



West Central Electric Cooperative

March 2020

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

ElectricNews

Spring Storms

Spring is here, and that means the possibility of strong winds, flooding and other weather events that can cause electrical dangers. Are you prepared?

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Planning some spring cleaning? Here are some no-cost energy savers that are easy to implement and can lower your electric bill

PAGES 4-5

Spring weather can change quickly and bring dangerous storms that can cause safety hazards. Are you prepared?

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A major storm has just hit your electric co-op's system. Here is a simplified look at how we go about restoring your power

Reminders to our members...

West Central Electric would like to remind members that there is no mail service to our Oak Grove Office.

Any correspondence or payments must be mailed to WCE headquarters in Higginsville at the following address:

**West Central Electric Cooperative,
P.O. Box 452, Higginsville, MO
64037**

(Walk-in and night-drop box services available at both locations.)

Also--please make sure we have an updated phone number by which to contact you.

West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Headquarters:

7867 S. Highway 13, P.O. Box 452, Higginsville, MO 64037
816-565-4942 or 1-800-491-3803 • PAY BY PHONE: 1-855-874-5349

To report outages 24/7:

Call 816-565-4942 or 1-800-491-3803 • or report outages at www.westcentralelectric.coop under "View & Report Outages"

District office:

506 N. Broadway, Oak Grove, MO 64075

Website:

www.westcentralelectric.coop

General Manager:

Mike Gray

Board of Directors:

Densil Allen, Jr. *President*; Clark Bredehoeft, *Vice-Pres.*; Dale Jarman, *Treasurer*; Robert Simmons, *Secretary*; Stan Rhodes, *Asst. Sect.*; Max Swisegood, *Director*; Richard Strobel, *Director*; Sandra Streit, *Director*; Jeremy Ahmann, *Director*

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Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

When is the last time you changed your furnace filter? It's been a long winter. Make a new filter a part of your spring cleaning. Your heating system will breathe easier and you will be ready when it's time to change to air conditioning. Be sure to mark the date on the filter so you know when it is time for the next change.

Net Metering & Interconnection Act

Missouri's net metering act requires retail electric suppliers to make net metering available to customers who have their own electric generation units that meet certain criteria, one of which is that the unit is powered by renewable energy resources.

Net metering is where the customer gets credit for the electricity he/she generates in lieu of electricity supplied by the electric utility. Net metering provides the best of both worlds for consumers who choose to invest in renewable energy technology: they have the security of grid connection, but are also compensated for the excess power they produce that's fed into the grid.

West Central Electric Cooperative has a net-metering agreement for interconnection of a distributed generation source. Our policy, agreement and application reflect the standards set by the Net-Metering and Easy Connect Act (ECA).

Net metering is available to customers on a first-come, first-served basis until the total rated generating capacity of the net-metering systems equals 5 percent of the utility's single-hour peak load during the previous year.

Simple interconnection procedures that standardize interconnection for all Missourians are necessary to promote the use of renewable energy in Missouri. The ECA makes it easier and more cost-effective for Missourians to connect small renewable energy systems to the grid.

West Central Electric Cooperative supports sound renewable energy. We just ask that our members do their homework before spending thousands of dollars to add solar, wind or any type of renewable energy source to their home.

For more information, contact our Higginsville office at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.

ON THE COVER: WCE linemen work in the dark in a downpour to get the power restored during a spring thunderstorm. Linemen work in heat, rain, sleet and snow when Mother Nature's fury causes power outages. Photo by WCE Line Foreman Todd Gast.



DEALER INFORMATION MORNING... Scott Blue, manager of member services at Associated Electric Cooperative, speaks to area heating and cooling installers during West Central Electric's sponsored Dealer Information Morning Jan. 29. Installers from around the area were invited to attend the meeting featuring details of the cooperative rebate program as well as information on sizing and other criteria that impact the eligibility of ground source heating and cooling systems installed on WCE's system, as well as a presentation on non-pressurized flow centers and air handler buffer tanks for hydronic systems.

No-cost energy savers for spring

As you're cleaning and tidying up after winter, here are tips for saving energy this spring:

Open up your house — Install screens and open up your windows and doors to warming – or cooling – spring breezes. That's free "conditioned" air you don't have to pay for.

Take advantage of natural light — Before sunlight heats up your house, let that light pour inside. Use natural light to illuminate your house, particularly if you're still using left-over incandescent light bulbs.

Wash your clothes cold, then air dry them — Up to 90 percent of the energy for washing clothes is for heating the water. Most clothes wash just fine in cold water. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates about 392 loads of laundry a year for a typical family at 8 cents per kilowatt-hour. Switching to cold water could save about \$60 a year. Of course, always wash a full load, not a partial.

As for drying clothes, dry clothes in a dryer for just a couple of minutes to remove wrinkles. Then, hang them to dry outside or inside and save about 5 percent of your energy bill, according to DOE.

Change ceiling fans — Change the blade direction to counter-clockwise in warmer weather. When you stand underneath a fan, you should feel cooler. If you use air conditioning, a ceiling fan will allow you to raise the thermostat setting about 4 degrees with no reduction in comfort. Turn it off when you leave the room – fans cool people not rooms.

Change filters — Be ready for summer by replacing last year's air conditioning filters now.

Clean your refrigerator — Your fridge is one of the biggest energy hogs in your house and could account for nearly 14 percent of your energy consumption. Vacuum the coils on the back, and adjust the temperature to 37 to 40 degrees for maximum efficiency. Also check the

seals on the refrigerator door and replace if leaking. Remove old food to allow greater air flow, but keep the interior about two-thirds full for greatest efficiency. If possible, move your fridge away from your stove so it can efficiently cool contents.

Cook outside — Keep the heat out of your house on warm days and fire up the grill.

It's not too late for efficiency resolutions

If you skipped the resolutions in January but are a list maker and goal setter, add some of the suggestions below to your to-do list. The tips are from www.energy.gov.

- Buy ENERGY STAR replacements when you need new appliances. You could save hundreds of energy dollars.
- Invest in light-emitting diode(LED) lights. They last longer than compact fluorescents and offer more choices in light color.
- Plug your electronics into power strips that could save you \$100 a year in energy costs.
- Install low-flow shower heads, lower your water heater temperature to 120 degrees and replace old toilets with low-flush models.
- Schedule a home energy audit to identify big energy wasters. Contact your electric cooperative for recommendations.

Ridin' THE S





STORM OUT

Spring weather can change quickly and bring volatile storms with tornadoes, heavy rains, high winds, and lightning. To be prepared and stay ahead of the danger, it is important to check weather forecasts and stay up-to-date on weather conditions as well as learning key safety steps, and making preparations.

To prepare, put together supplies for an emergency kit. Your emergency preparedness kit should include items such as enough water and food for three days, flashlight, batteries, blankets, and a first aid kit. A full list of suggested items can be found at SafeElectricity.org.

Check the hazardous weather outlook regularly. Plan ahead so you do not get caught outside in a storm. Lightning can strike up to 10 miles from the area in which it is raining, even if you do not see clouds. If you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance.

Install a weather safety app on your mobile device so you can receive up-to-date weather information at all times, or purchase a weather radio.

If you are inside when a storm hits, stay inside. Keep away from windows and go to the lowest level of your home. If you do get caught outdoors during a storm and are unable to get into a safe building, take shelter in an enclosed vehicle with a hard-top roof—not an open-frame vehicle like a convertible.

If you are outside during a tornado and you cannot find shelter, do not take cover in a vehicle or under a highway overpass. Find a ditch or ravine, lie flat, and clasp your hands behind your head to protect yourself from flying debris.

Just because a severe storm ended or flood waters have receded does not mean the danger has passed. A variety of hazards can be left behind.

Touching a downed line or anything it has fallen on, like a fence or a tree limb, could get you injured or even killed. Stay away, and instruct others to do the same. If you come across downed power lines, call 911 to notify emergency personnel and the utility immediately. During flooding, if there is any chance that flood waters could be energized from contact with electrical equipment inside or outside the home, do not enter the area.

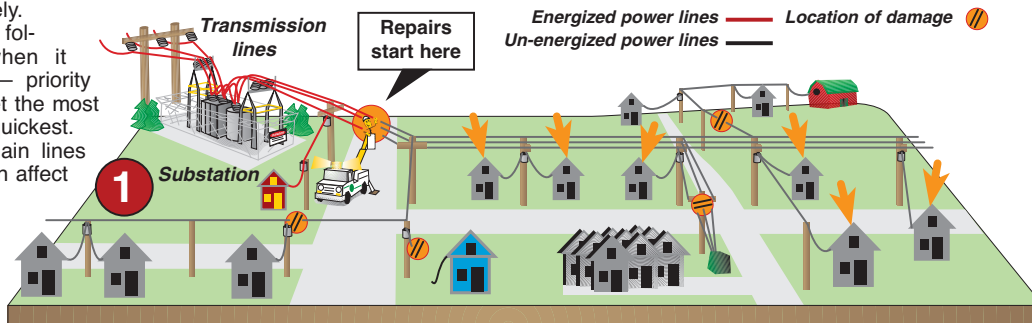
For more safety information, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Getting back on line

We have come to expect that if we lose electric service it will be restored within a few hours at most. But when a devastating event, like a tornado, ice or snow storm causes major damage to a co-op's system, longer outages cannot be helped. Crews work long, hard hours restoring service, but it's a task that needs to be done methodically to be done safely.

Every electric cooperative follows a basic principle when it comes to restoring power — priority goes to the lines that will get the most people back in service the quickest. This usually begins with main lines from the substations that can affect 200-600 members, and continues out to tap lines, which may affect 30-200 members, and then to individual service lines affecting just 1-5 members.

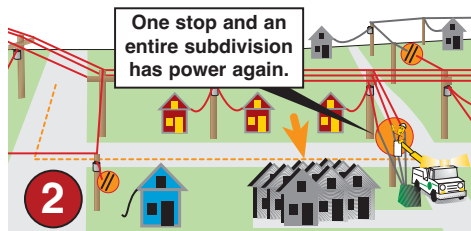
A major storm has just hit this electric cooperative system. Here's a simplified look at how your co-op typically goes about the task of restoring electric service.



Step 1: The substation is energized but a main distribution line is damaged near the substation, leaving most members without power. All repairs start with the main line. A large number

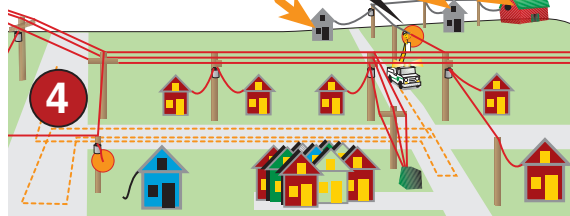
of members (shown with orange arrows) will have power returned once the main line is fixed. All other repairs would be pointless until this line is restored as it feeds all the other lines.

Step 2: With the main line restored (now shown in red), the line crew can isolate other damage and prioritize re-pairs. Though a couple of repairs were closer, fixing the line that serves this subdivision down the road will get a larger number of consumers on more quickly.



Step 3: Moving back down the road to fix this tap line will restore electricity to the three homes marked with arrows.

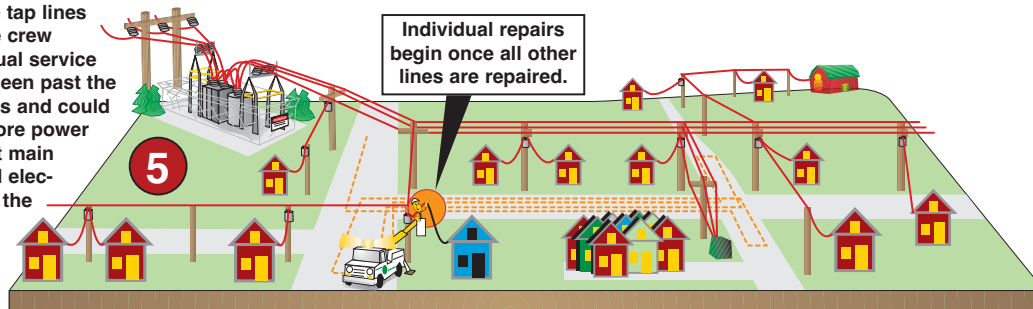
This repair restores power to these homes and farm.



Step 4: A smaller tap line serving a number of homes and the farm on the hill is next on the list for the line crew. The move probably doesn't make the folks in the blue house too happy. They've seen the crew driving by their home and working right across the road. They see lights in homes of all their neighbors but they don't have power!

That's because even though electricity is coming to their pole (that happened with the first repair in Step 1), the service line from their pole to their meter is damaged. Individual repairs come after all distribution and tap lines are restored.

Step 5: Only after the tap lines are repaired does the crew start work on individual service lines. The crew has been past the blue home three times and could have stopped to restore power anytime after the first main line was repaired and electricity was flowing to the pole nearby. But it's not fair to other members for a crew to spend hours fixing one outage, when the crew can move down the road and restore power to dozens of homes in the same amount of time.



Electric Consumer graphic by Richard G. Biever



West Central Electric Cooperative Round Up Foundation Board members Sally Davidson (far left) and LuAnn Stillwell (far right) and president Dennis Knipmeyer (second from left) present a check to WMS student Ian Pryde and WMS Gifted Education teacher Cyndi Allen.



West Central Electric Cooperative Round Up Foundation Board president Dennis Knipmeyer (front left) presents a check to Paulette Oetting of the Good Shepherd Care Community. Middle row (l-r) Patrick Britton, Dale Dieckhoff, Dale Pollard, Cindy Tolias. Back row (l-r) Lori Connell, Ed Nierman, Dave Matthews and Orlyn Heimsoth

Operation Round Up Funds Awarded

GOOD SHEPHERD CARE COMMUNITY

The Good Shepherd Care Community received \$1,500 to assist with their Memory Care Unit which will offer a dedicated and secure, modernized memory care space for dementia patients.

MAYVIEW FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

The Mayview Fire Protection District received \$9,975 for a gear extractor/washer and dryer system to help reduce the harmful toxins to which firefighters are exposed.

WARRENSBURG MIDDLE SCHOOL

Warrensburg Middle School received \$6,800 to purchase drones and the accompanying educational program aimed at teaching students how to operate drones beyond recreational/entertainment usage. WMS Gifted Education teacher Cyndi Allen said the project integrates forward-thinking STEM and computer science principles for the 21st century learner. Students will learn physics, engineering and mechanics associated with programming, building and designing their drones, the technology of which will make a significant impact in multiple industries such as agriculture, medical, military, aeronautics, transportation and construction.



West Central Electric Cooperative Round Up Foundation Board president Dennis Knipmeyer (front left) presents a check to MFPD President Albert Ryun (front right). (L-r) Emmet Cox, volunteer firefighter; Chris Liles, 2nd captain; Kris White, chief; Will Ogan, MFPD Board member; Jeff Ryun, assistant chief; Jake Hayward, 1st captain and Scott Wright, MFPD Board member.



FROM THE WCE BOARDROOM...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held Dec. 19, 2019

The meeting, was called to order by President Densil Allen Jr. Robert Simmons, Secretary of the Cooperative, caused the minutes of the meeting to be kept. The following directors were present: Densil Allen Jr., Max Swisegood, Clark Bredehoeft, Richard Strobel, Stan Rhodes, Sandra Streit, Dale Jarman, and Jeremy Ahmann. Robert Simmons was absent. Also present were General Manager Mike Gray, general counsel Sheri Smiley and office staff of WCE.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

After discussion, the agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

The board approved its consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of Nov. 26, 2019; expenditures for the month of November 2019; new membership applications and membership terminations.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following November 2019 reports were approved:

Financing and Treasurer's Report: Michael Newland presented the November 2019 Operating Report (RUS Form 7) and Comparative Operating Statement. He reviewed the Financial and Statistical Report with monthly and annual budget comparisons. He reviewed the kilowatt hours sold. He also gave the investment report. He presented and reviewed statistical data pertaining to operating revenue, expenses, margins, assets, liabilities, cash flow management, and KWH sales and ratios. He also discussed bad debt adjustment to reserve, which resulted in an increase for income for November. He reported that the auditor for the Cooperative, Kevin Kelso, has moved from Jackson Thornton and the audit would again be done by Kevin Kelso under the same terms that were previously agreed to with Jackson Thornton.

Operations and Safety Report: Randy Burkeybile gave the operations report and discussed crew work, pole changeouts, and outages in November, including the one on Thanksgiving that was caused by KCP&L having a fault. He also gave the safety report and discussed safety meetings, crew visits, and hours and travel which has occurred without incident.

Engineering Report: Dan Disberger gave the engineering report. He reported on new services, change services and gave a staking department and a right of way department report.

Member Services Report: Brent Schlotzhauer presented the member services report. He included a report on Operation Roundup, Chamber of Commerce meetings he attended, career day at Knob Noster middle school and parades he attended. He also gave a net metering update.

AMEC REPORT

Bredehoeft gave the AMEC report. He reported on the wires for wildlife program, NRECA, an update on legislative and government



relations, an AECI report, a Rural Missouri report, a Touchstone Energy update, and potential new legislation.

NW REPORT

Swisegood and Gray reported on the December NW meeting. They reported on windfarms, solar, margins, outages, gave an AECI and a Touchstone update, and reported on a truck issue NW had. They also reported on the upcoming February meeting in Jefferson City.

POLICY 5.6

Gray presented suggested revisions to Policy 5.6. A motion was made by Clark Bredehoeft, seconded by Jeremy Ahmann and passed to accept the recommended changes.

DELEGATE - NRECA, CFC, NRTC FEDERATED ANNUAL MTG.

Ahmann was selected as the delegate and Bredehoeft, alternate.

APPROVE 2020 MEETING DATES

1/27 – 1/28 (Retreat)	2/27/2020	3/26/2020
4/23/2020	5/28/2020	6/25/2020
7/23/2020	8/27/2020	9/24/2020
10/22/2020	11/24/2020	12/22/2020

MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented his monthly Manager's Report. Items of interest included an update on the recording system for phone calls which will be added to the budget, a discussion on the board retreat, and the employee banquet to be held on 3/14/20. He also reported that the Rural Act on Tax Exempt status and the Secure Act was passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Streit discussed Round Up board terms expiring.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was called.

MEETING ADJOURNED

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • November 2019

	This month	YTD 2019	YTD 2018
Revenue	\$2,587,500	\$26,783,915	\$27,049,070
Power Bill Expense	1,491,915	15,919,996	16,331,872
Operation & Maint. Expense	485,651	6,691,033	5,875,215
Depreciation Expense	189,233	2,031,932	1,955,179
Interest Expense	113,347	1,295,673	1,525,218
Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)	2,280,146	25,938,634	25,687,484
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	307,354	845,281	1,361,586
Other Margins	9,369	252,770	346,758
TOTAL MARGINS	\$316,723	\$1,098,051	\$1,708,344

