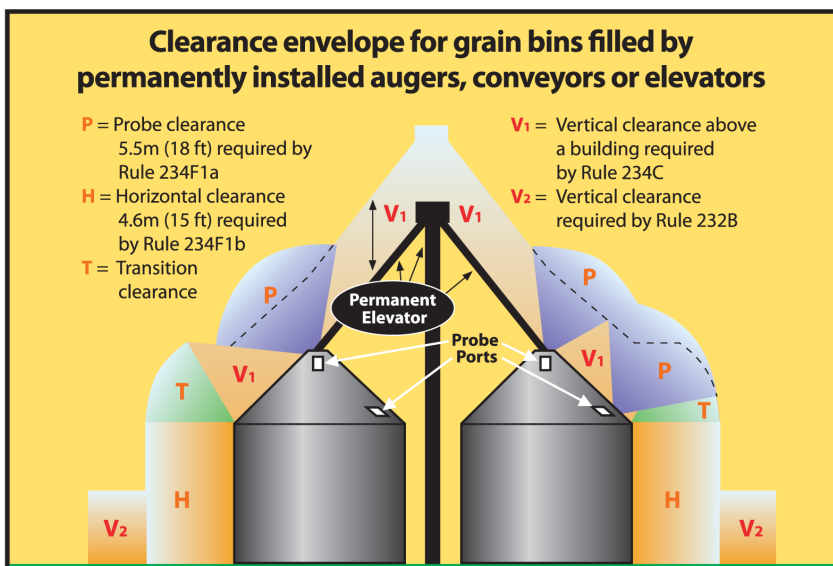
Electric wires should be at least 15 feet from the non-loading side of the grain bin; at least 18 feet from the highest filling or probing port on the bin; and a clearance of at least the bin height plus 18 feet from the loading side of the grain bin. Electric service cannot be provided to a grain bin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

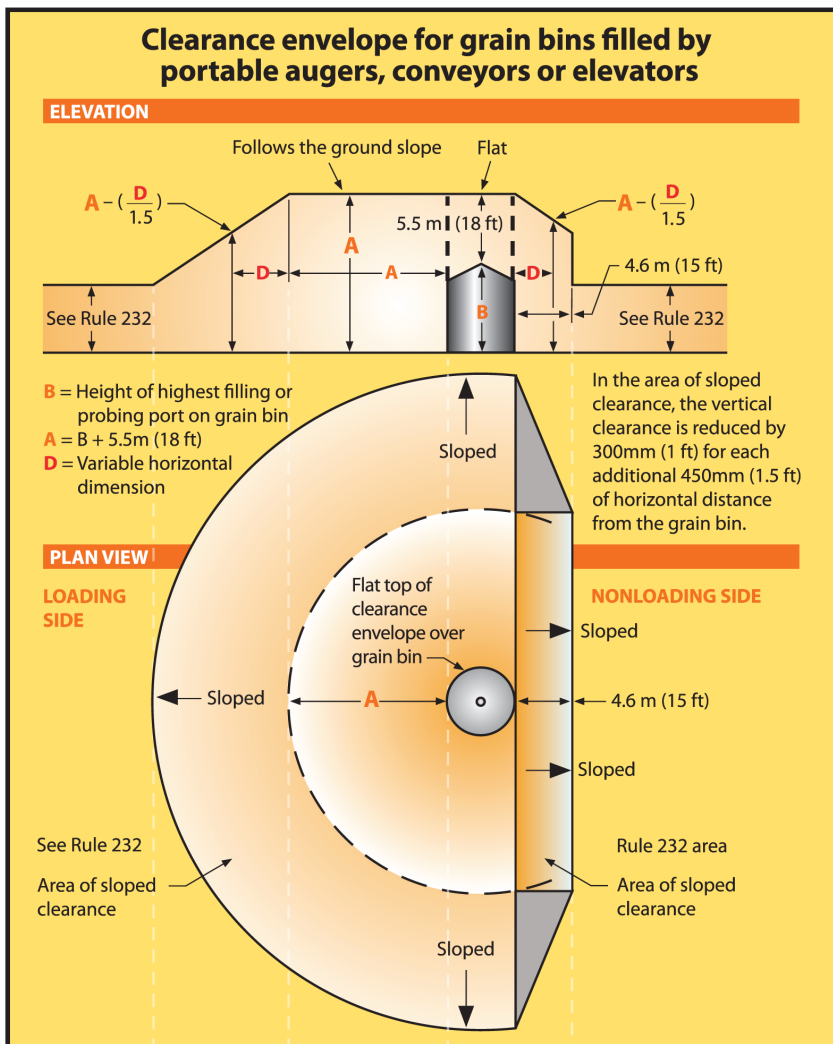
According to the Iowa Electric Safety Code found in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 199 – 25.2(3) b. *An electric utility may refuse to provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing electric line which does not provide the clearances required by the American National Standards Institute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