



P.O. Box 129
280 E Wood Rd
Rensselaer, IN 47978
jasperremc.com
219-866-4601
888-866-7362
(F) 219-866-2199

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jasper County REMC and Kankakee Valley REMC Explore Possible Consolidation

Rensselaer, IN-February 8, 2018-Jasper County REMC (Rensselaer) and Kankakee Valley REMC (Wanatah), two neighboring not-for-profit electric cooperatives, are exploring a potential consolidation. These exploratory conversations are a natural next step after a successful working relationship spanning several years. The co-ops' boards of directors are conducting a thorough financial evaluation, and are reviewing how this consolidation would benefit the cooperatives' memberships, the employees and the communities they serve.

"We anticipate many advantages to both entities' member-owners through this consolidation," Bryan Washburn, Jasper County REMC CEO, said. "Both cooperatives are singularly focused on keeping electric rates affordable. This consolidation could allow for a greater economy of scale, spreading fixed costs over more members and having more control over our operating costs."

Cooperatives are guided by seven cooperative principles. One of those principles is "cooperation among cooperatives." For years, these two cooperatives have assisted one another during storms by sharing intellectual and technical experiences, equipment and supplies. Those experiences have proven the two cooperatives are compatible and that the new cooperative could effectively meet the needs of their member-owners. The benefits would be noticed on a local, regional and national level.

"Meeting the growing needs of our cooperative members is important as we plan for the future," Dennis Weiss, Kankakee Valley REMC CEO, said. "Through this consolidation, we will retain our quality employees and their combined years of electric industry experience. We may also be able to expand our services, allowing us the opportunity to improve the quality-of-life for our members."

Both cooperatives will be presenting more detailed information to their memberships in their cooperative monthly magazine, *Electric Consumer*, along with the cooperatives' Facebook and Twitter accounts, and websites.

Jasper County REMC, headquartered in Rensselaer, Indiana, serves over 7,500 members in Jasper County, and portions of White, Starke, Pulaski, Porter and Newton counties. For more information, visit www.jasperremc.com.

Kankakee Valley REMC, headquartered in Wanatah, Indiana, serves over 18,000 members in portions of Lake, Porter, LaPorte, Starke, Pulaski, Marshall and St. Joseph counties. For more information, visit www.kvremc.com