

Chariton Valley Electric History

In the early 1930's, prior to the establishment of the rural electrification program, only about 10 percent of this nation's farms and rural homes had central station electric service. Then, in 1935, the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), now Rural Utilities Service (RUS), was created, as an agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to provide low-interest loan funds for the purpose of electrifying rural areas.

It was presumed that existing power companies would use the funds to extend electric service to farms and rural homes. When investor-owned utilities failed to make use of RUS loan funds, farmers began to organize cooperatives to provide electric service to themselves and their neighbors.

Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative was organized in April, 1945. It began providing electric service to farms in 1947. Through a subsidiary, Albia Electric Cooperative, it purchased Albia Light and Railway Company in 1984. That company, serving primarily consumers in the City of Albia, was merged into the REC in September of 1989.

Chariton Valley Electric now provides service to about 6,000 meters in the city of Albia and rural Appanoose, Lucas, Monroe, Wayne, Wapello, Marion and Davis Counties. To supply that service, it owns and maintains over 1,300 miles overhead and underground electric power distribution lines.

Chariton Valley Electric exists for only one purpose—to provide the best possible service at the lowest possible cost to the consumers in the area which it serves. To that end, your cooperation, your understanding and your support are solicited.