

# REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS *Meeting Notes*

**October 8, 2018**

## Presentation of Safety Report

Mr. Ray Berger, Safety and Training Officer, presented the year-end safety report, which showed BTU's incident rate for FY18 was at 1.63 recordable incidents/200,000 hours worked. BTU employees are to be commended for an outstanding safety record over the past four years.

## Presentation of Rate Comparison between Cooperatives and Municipalities

Mr. David Werley, Executive Director of Business and Customer Operations, presented a comparison of BTU's retail kWh costs to other utilities and competitive retailers in Texas. Mr. Werley explained that the BTU Rural System has similar economic and delivery service cost drivers as cooperatives. BTU's City system rates compare very favorably to other similar municipal systems and BTU's Rural system rates compare very favorably to other electric cooperative systems.

## Presentation of Lake Bryan Park Updates

Mr. Werley informed the board that, effective October 1, 2018, BTU Business and Customer Operations had taken over operations of Lake Bryan Park. Mr. Werley reminded the board that, previously, a third-party contractor had been over lake operations, and that the decision for BTU to assume management was a result of guest input regarding less than acceptable service and maintenance. Mr. Werley reports that a request for proposals has been issued to attract a Lessee for the now vacant restaurant facility in the park.



## SOCIAL MEDIA



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## BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

205 East 28th Street • Bryan, TX 77803  
email: ContactBTU@btutilities.com

**www.btutilities.com**

## Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. David Bairrington, Chairman  
Mr. Flynn Adcock, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Carl L. Benner  
Mr. Pete J. Bienski, Jr.  
Mr. A. Bentley Nettles  
Ms. Rosemarie Selman  
Mr. Paul Turney  
Mr. Buppy Simank, Ex-Officio  
Mr. Jason Bienski, Ex-Officio

## GENERAL MANAGER

Gary Miller

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Randy Trimble  
David Werley

## DIVISION MANAGERS

James Bodine  
Shawndra Curry  
Ken Lindberg  
Clay Lindstrom  
David McIntyre  
Kristi Nash  
Vicki Reim

Doug Lyles, Chief Risk Officer  
Wes Williams, Regulatory Compliance Officer

## CITY OF BRYAN

Kean Register, City Manager  
Joe Hegwood, Chief Financial Officer  
Bernie Acre, Chief Information Officer

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Billing/Collections/Connects  
**(979) 821-5700**

Electrical Outage/Lines Down  
**(979) 822-3777**

Distribution/Line Design  
**(979) 821-5770**



# LIVE CHRISTMAS TREE SAFETY AND DISPOSAL

The City of Bryan's Public Works Department and Fire Department offer help with cleanup and safety. Decorating the Christmas tree is always a lot of fun, and for most families, a yearly tradition. But cleaning up after the holidays can be a little less fun. Bryan Public Works wants to help by picking up your tree at curbside at no charge! Be sure the tree has been cleaned of all decorations, lights, tinsel, and metal and plastic stands.

The Bryan Fire Department reminds you of the fire danger with natural Christmas trees. Though tree fires are rare, a very dry Christmas tree can present a fire danger. A dry tree can burn very quickly, leaving little time to escape.

## HERE ARE SOME TIPS:

- When purchasing a natural tree, cut 1/2" off the trunk so that the tree can soak up the water.
- Keep a constant supply of water in the stand. Natural trees can "drink" a lot of water, especially when first set up.
- Keep any heat sources away from the tree.
- Use only UL listed light strings if you do decorate the tree with lights.

**Live Christmas tree removal will be available curbside on normal brush and bulky pick-up days.**



# 2019 | BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES KIDS CALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE

Bryan Texas Utilities is excited to announce that our 2019 Kids Calendar is complete and ready to be seen by you!

There are hundreds of talented children in the Bryan area who have submitted their artwork for our calendar and narrowing it down to just thirty was a daunting task. This year's calendar theme is "Electricity: Past, Present, and Future". The calendar includes fun artwork by local school aged kids in our community, fun facts about BTU, and tips on how to conserve energy.

BTU customers are encouraged and welcome to pick up a copy of the calendar, free of charge, at BTU's Main Office, the Clara B. Mounce Library in Downtown Bryan, or the Brazos County Health Department, while they last. BTU loves being able to educate the public with information about electricity in a fun and useful way. Thank you to the local schools, children, teachers, and parents who participated and helped make this calendar possible!



# Electricity Transmission —A HIGHWAY OF ENERGY



Most of the time we take our electricity for granted. So long as the lights come on, we don't think about the complex electric system that leads to that switch on the wall. And at BTU, it's OK that our customers don't have to think much about the electric system—but it's a fascinating and remarkable engineering marvel and technological process.

**Electric power transmission is the movement of electric energy from the power plant to the consumer. In fairly simple terms, there are three segments to the electric system that deliver your energy:**

- The power plants supplying power to BTU customers, use natural gas, wind power, solar power, and other fuels to generate the electricity;
- The high-voltage transmission lines carry the electricity in large quantities across thousands of miles, in most of the Texas the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) transmission grid. Over 46,500 miles of high-voltage transmission lines help move energy across most of the state;
- The distribution lines that carry electricity from the substations to the consumer.

Because electric energy cannot be "stored" in large quantities like other sources of energy such as natural gas, propane or even gasoline, it is vital that electricity be generated at the same moment at which it is consumed. If there is an imbalance, the transmission system could inadvertently shut down, as happened in the Northeast in 1965, 1977, and 2003; those "blackouts" had a huge economic—and human—toll.

The high-voltage transmission lines that span ERCOT, transmit electricity at voltage levels between 69,000 and 345,000 volts. These voltage levels are much too high to feed directly into homes or businesses, which typically require voltages of 120 or 240 volts. Electricity is transmitted at high voltage levels for efficiency. When high voltage levels are moved over long distances, energy losses are reduced.

For the BTU customer, and all electric users, a key to electricity is the substation. The more than 58,000 BTU retail customers are served by 28 substations where the high-voltage is "stepped down" to about 12,500 volts and then distributed in lines to customers and "stepped-down" once again to 120 volts by transformers located nearer to our homes and businesses.



"Our daily focus is preventative maintenance and trouble-shooting at BTU substations," says Clay Lindstrom, P.E., Division Manager of BTU's Transmission Division. "We are constantly testing the system, ensuring its reliability at the substation-level. When there is a transformer failure at the substation -usually from weather events or animals- we can re-route the electricity and spare our customers a prolonged outage." The entire BTU service area is monitored 24 hours a day from BTU's central control room, where any "glitch" at a substation, pole or individual meter is reported to System Operators almost immediately.

But repairing an outage at a substation can be hazardous—it's a huge amount of electricity—so the repair protocols are rigorous and always involve a team, where safety of personnel is BTU's first priority. "Our transmission team presently consists of seven substation technicians, 10 system operators, and

five electrical engineers, all trained in investigating, monitoring, testing and maintaining the transmission and substation equipment," says Lindstrom. Each of the 28 substations undergoes a "top-to-bottom" monthly maintenance review with a focus on high reliability for BTU customers.

To keep up with growth in the area, BTU has plans to build or expand at least three substations within the next two years. The Transmission Division has an annual capital budget of \$25 million and an operating budget of \$3 million.

"I think the public is more aware of the power sources—natural gas, wind, and solar—and the electricity that is delivered into their homes and businesses," says Randy Trimble, BTU's Executive Director of Energy Delivery. "But the backbone of our electric system is its transmission across many miles. It's like a 'super highway' of energy."

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**FOR THE BTU CUSTOMER, AND ALL ELECTRIC USERS,  
THE KEY TO ELECTRICITY IS THE SUBSTATION.**

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# 12 Days of HOLIDAY SAFETY



## Day 1

**What's that noise?** Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

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**Shocker!** Before use, inspect all electrical lights, decorations and extension cords for damage.

## Day 2



## Day 3

**Two's company, three's a crowd.** Do not overload outlets with too many decorations or devices.

bigstockphoto.com

**Is it working?** Test ground-fault and arc-fault circuit interrupters.

## Day 4

## Day 5

**Ouch!** Prevent falls by arranging cords safely along walls and out of doorways and high-traffic areas.



## Day 6

**Kids eat the darnedest things.** Avoid placing lights, hooks, ornaments and other small decorations within reach of young children.

unsplash.com

unsplash.com

**Thirsty?** Keep the Christmas tree stand full of water. A fresh tree poses less of a fire hazard than a dry tree.

**Day 7**



**Day 8**

unsplash.com

**Make a wish!** Blow out candles before leaving the house or going to bed.

**Day 9**

**Nice and warm.** Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything flammable.

bigstockphoto.com



**Day 10**

**Can't touch this!** Install tamper-resistant receptacles to prevent kids from inserting objects into outlets.

**Day 11**

**Escape route:** Share your family fire escape plan with overnight guests.

unsplash.com

**Day 12**

**Hot stuff!** Keep children away from cooking areas; use back burners and turn pot handles inward.



## Wreaths Across America

In 2015, the Brazos Valley joined a nationwide initiative to honor veterans by being named a Wreaths Across America (WAA) location. The initiative has grown from remembering 110 fallen veterans with remembrance wreaths in 2015 to over 1,250 in 2017 at cemeteries across our community. Collaborating with fellow service groups, volunteers with WAA place flags on veteran graves for both Veterans Day and Memorial Day to honor local, fallen veterans and their families.

Learn more about the Brazos Valley WAA initiative at [www.BrazosValleyWAA.org](http://www.BrazosValleyWAA.org).