



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Date: March 24, 2015

Contact: Ann M. Lewis  
Director of Communications and Public Relations  
540-891-5921, news@myrec.coop

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Utility bill scam targets members of Rappahannock Electric Cooperative in the Berryville Area**

**Fredericksburg**— Posing as representatives from Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (REC), potential thieves have attempted to scam members in the Berryville area of Clarke County by calling to demand immediate payment of bills. REC sends a warning to all of its members to not become a victim of this crime.

“We strongly urge our members to be aware of anyone calling them to demand immediate payment for services from REC,” said Maxie Rozell, REC’s manager of safety, security and risk management. “The callers claim the electric service will be disconnected unless the bill is immediately paid.”

REC does not use any collection agencies, and we don’t personally contact members by phone. We do attempt to contact members with delinquent payments to warn them that they are subject to disconnection, but that is done by an automated calling system that uses a pre-recorded message. The Cooperative’s member service representatives do not demand immediate payment, but can take payments over the phone when necessary.

If you have questions or concerns about a phone call from someone claiming to be an REC employee, report the suspicious activity to the Cooperative by calling 1-800-552-3904.

REC provides electric service to over 160,000 connections in parts of 22 Virginia counties. With its general office in Fredericksburg, Va., the Cooperative operates and maintains more than 16,000 miles of power lines through its service area, which ranges from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the tidal waters of the Chesapeake Bay. For information about REC, please visit [www.myrec.coop](http://www.myrec.coop). Follow REC on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

###