

# South Texas Electric Cooperative



## October 2024 Newsletter

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## Manager's Message

By Clif Lange

As the South Texas summer releases its persistent and long-lasting grip on our temperatures and we transition into fall (my favorite season of the year), we should take a few moments to reflect on an incredibly busy summer and think ahead to the sense of change that comes with fall. As you read through the pages of this newsletter edition, you will see some very significant accomplishments that we've achieved over the summer and for which we should be proud. These great achievements show our dedication to ensuring that our Members continue to receive reliable and cost-effective power to serve their end-use members. These victories were not by accident - it took significant time, planning, and a huge dose of communication to ensure our collective success.

### Mission Statement

**South Texas Electric Cooperative's mission is to provide the infrastructure and services to deliver reliable and economical electric power to a diversified membership.**

# MANAGER'S MESSAGE

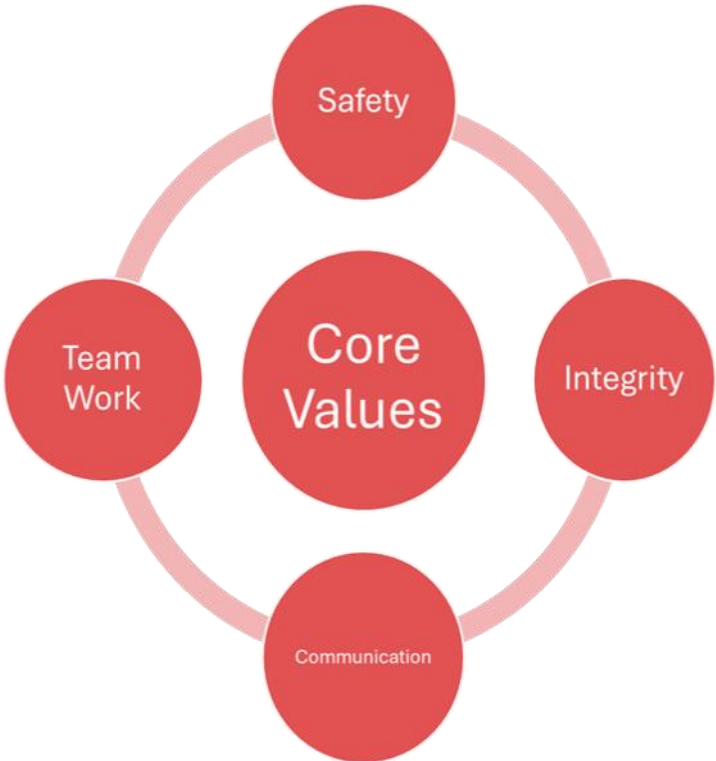
Communication is not only one of our core values, but also fundamental to what we do. It is not just internal communication that makes us successful, it includes external communication with Members, regulators, contractors, and other stakeholders. We sometimes lose sight of external communication as we work to convey our thoughts or needs internally. It is easy to forget about external communication, but we must remember its importance because it provides incredible value to both us and others, particularly our Members.



When we think of the work that we do, we often characterize ourselves as a generation and transmission cooperative, which is correct in terms of what we own, operate, and produce. However, we must challenge that perception of ourselves and think of ourselves differently by returning to the roots of our formation 80 years ago. Ultimately, we are a member services organization founded to provide the services that our Members' needed in 1944 and for which they still see a need today. I think the best way to envision our role is as a member services organization that just so happens to own poles, wires, and power plants. When you think of it in the context of STEC as a member services organization, it refocuses our efforts to ensure that we are providing high quality services to our Members and changes how we think of communications with our Members. I challenge all of us to think of ourselves as member services personnel, each with a different role, and to provide the high-quality communications that each of our Members deserves.

Communicating well with our Members, even when we don't have an immediate answer, is incredibly valuable for several reasons:

Firstly, it builds trust. When we acknowledge a Member's concern or question promptly, it shows that we are attentive and care about their needs. Even if we don't have the answer right away, letting them know that we are working on it reassures them that their issue is being taken seriously.



# STEC

Safety is our way of life

Secondly, it manages expectations. By keeping Members informed about the status of their inquiries, we help them understand that some issues may take time to resolve. This transparency can prevent frustration and reduce the likelihood of misunderstandings.

Additionally, it fosters a sense of connection. Regular communication, even with updates like "We're still looking into this," helps maintain a relationship with

our Members. It shows that we are committed to keeping them in the loop and value their engagement.

Moreover, it demonstrates professionalism. Consistent communication reflects our dedication to providing excellent service. It highlights our proactive approach and our willingness to go the extra mile to find solutions.

Lastly, it encourages feedback. When Members see that we are open and communicative, they are more likely to share their thoughts and suggestions. This feedback can be invaluable in improving our services and addressing any underlying issues.

As we move forward into this season, I encourage each of you to take pride in the work you do and the positive impact you have on our Members. Your dedication and hard work are what make our cooperative a success.

Thank you for your continued commitment to excellence. Let's make this fall a season of growth, innovation, and outstanding Member service!





*The Sam Rayburn facility was toured by PUCT Commissioner Jackson on June 5, 2024, and Congressman Michael Cloud on June 10, 2024.*

**REMINDERS**

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>Donation Drives Begin (Adopt-A-Family, Toy, Blanket/Coat Donations)</b> | <b>Nov. 3rd</b>     |
| <b>Employee Chili Cook Off</b>   | <b>Nov. 8th</b>     |
| <b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b>  | <b>Nov. 28-29th</b> |
| <b>Sam Rayburn Children’s Christmas Party</b>                              | <b>Dec. 3rd</b>     |
| <b>Valley Children’s Christmas Party</b>                                   | <b>Dec. 4th</b>     |
| <b>Pearsall Children’s Christmas Party</b>                                 | <b>Dec. 5th</b>     |
| <b>Employee Christmas Party</b>  | <b>Dec. 7th</b>     |
| <b>Christmas Holiday</b>   | <b>Dec. 24-25th</b> |
| <b>New Years Holiday</b>   | <b>Jan. 1st</b>     |



# HUMAN RESOURCES

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**We are thrilled to announce the Formation of STEC's Cross-Functional Task Training Team designed to enhance organizational efficiency and bolster our risk management strategies.**

The team employs Difficulty, Importance, and Frequency (DIF) Analysis, to assist in identifying tasks that require training. This initiative reflects STEC's unwavering commitment to fostering a culture of continuous improvement within our workforce.

Our Cross-Functional Task Training Team comprises experienced professionals from different divisions across STEC, each bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience to the table. This collaborative effort will enable us to design and implement training modules that are not only practical but also aligned with our strategic goals.

**Team Lead:** Mitch David, Manager of Environmental Safety & Training

**Executive Sponsor:** Kelly Grones, Human Resources Manager

## **Team Members:**

- Tony Gigli, Sam Rayburn Power Plant Manager
- Greg Seiler, Assistant Line Superintendent
- Michael Urban, Substation Foreman
- Melvin Stiegler, Pearsall Power Plant Manager
- Steve Taylor, Line Superintendent
- Edgar Chavez, Substation Foreman
- Roberto Molina, Operations Supervisor
- Chris Beard, Construction Superintendent
- Jeremy Goehring, Substation Line Foreman
- Aaron Spears, Technical Services Manager
- Jim Smith, Relay Foreman
- Lee Martinez, Substation Manager
- Moises Gonzalez, Relay Foreman
- Josh Kovar, Metering Lead
- Ruben Tellez, Red Gate Power Plant Manager
- Loretta Gonzales, Valley District Manager

## **Purpose and Vision: Leveraging STEC's Diverse Expertise**

This team's primary objective is to integrate a risk-based approach into our training program, ensuring that our employees are well-prepared to navigate and mitigate potential challenges in their respective roles. By leveraging the diverse expertise of team members across various departments, we aim to create a comprehensive and cohesive training framework that addresses both common and unique risks.

**Next Steps..** Over the coming months, the team will be conducting a series of sessions to redevelop and restructure our task training.

- We encourage all employees to actively participate by providing feedback to your team members
- We want to hear your thoughts on what training methods benefit you
- If you have any ideas on specific task training needs, reach out and let us know

# ACCOUNTING & FINANCE

The Purchasing Department is planning to complete the annual physical inventory count in early November of this year. The tentative dates for warehouse counts will be November 1, 2024, through November 15, 2024. Even though we will continue to support the Cooperative during this time we ask that you consider and plan your material requests outside of these dates to reduce traffic and interruption to warehouse personnel during the counting process.

It is Budget time again!!!! Be on the lookout for 2025 Operating Budget worksheets. Accounting is planning to have the initial worksheets out by the end of September. We ask you to be timely in returning the worksheets. Our goal is to submit the initial draft of the Operating Budget to the Administrative & Operating Committee at the November committee meeting and then present the final draft to the Board at the December committee meeting.

Since we are still in hurricane season, we have a few reminders to help with filing claims with FEMA. This would apply to any major weather catastrophes that FEMA may allow claims on.

Here are a few reminders –

- Pictures, pictures, pictures. The more the better. Please take pictures of before and after.
- Work Orders – request work orders be opened for specific items prior to the work being done so all time and material can be charged to the correct work order up front.
- Pole replacements – make note of pole #'s and locations as well as opening work orders.

Timesheet Information –

- A reminder to supervisors, please watch timesheets for Overtime (OT). If your employee has OT, there will need to be a line for EARN Direct Labor OT on the timesheet. Please do not include these OT hours on the same line as EARN Direct Labor.
- Please do not create more than one timesheet for a week. If you have duplicate timesheets for one week, please ALWAYS delete the one that is not submitted. If you have any timesheets questions, please contact Mary Jane at ext. 6159 or Kim at ext. 6204.

**STEC employees are encouraged to discuss any safety concerns or suggestions with any Safety Committee Member, and the members will update their departments in a timely manner of what the Safety Committee discussed in the past meetings. All STEC employees can also use the suggestion boxes around each facility and email concerns and suggestions to [safety@stec.org](mailto:safety@stec.org).**

# CORPORATE & MEMBER SERVICES

## Safety Department

We set out this year to increase our opportunities to learn by introducing a good catch/near miss incentive program.

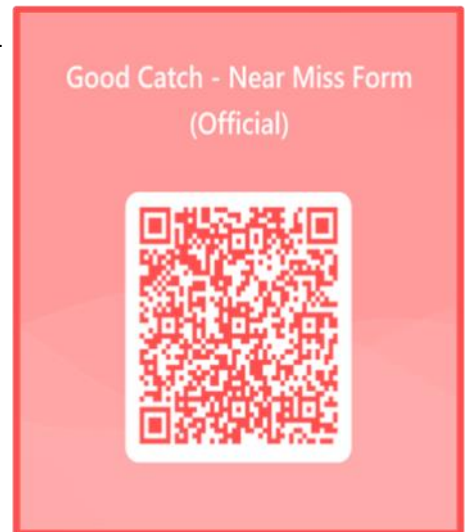
Historically, near miss reporting has accounted for **7** (2023), **11** (2022), **16** (2021), and **28** (2020) near miss reports. We have been on a steady decline since 2020 in near miss reports.

This year, we are on track for more than 21 near miss reports or, stated differently, a **300%** increase from last year's number.

By adding the good catch category, we have totaled over 27 reports thus far through the month of August 2024. This puts us on track to have over 33 reports for the year. This has resulted in an improved waste loading/unloading process, recognition of good communication amongst different work groups on a difficult project, the identification of DC voltage on a panel during a walk-down, the identification of an energized cable in a sump, and an improved process for driving ground rods into the ground, among many other things.

Included in this article are winners from our good catch/near miss drawings, where we've awarded Costa Sunglasses (Bo Alvarez), a \$100 Home Depot Gift Card (Noel Martinez), and a Salty Mag Waterloo Rod (Holly Gifford).

Keep the reports coming in. Let's surpass the projections but, most importantly, let's continue learning and making STEC a safer workplace.



### Environmental Department

Instead of the regular safety meeting in July, the Environmental Department conducted annual training on environmental awareness. This year, we chose to utilize UKG & STEC Learning Academy to record the presentation and allow employees to watch as time allowed. This training included covering the Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) plans for each site as well as Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3). This is very important for each employee to be aware of and is good knowledge in general. If you see something (spills, dumping, etc.), say something. We are all responsible for taking care of our property and the environment.

Internal environmental audits were conducted in July 2024 and covered record keeping. There were a few findings, but nothing too significant and all issues are being addressed. All sites were in very good shape.

The Pearsall and Red Gate Power Plants conducted 40 CFR Part 63 ZZZZ testing in July 2024 to check emission levels of NO<sub>x</sub>, CO, O<sub>2</sub>, and CO destruction efficiency. This is important for those plants, as they do not have a continuous emissions monitoring system.

The Environmental Department finished updating and creating new Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plans (SPCCS) for 77 substations as well as revising the Sam Rayburn Power Plant's SPCC and Facility Response Plan (FRP) in August 2024. These are required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for locations that have more than 1,320 gallons of oil. Having a plan to prevent oil spills is important, but it's also important to have a plan for what to do in case a spill occurs.

Since we talked about environmental awareness in July this year, here are a few reminders about spills and runoff that you can implement, whether on your own property or out in public:

- Prevent the spread, either by physical barriers or buckets to catch a leak.
- Absorb liquid if hazardous to the environment. Sand and cat litter are good absorbents.
- Dispose of waste. TCEQ is a good resource if needed.
- Clean the area.

Spills, such as motor oil or gasoline can easily soak into the ground and kill plants, animals, and even contaminate your drinking water. So, remember to take precautions and clean up spills, leaks, and drips.



# POWER DELIVERY

## Technical Services Department

### Palacios and Charco:

As part of our continued efforts to provide a good balance between new technology and old, we replaced another legacy field RTU with an ACS NTX-220 Retro-fit RTU solution at Palacios and Charco. The retro unit was quickly swapped in place of the old unit while maintaining most of the field control and status wiring intact. This approach almost eliminates the possibility of new wiring or control issues. It also minimizes the downtime of real-time data visibility for the system operators and ERCOT. The new RTU was installed, recommissioned, and released back to System Operations.

### Loyola:

As part of our usual preparation before the hurricane season started, we reviewed the data from our weather stations throughout the service territory. The stations can sometimes provide key information during a storm, especially if the internet or some other unforeseen technical issue arises. The data is brought back to the SCADA master from the substation RTU and is displayed for the operators to use. The Loyola anemometer is a propeller style device that is designed for the severe environment experienced so close to the gulf coast. It was reported to be damaged prior to Beryl, so the communications technicians used the small bucket to replace the failed unit.



*SCADA Technician Programming the New RTU at Palacios.*



*Meter Tech Installing PT/CT Units at Danevang.*



*NTX-220 Retrofit Upgrade.*

## Technical Service Departments Continued..

### Danevang:

During Hurricane Beryl, the Danevang 69 substation metering CTs and PTs failed. The instrument transformers were bypassed, and the station was restored without metering. The CTs and PTs were replaced on July 9, 2024, and placed into service. Load data from the OCRs was gathered to help estimate the billing data needed while the transformer metering equipment was out.

### Edna:

In preparation for the upcoming transformer, breaker, and distribution circuit addition at Edna, the Remote Terminal Unit (RTU) was upgraded to an NTX-220. Installing the new RTU ahead of time allows quicker commissioning of the new substation equipment. The RTU and RTAC programming continued this month, and a new billing meter was tested and programmed for the new Transformer DT2.

### Axis Door Access Control:

Technicians worked with an Axis control technician representative to learn the features of the new door access system. All employee identification pin numbers were populated in the new system and testing has begun.

### Fault Data Retrieval:

RTAC programming was started for upcoming installs for fault data retrieval from transmission line relays in accordance with Power Delivery Goal No. 1. Obsolete SEL-2032 devices will be replaced with the SEL-3530 RTACs at several sites.



*Axis Door Access Control.*



*Tech removing PT at Bader.*

## Technical Service Departments Continued...

### Fault Data Retrieval Continued:

The RTACs are capable of much quicker fault data retrieval and display for System Operations, Relay Technician and Engineering evaluations.

### Bader:

The metering Potential Transformers (PT) at Bader were replaced to accommodate the installation of the new station transformer. The meter was reprogrammed and tested with the new PT configuration and transformer loss calculations for the new transformer. Technicians assisted the substation crew with removing the station regulators, which were no longer needed with the new transformer Load Tap Changer (LTC). The wiring of the new transformer and low-side circuit should be complete by the third week of September and SCADA commissioning will begin.

### Emergency Alert System:

The Emergency Alert System is still in the implementation stage at Sam Rayburn. Junction boxes are being mounted where the network and horns/strobes will be located. The locations for the equipment are areas that were identified as necessary for enhanced alerting. The testing phase should begin before the end of the month.

### Rayburn:

The exit gate camera was knocked out of position more than likely due to a buzzard encounter. The communication team re-adjusted the position to a suitable stance.



*Tech installing EAS Equipment.*



*Communication Tech Adjusting Camera at Rayburn.*

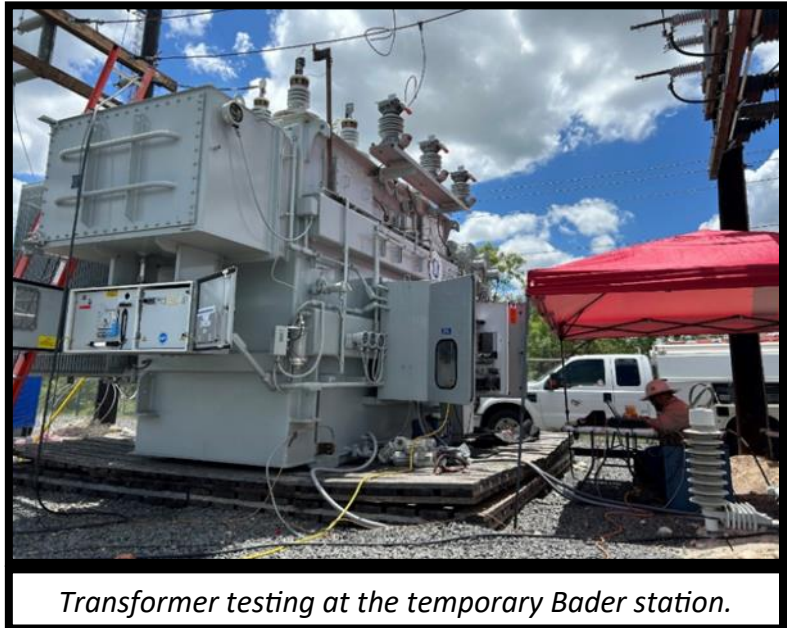


## **Substation Department**

The summer months have been busy for the department with an early season hurricane, several substation upgrade projects, transformer outages, ERCOT inspections, and preventative maintenance and repairs. Here are some of the highlights:

### **Hurricane Beryl Repairs:**

The Substation Department responded to several issues after the storm made landfall in early July 2024 including performing repairs to a distribution breaker which failed at the Cordele



*Transformer testing at the temporary Bader station.*

substation and damaged CTs and PTs and a regulator bypass switch at Danevang. Crews also replaced blown lightning arrestors and a broken conductor feeding the high bay at Franklin's Camp. Several air switches were repaired at Port O'Connor, Round Mott, and Midfield West stations.

### **Bader Temporary Station:**

Commissioning for the temporary 15 MVA transformer and two distribution feeders at the Bader station was completed and customer load was moved to the transformer. This allowed the existing station transformer to be removed and replaced with a new 15 MVA unit. The new unit was assembled, tested and energized, along with a new feeder for customer load.



*Failed low side bushing at Schroeder.*

### **Schroeder Transformer Outage:**

Following a bushing failure on the 5 MVA station transformer at Schroeder, crews installed a mobile substation to restore power to the Member load. After customers were restored, technicians performed Dissolved Gas Analysis (DGA) testing on the

transformer oil and found no acetylene or other gases that are normally generated when there is an internal fault. All six bushings were replaced, and the transformer passed Doble insulation, transformer turns ratio, winding resistance and a final DGA oil analysis test.

## Substation Department Continued..

### Schroeder Transformer Outage Continued:

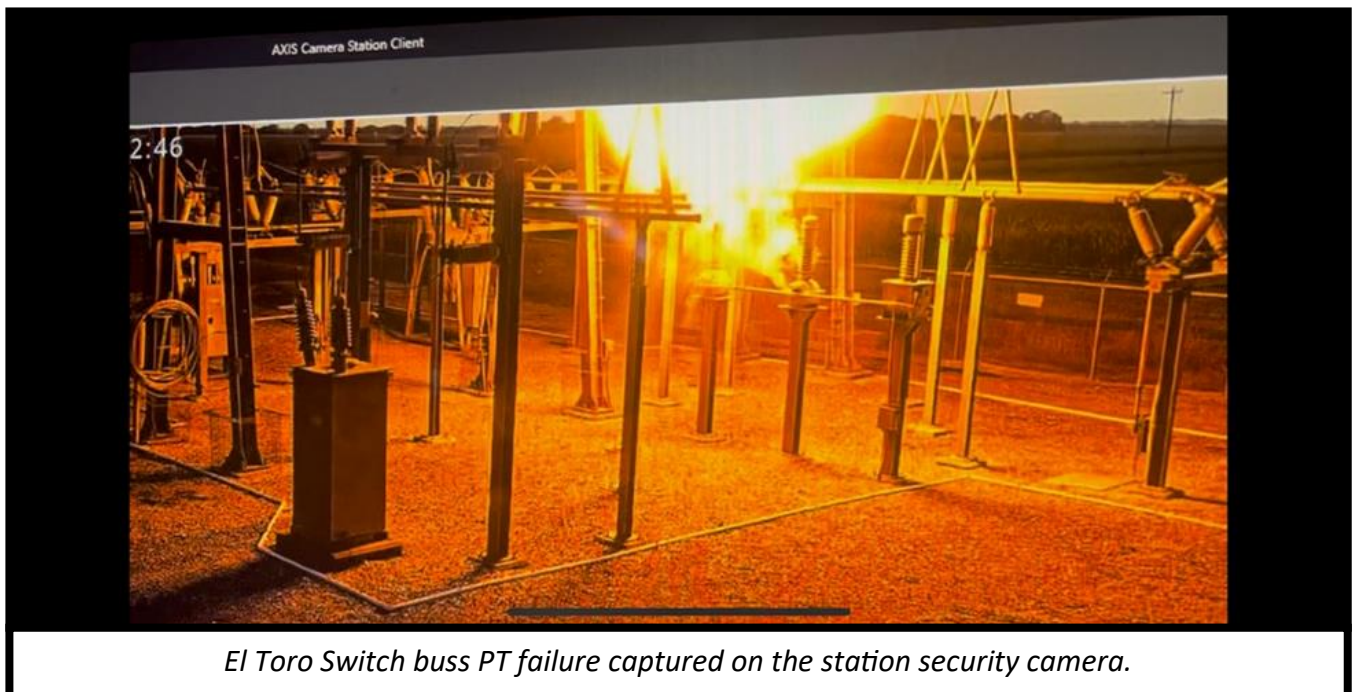
The unit was re-energized, and the mobile substation was removed.

### El Toro PT Failure:

Three buss PTs at the El Toro Switching station were replaced after the failure of the A phase PT unit which resulted in a buss differential trip of the station. The PTs were temporarily disconnected, and primary transmission relaying was disabled to allow the station to be re-energized. The PTs were later replaced with the station energized, which required coordination to ensure that the job would be completed safely. Once the PTs were replaced, metering checks were performed, and the transmission relays were put back into normal service.

### Infrared Inspections:

Twice a year, technicians use an infrared camera to identify “hot spots” on energized substation switches and electrical conductor connections. This work is done at night when the difference in temperatures is more apparent for the camera. Elevated temperatures are caused by high resistance connections and once identified, crews will isolate the area, disconnect and clean connections and place the device back into service.





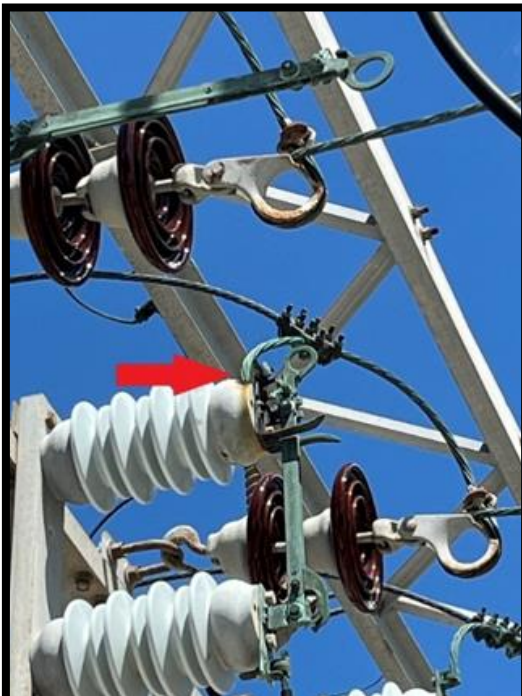
**Substation Department Continued..**

**Edna Substation Upgrades:**

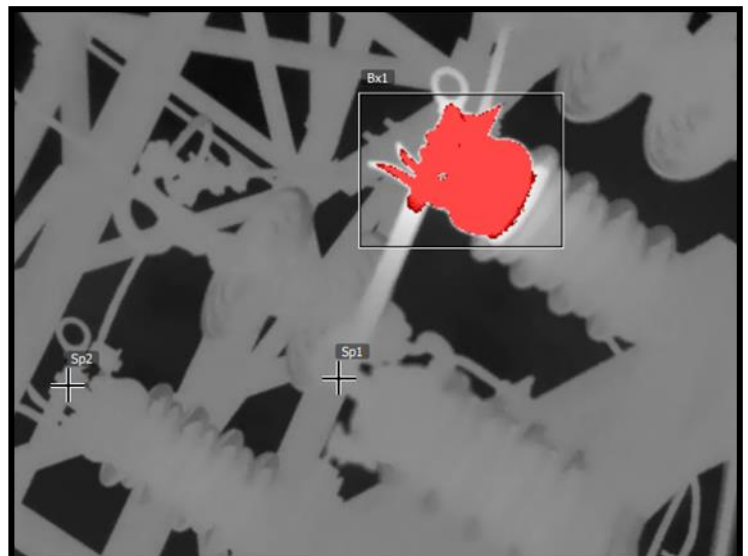
The Edna substation 15 MVA transformer addition project was completed after crews completed testing and alarm checkout on the transformer and 69kV breaker. A new distribution feeder circuit was also commissioned and made available for customer load. Other work included assisting the SCADA Department with equipment checkout after the substation remote terminal unit and communications processor was upgraded.



*69kV bushing installation at Edna.*



*A burned lead on a disconnect switch that was discovered during infrared testing.*



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## Line Crew

**Traylor's Crew:**

- Performed pole top rehab on 16 structures on the Inez to El Toro 69kV line.
- Performed right-of-way clean up from Hurricane Beryl.
- Performed bird nest removal at El Toro Switch, Nada, Ricebird, El Campo, Industrial Park, Round Mott, Ganado, McFaddin, Warburton, Refugio, Bonnieview, Seadrift, Port O'Connor, Port Lavaca, Olivia, Red Bluff, Carancahua, Tin Top, Bay City, Van Vleck, Cayce, Shropshire, El Toro Sub., Aloe, Lone Tree, and Twin Pines.
- Performed pole top rehab on 14 structures on the Rayburn to Highlands 69kV line.
- Outfitted unit #241 and rebuilt the suspension under unit #256 (material trailer).

**Andrew's Crew:**

- Performed pole top rehab on 10 poles on the San Diego to Orange Grove 69kV line.
- Replaced two condemned poles on the San Diego to Orange Grove 69kV line.
- Performed right-of-way clean up from Hurricane Beryl on the Round Mott Tap, Carancahua to Palacios, Palacios to Tin Top, and Bay City to Sargent 69kV lines.
- Repaired a burned switch blade and contacts on the Bay City Line switch on the Van Vleck GOAB.
- Performed pole top rehab on 19 structures on the Bay City to Sargent 69kV line.
- Replaced one condemned pole on the Bay City to Rio Colorado 69kV line.
- Replaced one condemned pole on the Tin Top to Rio Colorado 69kV line.
- Replaced two condemned poles on the Sargent to Franklin's Camp 69kV line.

**Pearsall's Line Crew:**

- Performed pole top rehab on 13 structures on the Holland to Freer 69kV line.
- Repaired a burned switch blade and female contacts on the Holland GOAB switch.
- Removed switch #7052 at Brundage substation. This is part of RGEC substation upgrade.

### Line Crew Continued..

#### Pearsall's Line Crew Continued..

- Installed service transformer and made final jumpers to the power transformer bushings and arrestors at the Bader temporary substation.
- Also phased in the low side to MEC's distribution circuit.
- Bader temporary substation is ready to take load.
- Replaced a broken pole on the Poteet to Oaks 69kV line.
- Replaced the high side fuses at Bader from SMD-50 to SMD-1.
- Performed pole top rehab on 11 poles on the Holland to Freer 69kV line.
- Repaired a burnt jumper on the T2 low side main breaker at Tilden substation.
- Began building the temporary 69kV feed into the new Castroville substation.

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## Engineering Department

Blake Daniel, Eric Fassnidge, and Dung Nguyen attended the Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories (SEL) Lone Star Interactive Seminar September 18, 2024, through September 19, 2024. The engineers learned about the latest innovations from SEL and how to apply them to our system for increased reliability, security, and safety.

The Engineering Department welcomes our new Distribution Engineer, DJ Naffa.

Congratulations to Marshal Batts who was promoted to Transmission Engineer, Vicki Moore who was promoted to Substation Engineering Supervisor, Derek Merta who was promoted to Transmission Engineering Supervisor and Mark Kimmey who was promoted to Project Management Supervisor.

### System Operations

System Operations experienced a mild summer, temperature wise. Last year we saw multiple days in the 100 degree range. The rain received this summer helped to keep the temperatures lower. Compared to last year, ERCOT did not need to issue OCN for extreme hot weather or issue a public appeal for energy conservation.

July 8, 2024, Hurricane Beryl made landfall in STEC's territory as a Category 1 storm. Prior to Hurricane Beryl making landfall, the System Operator's work schedule was modified to ensure maximum coverage during the storm and during restoration. System Operations logged 23 transmission outages and 246 distributions operations during the storm. We received and acknowledged 23,161 SCADA alarms during the event.

System Operations responded to ERCOT's Request for Information (RFI) pertaining to Hurricane Beryl. ERCOT asked questions on the number of customer outages, restoration times and specific damages to the transmission system.

System Operations participated in ERCOT's Severe Weather Drill. The drill consisted of a presentation from ERCOT's training staff and an Emergency Communications drill with all Transmission Operators. Per ERCOT Nodal Operations Guide all Transmission Operators are required to participate.

System Operations has a new trainee, Logan Johnson. Logan came over from the Relay Department and has started studying to take the NERC certification test. He joined System Operations on August 26, 2024.

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### Valley Office News

#### **Laureles Regis Feeder Addition:**

Cables have been pulled and wires terminated from relay panel to vacuum circuit breaker for the new BESS Regis feeder addition. A SEL-351S relay and associated test switches have been installed and wired. Pending work is to install cables from feeder relay panel to transformer and bus relay panel and SCADA alarm and status cables to the RTU which will be complete this month.

#### **Southmost Substation Transformer 2 Addition:**

During commissioning of Transformer 2 Load Tap Changer, three of the four fibers failed on the fiber optic control cable. The cable was replaced and tested. On July 31, 2024, the transformer was energized and the SpaceX load was transferred from the temporary 35kV transformer to the permanent 35kV transformer. This project is complete.

**Valley Office News Continued..**

**Alton Circuit Switcher Replacement:**

Commissioning began on the new Transformer 2 circuit interrupter in late July 2024. The control circuits have been tested and SCADA checkout has been completed. Transformer 2 circuit interrupter was energized on August 14, 2024, completing this project.

**Tres Lagos Substation:**

The installation of the RTU and SCADA commissioning of the transformer meter circuits has been completed. Commissioning on the 138kV circuit breakers and relay circuits has begun. Transformer assembly will continue this month with the installation of the bushings and arresters.



**Shout Out!**

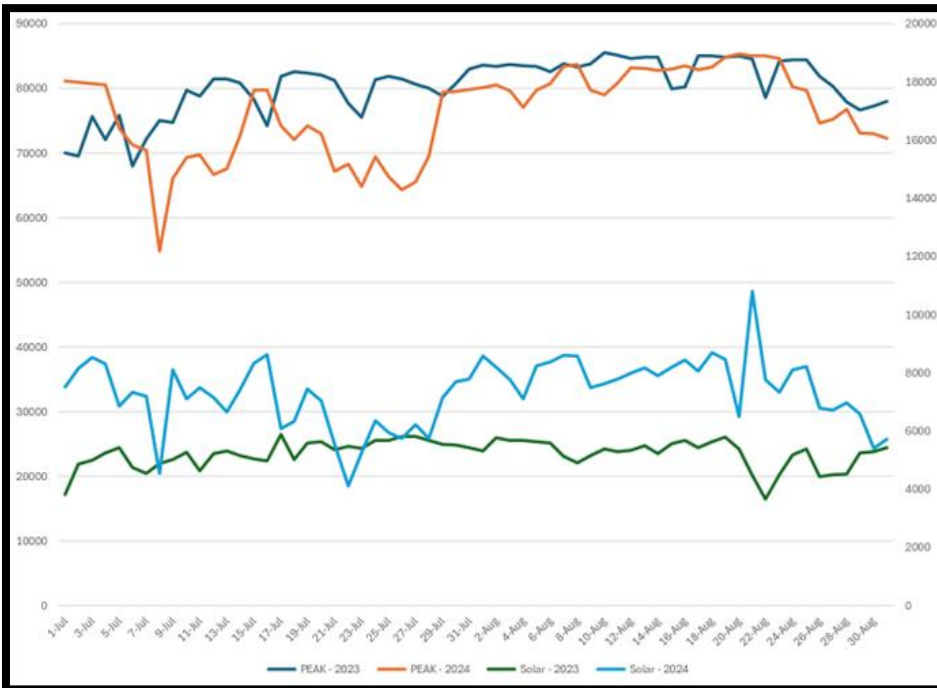


Hannah Brzozowski, daughter of Mellinda Brzozowski, competed in the National Stars & Stripes Championships in Fort Worth, Texas on July 19, 2024 through July 21, 2024. She placed 1<sup>st</sup> in her flight and 2<sup>nd</sup> overall for Trampoline, Level 5, eight years old and under. She placed 1<sup>st</sup> in her flight and 2<sup>nd</sup> overall for Tumbling, Level 5, eight years old and under. This is Hannah’s first year competing with USA Gymnastics.



# POWER SUPPLY

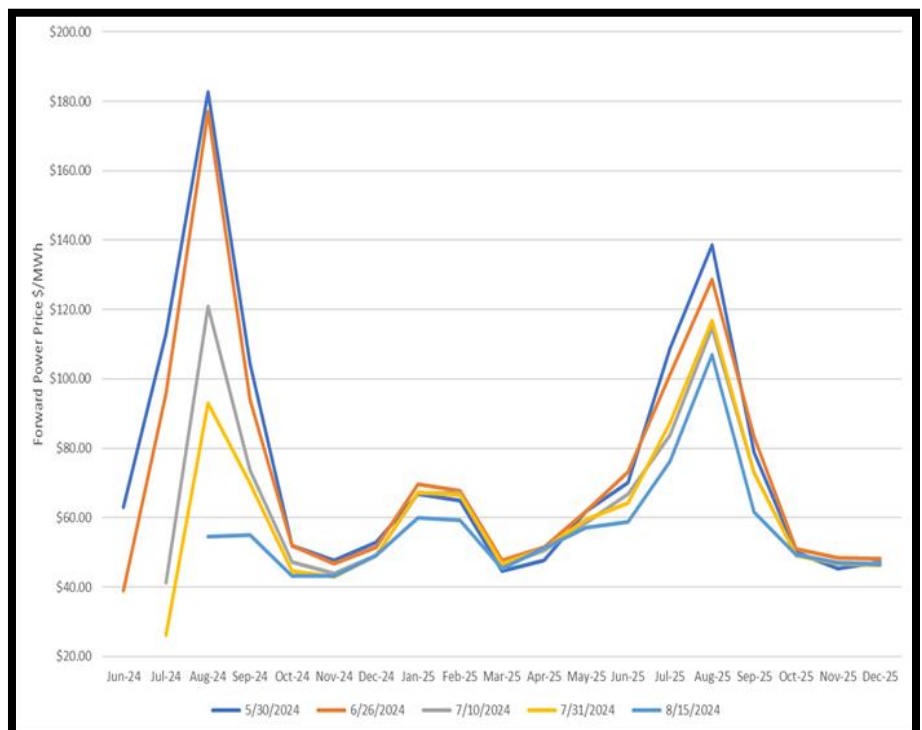
## The QSE Department



STEC QSE managed through the summer in good shape. The story for the summer turned out to be a 'more mild' weather pattern than was seen in 2023. After the 2023 summer, there were expectations of another volatile ERCOT market for 2024. The power prices started out strong following a volatile spring, but the mild weather could not sustain the elevated power prices from early on. This is depicted in the

chart. The orange line for summer peak demand is lower throughout July and August 2024. In addition to the weather, the ERCOT market saw an increase in solar power. As can be seen, the light blue line for daily average solar energy is higher by 1,600MW per day in July and by 2,500 MW per day in August for 2024 as compared to 2023. Solar output tracks peak demand much better than wind power, thus it tends to reduce power prices overall. However, solar power can drive power prices much higher as the sun goes down when the output ramps offline much faster than conventional generators ramp up leading to power price spikes.

At the end of May, power prices were forecasted to be 'higher' through 2025. At the end of June 2024, the prospects of elevated prices still remained, but by mid-July 2024, the forward markets had succumbed to a summer with more rain and cooler temperatures than the previous summers of recent past. Each successive trading date shows power prices reducing.



**QSE Department Continued...**

STEC QSE participated in a review of the STEC Member billing process. STEC QSE presented its role in the Member billing process to the other departments involved. Some shortcomings were found in our internal review and steps made to help ensure a quick, efficient process for an accurate energy and capacity costs estimate for the Accounting Department.

In continuation of our QSE Department employee introductions, Jeff Rideout is the QSE featured employee for 2024 quarter three.



Name: Jeffery Rideout

Title: QSE Specialist

What I do at STEC: Monitor real time operations of the ERCOT grid.

How long have I been at STEC: 24 years

Previous roles: Worked in engineering as an engineering assistant.

Alma Mater: Texas State Technical College

Hobbies/Interests: Taking trips to see the country and spending time with my family.

Pets: Three dogs, one cat, several fish and a crested gecko.

Random thing about me: I enjoy playing guitar in my spare time.

## **Pearsall Power Plant**

Pearsall Power Plant Staff continue with summer weatherization checks required by ERCOT. The summer weatherization activities was completed May through September 2024. On 7-23-24 ERCOT conducted a summer 2024 Inspection for the Pearsall Power Plant without any violations. Pearsall Staff are finalizing the summer weatherization activities and moving into winter weatherization planning. Winter weatherization checks are required to be performed during the months of December 2024, through February 2025.

Pearsall Power Plant Staff along with two contractor teams started back up on the 32,000-hour maintenance for engine nine on September 9, 2024, and engine nineteen on September 16, 2024. 32,000-hour maintenance activities will be ongoing for the rest of this year and will start back up after the upcoming winter months next year. 32,000-hour maintenance is considered a major maintenance interval that takes between 30-40 days to complete and includes the following activities:

- Renewing all main bearings
- Renewing big and small end connecting rod bearings
- Renewing camshaft bearings
- Piston overhauls
- Cylinder head overhauls
- Renewing vibration damper
- Renewing gas admission valves
- And completing the generator maintenance & testing.

We are proud to welcome Christopher LaFond to the Pearsall Power Plant as control room operator. Christopher started his new role as operator on July 29, 2024. Christopher has completed his new hire operator training and started shift on September 15, 2024.



*New Camshaft Bearings Installed.*



*Jose Arriazola is performing Crankshaft Alignment Measurement.*



## **Red Gate Power Plant**

Red Gate Power Plant evaporation pond liner replacement project started on September 23, 2024, with the support from contractors, the plan requires isolating the plant oily water separator from the evaporation pond during the duration of the project with a daily monitoring from Operations and to drain the evaporation pond to storage tanks to replace the liner.

Red Gate Power Plant staff and contractor have started Engine #12, 18,000 hours overhaul on September 16, 2024. In conjunction with the engine overhaul, two more jobs will be completed; one will be the warranty welding of the charge air received and the other one is a bulletin for the big end bearings inspection. After the completion of Engine #12 the plan is to continue with Engine #10 before the end of the year, activities completion takes around 40-50 days.

Red Gate Power Plant staff with a local contractor completed the annual fire system inspections successfully.

Red Gate Power Plant staff continue with summer weatherization checks and inspections required by ERCOT from May through September 2024. ERCOT Plant inspection was scheduled for September 24, 2024.



*Plant personnel testing evaporation pond for leaks before the project started.*



*Frac tanks setup for evaporation pond water storage.*



*Transformer Oil Sampling as part of the summer weatherization activities.*

## Watts For Lunch!

Communication is a core value at STEC and we are continuously looking for opportunities to create new communications channels or enhance those that already exist. We encourage each employee to take the opportunity to engage with those across the organization to ensure that they are successful in their jobs and to ensure that the overall objectives of STEC are achieved. In addition, employees have the opportunity to visit and openly communicate with the General Manager. Encouraging each of these conversations is important and fosters growth across the organization.

With that core value in mind and with the intent of creating a new bi-directional communications channel, I am initiating a quarterly lunch meeting called, “Watts for Lunch – Current Communications with Clif”.

Every quarter, 8 to 10 employees will be randomly selected to meet and discuss anything STEC over lunch. To ensure representation from across the company at each lunch, at least one attendee from Pearsall and one from the Valley will be selected for each meeting.





# Welcome!

Colter Davis began working at STEC in the Nursery Relay Crew on July 9, 2024.



Frederik Hansen began working at STEC in the Nursery Security Crew on July 22, 2024.



Christopher LaFond began working at STEC in the Pearsall Power Plant on July 29, 2024.



Adam Besio began working at STEC in the CMS IT Department on August 19, 2024.



Diego Valdez began working at STEC in the Red Gate Power Plant on August 19, 2024.



Oscar Rodriguez began working at STEC in the Red Gate Power Plant on September 23, 2024.



Grayson Shackelford began working at STEC in the Nursery Construction Crew on September 23, 2024.



Austin Meyer began working at STEC in the Nursery Tree Trimmer Crew on September 23, 2024.



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### November 2024

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| ESC Committee                              | Nov. 7th       |
| Safety Committee                           | Nov. 7th       |
| Chili Cook Off                             | Nov. 8th       |
| Monthly Safety Training (Nursery)          | Nov. 11th      |
| Monthly Safety Training (Nursery)          | Nov. 12th      |
| Monthly Safety Training (Red Gate & Donna) | Nov. 13th      |
| Monthly Safety Training (Pearsall)         | Nov. 14th      |
| Committee Meeting                          | Nov. 21st      |
| Board Meeting                              | Nov. 22nd      |
| Supervisors Meeting                        | Nov. 22nd      |
| Thanksgiving Holiday                       | Nov. 28th—29th |

*Upcoming* **M** *Meetings*

### December 2024

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Sam Rayburn Children's Christmas Party     | Dec. 3rd       |
| Donna Children's Christmas Party           | Dec. 4th       |
| Pearsall Children's Christmas Party        | Dec. 5th       |
| Safety Committee Meeting                   | Dec. 5th       |
| Employee Christmas Party                   | Dec. 7th       |
| Monthly Safety Training (Nursery)          | Dec. 9th       |
| Monthly Safety Training (Nursery)          | Dec. 10th      |
| Monthly Safety Training (Red Gate & Donna) | Dec. 11th      |
| Monthly Safety Training (Pearsall)         | Dec. 12th      |
| ESC Committee Meeting                      | Dec. 12th      |
| Committee Meeting                          | Dec. 18th      |
| Board Meeting                              | Dec. 19th      |
| Supervisors Meeting                        | Dec. 19th      |
| Christmas Holiday                          | Dec. 24th—25th |
| New Years Holiday                          | Jan. 1st       |

## CORE VALUES

Safety

Integrity

Teamwork

Communication



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Electric  
Cooperative**

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