



LOBBY INTERIOR ON JAN. 16, 2015

## CEO VIEW

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We plan to convert 34.5 kV transmission line in Cimarron County to operate at 69 kV. This will help reduce operation and maintenance costs while improving the quality of service we provide our members.

We are in the final stages of improving our radio system to ensure our communications system is effective and efficient. We'll be installing three new radio towers this year and replacing one with a taller one. Communications between our field employees and the office and between each other are critical everyday for safety and efficiency reasons. They are essential to our response times during a widespread outage situation.

We'll be replacing some substations and retiring others as we continue our efforts to provide safe electric service.

Finally, the pole inspection and tree trimming projects you read about on page one are another way we're keeping the lights on for our members. These system investments will help us continue to improve the quality of life for our members. ■



## A glimpse inside the new facility

As the interior work on the new facility for TCEC continues, the cooperative is planning for an open house event after employees move in. This is an exciting time for employees and members alike. Although some work remains dependent upon the weather, the new facility construction is currently ahead of schedule. Although it could be ready earlier, the cooperative is still planning for completion and move-in by late summer or early fall.

The above photo depicts part of the lobby in mid-January. Members can see up-to-the-minute images of the construction project via the live image feeds from webcams at the site. Just go to [www.tcec.coop](http://www.tcec.coop) and click on the new facility tab. ■

## Posting signs on poles creates hazards

Garage sale signs, birthday party balloons, and lost pet posters have all been stapled or nailed to utility poles. While these items might be easy to spot by community members, posting anything on utility poles can be dangerous—even life threatening—to the professional linemen who maintain our lines of electricity, communication, and other services. TCEC urges everyone to help keep utility poles free of such materials.

With sharp objects sticking out of utility poles, linemen risk injuring themselves and damaging their safety equipment. The clamped safety boots used by line workers to climb poles are vulnerable to becoming snagged on staples and nails embedded in posts.



Despite the safety gear worn by linemen to avoid contact with rough surfaces, objects used to attach signs to poles can poke through gloves, boots, and protective clothing and cut the linemen.

Poles not structurally sound pose a safety hazard for pedestrians as they walk by and increase the risk of failure if the pole is struck by a vehicle. In addition, posting items to utility poles against Oklahoma law.

Please do your part to help our linemen work safely and refrain from hanging objects on utility poles. For more information about electrical safety, visit [tcec.coop](http://tcec.coop). ■

*Source: SafeElectricity.org*