IEEE LMAG Presentation February 18, 2023

“Evolution of REAs (Rural Electrification Associations) in Alberta” presented by Glen Fox (Chair, Equs REA)

Rural Electrification Associations (REA) were started in Alberta 75 years ago last year. During these 75 years, REAs have evolved means of bringing electric energy to farms and small rural towns and village to become among the largest member owned utilities in Canada.

The REAs were a means of electrifying rural Alberta when, in part, the privately owned utilities declined to do so. In other provinces such as Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario, provincial utilities were mostly publically owned and rural electrification was supported. Each location was different and required participation in many forms from volunteers, right of way donation, government support and utility participation.

It’s hard to believe that a mere 75 years ago, much of Alberta was without electric power. We have come a long way! For anyone living in Alberta, it will be an important history lesson. For anyone in other provinces where rural electrification took place, it will be an interesting comparison

Please register early so we can adjust the Zoom meeting limits to include all those who wish to participate.

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