



The news
you need to
know in
5 minutes!

CAMILLA, GEORGIA

www.mitchellemc.com

LOOK UP for Hazards *during harvest*

After working in a field on a neighbor's farm, Jim Flach parked his equipment and stepped out of the vehicle. Sadly, Jim did not realize his equipment was touching an overhead power line, and he became a path for the electrical current as he placed his foot onto the ground. Jim received a severe electric shock that ultimately resulted in his death a few months later. Safe Electricity urges farmers to take the proper precautions when working around power lines.

"The rush to harvest can lead to farmers working long days with little sleep," cautions Kyla Kruse, communications director of the Energy Education Council and its Safe Electricity program. "It is important to take time for safety. Before starting work, make sure to note the location of overhead power lines."

To stay safe around overhead power lines, Safe Electricity urges farm operators and workers to:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines — at all times, in all directions.
- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always remember to lower extensions when moving loads.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, call Mitchell EMC at 229-336-5221.

If contact is made with a power line, stay on the equipment. Make sure to warn others to stay away, and call 911. Do not leave until the utility crew says it is safe to do so. The only reason to exit is if the equipment is on fire. If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together, without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

Some additional safety tips from Safe Electricity include:

- Do not use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around grain bins.
- Always hire qualified electricians for any electrical issues.
- Do not use equipment with frayed cables.

"You need to double check, even triple check, to see what is above you," says Marilyn Flach, Jim's widow. His son Brett adds, "Be conscious of your surroundings. You need to keep your eyes open and beware of overhead lines."

For more electrical safety information, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Safe Electricity is the safety outreach program of the Energy Education Council, a non-profit organization with more than 400 electric cooperative members and many others who share the mission of educating the public about electrical safety and energy efficiency.



WOTUS regulation will impact electric co-ops

By Mark Hayes

In May, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) finalized a water regulation that removes power and responsibility from local officials and relocates it to Washington, D.C.

It's called "WOTUS," standing for "waters of the U.S.," and defines what is subject to federal regulation under the federal Clean Water Act. These "waters" include the "60 percent of streams in the United States [that] flow only seasonally or when it rains" as Ken Kopicis, the EPA acting assistant administrator for water, explained recently. Currently, most of these are subject to state control.

In this new regulation, the EPA and the Corps maximized their regulatory reach by suggesting only federal employees can adequately protect our water. And they did this without consulting with their state and local co-regulators.

They continued down the path of more Washington-based decision making, meaning that federal agencies will be regulating everything from the Flint River to ponds and dry creek beds that only temporarily have water after rainfall.

What does this mean for members of Mitchell EMC? Well, more regulated streams (with or without water in them) mean more federal permits to maintain and expand our electric distribution network – that's 5,570 miles of power lines. And past experience does not suggest a quick and timely response.

The reliable electricity you pay for every month depends on a robust and well-maintained system—and our ability to quickly make necessary adjustments to keep your lights on. That's why we've been advocating for a new rule.

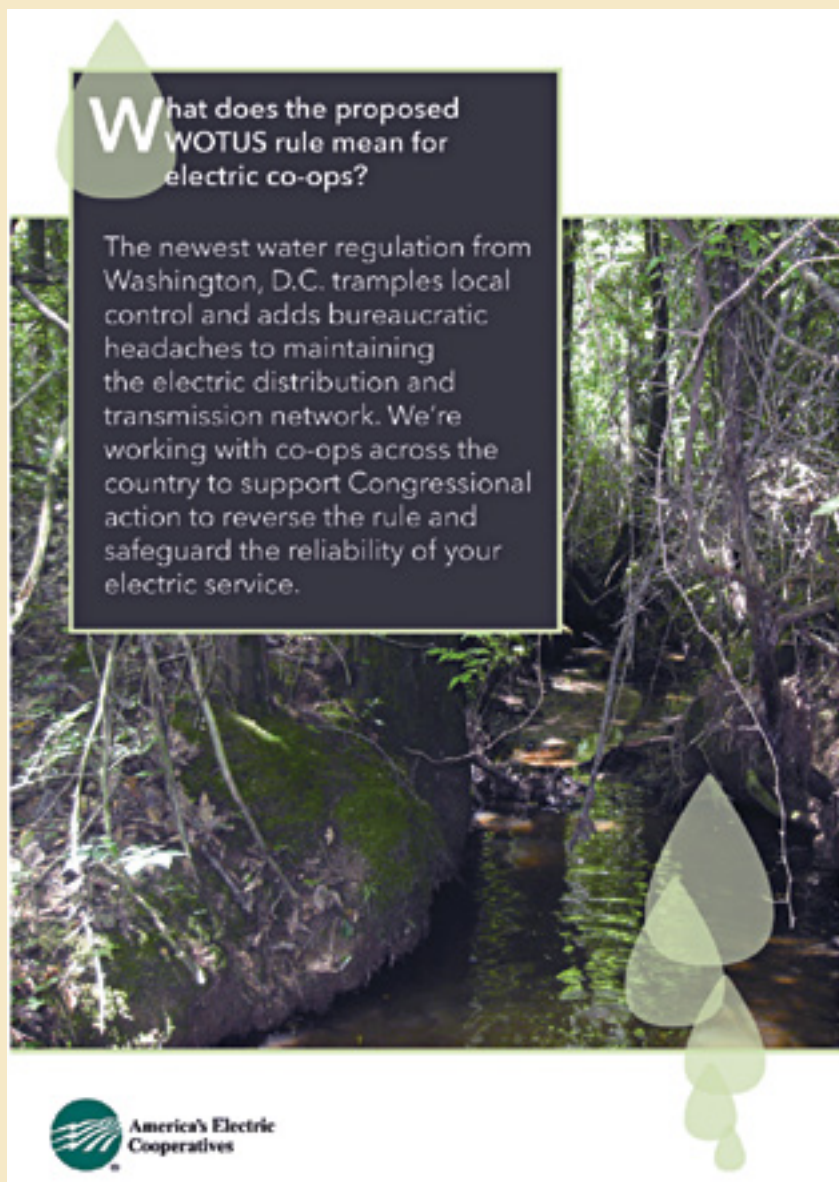
Mitchell EMC takes our responsibility to protect our land and water seriously – after all, we live here, too. But we believe this task belongs close to home, here in Georgia, where folks understand the opportunities and challenges.

We believe Congress knew what it was doing when it gave the EPA, the Corps and the states shared

responsibility for protecting our water – federal jurisdiction over waters that support commerce, interstate waters and U.S. territorial waters; state jurisdiction over everything else. This arrangement made good sense.


Electric cooperatives across the country are working together with other interested groups in supporting Congressional action directing the EPA and the Corps to withdraw the rule, return to the drawing board and consult with affected parties – especially state and local governments – before re-proposing anything.

Mark Hayes writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.



What does the proposed WOTUS rule mean for electric co-ops?

The newest water regulation from Washington, D.C. tramples local control and adds bureaucratic headaches to maintaining the electric distribution and transmission network. We're working with co-ops across the country to support Congressional action to reverse the rule and safeguard the reliability of your electric service.



Smart, savvy and *efficient* electronics for the home

By Tom Tate

Gadgets, gadgets everywhere! With the current tech explosion, “techies” find themselves in a veritable paradise. Let’s take a look at some really cool and, at the same time, useful gadgets on the market today.

Security for the home and family is a top concern. How about a door lock that you can control from a smart phone? August, Lockitron, Goji, Kevo Lock from Kwikset and others offer such locks. Installation varies by model, but they provide such nifty features as remote monitoring of lock status, temporary guest/contractor access, multiple users and more. Wifi and Bluetooth are the two networks used.

Smart thermostats like Nest and Lyric get all the press, but practically anything you can imagine in your home can be controlled from that “super computer” nestled in your pocket or purse. A popular website, www.Smarthome.com, offers a variety of products. A search on “smart phone home automation” produced 4,695 results – how’s that for control?

Here is one example. The WeMo line by Belkin allows you to control individual lights and appliances through the use of their little plugs. Insert the WeMo plug in an outlet, connect the light or appliance and then, via your existing wifi network and the WeMo app, you can create schedules and exercise control over your home.

Phillips makes an individually controllable LED bulb called Hue. Using their app, you can control the light level, on/off schedule and color.

They even developed a custom scenario for a recent SyFy series to recreate the mood of the series itself. A bit much perhaps, but pretty cool nonetheless. Yes – you can achieve energy savings and create a party mood all at once.

In addition to controlling various aspects of your home’s operation, and thereby increasing both security and savings, you can monitor it from afar to be sure all is well. When you’re away from home, Smarthome’s Elertus ELRT-107 wifi Smart Sensor comes in handy. This single sensor can monitor temperature and the presence of water (say, from flooding or frozen pipes), among other things. While pricey, it could more than pay for itself in peace of mind and damage avoidance. Couple this with a smart water shutoff and, if you get a leak alert, you’ll be able to turn off the water to avoid damage—all via the comfort of your smart phone.

If you envied Mr. Spock’s tricorder, check out Lapka. This sleek and elegant set of sensors allows you to measure electromagnetic fields (EMF), radiation, temperature/humidity and even the level of nitrates in foods to be sure they are truly organic. With Lapka, you can be sure your personal space is clean and healthy. All the results show up on the Lapka smart phone app.

How about something for you tinkerers out there? Look no further than www.littlebits.com. littleBits are just that, little bits of technology you snap together to make your own controls. How about a remote garage door sensor? Or a bark monitor? Or controlling a window AC unit via the Internet? All

possible with littleBits’ Smart Home Kit. Or, you can build your own smart door lock with an Arduino and some other parts.

From energy savings to security to convenience to fun, the market is full of products and apps that put you firmly in control of your home and how it operates. It’s a gadget-lover’s paradise indeed.

Tom Tate writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.



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Get the Mitchell EMC app today. You can stay safe and access your account from your mobile device.

The online billing mobile app allows you to view your bill, sign up for alerts and reminders, view your payment history, pay your bill, and find our offices. It has all the functionality that is currently on our online bill pay website. For more information call us at (800) 479-6034. This app is available on both Android and iPhones.



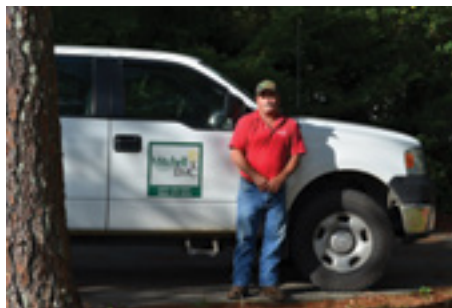
Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Looking for an easy efficiency upgrade? Additional insulation can make a difference! The Department of Energy estimates you can reduce heating and cooling needs up to 30 percent by properly insulating and weatherizing your home.

Source: energy.gov

Employee SPOTLIGHT



Mike Ashley is Mitchell EMC's September Employee Spotlight. Mike is the Forestry Coordinator, and has been employed with MEMC for 10 months.

In the short time Mike has been with Mitchell EMC he has successfully completed the International Society of Arboriculture examination. ISA credentials lets our consumers know we have a qualified, knowledgeable tree care professional on staff. Mitchell EMC is very proud of his accomplishment.

When asked what he enjoyed most about his job, Mike said, "I enjoy working for a great company that appreciates dedicated employees and provides a family oriented work environment."

Note: If you move or no longer have electric service with Mitchell EMC, it is important that members keep their address current, so that future disbursements can be properly mailed. Capital credits are reserved for members even if they move out of the Mitchell EMC service area. Mitchell EMC will make a diligent effort to send a check by mail.

Statement of Equal Employment Opportunity

All applicants for employment shall be considered and hired on the basis of merit, without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), age, national origin, disability, genetic information, or past or present military status. The employment practices shall ensure equal treatment of all employees, without discrimination as to promotion, discharge, rates of pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or past or present military status.

M/F/V/DV/D

WATT'S COOKING



Green Olive Dip

- 2 cups grated mozzarella cheese
- 2 cups grated Mexican cheese
- 2 cups mayonnaise
- 3 small cans chopped green chile peppers
- 1 jar green (salad) olives, drained

Stir together in 9x13 baking dish. Cook at 325° for 30 minutes or until bubbly. Serve with Frito corn scoops.

Thanks!

to **Linda Freaney**,
Lee County, GA,
for sharing this recipe.

Share & Win!

Send us your favorite quick and easy dinner recipes. If your recipe is chosen for print, you can win a **\$25 credit** on your next Mitchell EMC bill.

Send recipes to Heather Greene, P.O. Box 409, Camilla, GA 31730 or email to heather.greene@mitchellemc.com.