



West Central Electric Cooperative

March 2021

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

ElectricNews

Downed Power Line

Did you know a downed power line can still be energized even if the power is out in your home?

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Thinking of investing in an electric vehicle? Electric vehicle charging station rebate is now available to members.

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
64037-0452**

(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*

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Electric vehicle charging station rebate is now available to members

Members installing a Level 2 electric vehicle charging station are now eligible for a \$250 rebate on qualifying equipment.

Residential and commercial members in good standing are eligible. Other requirements include:

- The structure in which the charging station is installed must be a permanent structure on a permanent foundation on land owned by the member.

- Rebates are limited to eligible services (homes, lake homes, shops, barns, commercial buildings, etc) that purchase more than 6,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity from the cooperative on an annual basis.

- Equipment must be new and ENERGY STAR rated.

- The cooperative reserves the right to complete an on-site inspection of the charger after installation.

For more details on the EV charging rebate or to fill out the rebate form, visit our website at www.westcentralelectric.coop.

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: A downed power line can be energized even if the power to your home is out. Always stay away from downed power lines and always assume they are energized. This photo was taken during the New Year's Day ice storm by WCE members the Tracy family in Knob Noster.



Santa Fe FFA Backsnack Program **\$600**

Funds will be used to provide the 27 families enrolled in the program with an Easter holiday pack so they may enjoy an Easter dinner.

Operation Round Up funding

The West Central Electric Round Up Foundation has helped to fund two area community projects during the first quarter of 2021. Santa Fe High School FFA members receive funding for their Backsnack program, which serves 27 families (including 48 students) in the Santa Fe School District. Front row: (l-r) Katelynn Schreiman, Aislin Grado, Sophie Frazier, Round Up Board member Donna Matthews, Joscie Curry, Jasmine Templeton. Back row: (l-r) Evan Finkeldei, Collin Kuecker, Caedon Bergman, Carter Fuehring, Callie Fuehring, Sophia Bolser, Santa Fe FFA Advisor Martha Schreiman.



Chilhowee Baptist Church has received funds to build an outdoor play area to extend their children's program. This includes a weekly program which provides spiritual and emotional education for an average of 30 elementary-age kids and weekly Sunday school classes. In front: Round Up board member Sally Davidson presents a check to Pastor Justin Powell. Back row (l-r) Brandy Powell (holding Ensley), Ruthie, Bailey, Ethan and Elijah Powell and Tonia Coulter.



Chilhowee Baptist Church **\$3,200**

Funds will be used to build an outdoor play area for a children's education program, which includes 30 elementary kids and Sunday school classes.

A lesson in electricity: watts, kilowatts and kilowatt-hours

If you're shopping for a new air conditioner this spring, it's helpful to understand the relationship between watts, kilowatts and kilowatt-hours when you're reading EnergyGuide labels on prospective units. And because an efficient unit could reduce energy costs by 20 to 50 percent, it pays to look at energy use.

Let's start with a watt, which is simply a measure of energy used by the power industry. One thousand watts equals 1 kilowatt. If a piece of equipment is rated at 1 kilowatt, it will use that much power in an

hour or 1 kilowatt-hour. Your cooperative charges for your kilowatt-hour used.

A rule of thumb is 1,000 watts per ton of cooling. On average, air conditioning units use 3,000 to 5,000 watts during the hottest part of the year. You can save on that by raising your thermostat setting so your air conditioner runs less — less run time equals less kilowatt-hours used. You also can use fans, take cold showers and/or buy a highly efficient ENERGY STAR-certified model.

Sales tax holiday is again set for Missouri

Once again, Missouri's annual Show-Me Green Sales Tax Holiday will be held April 19-25. You can save on sales tax for qualifying ENERGY STAR-certified appliances in participating counties, cities and stores.

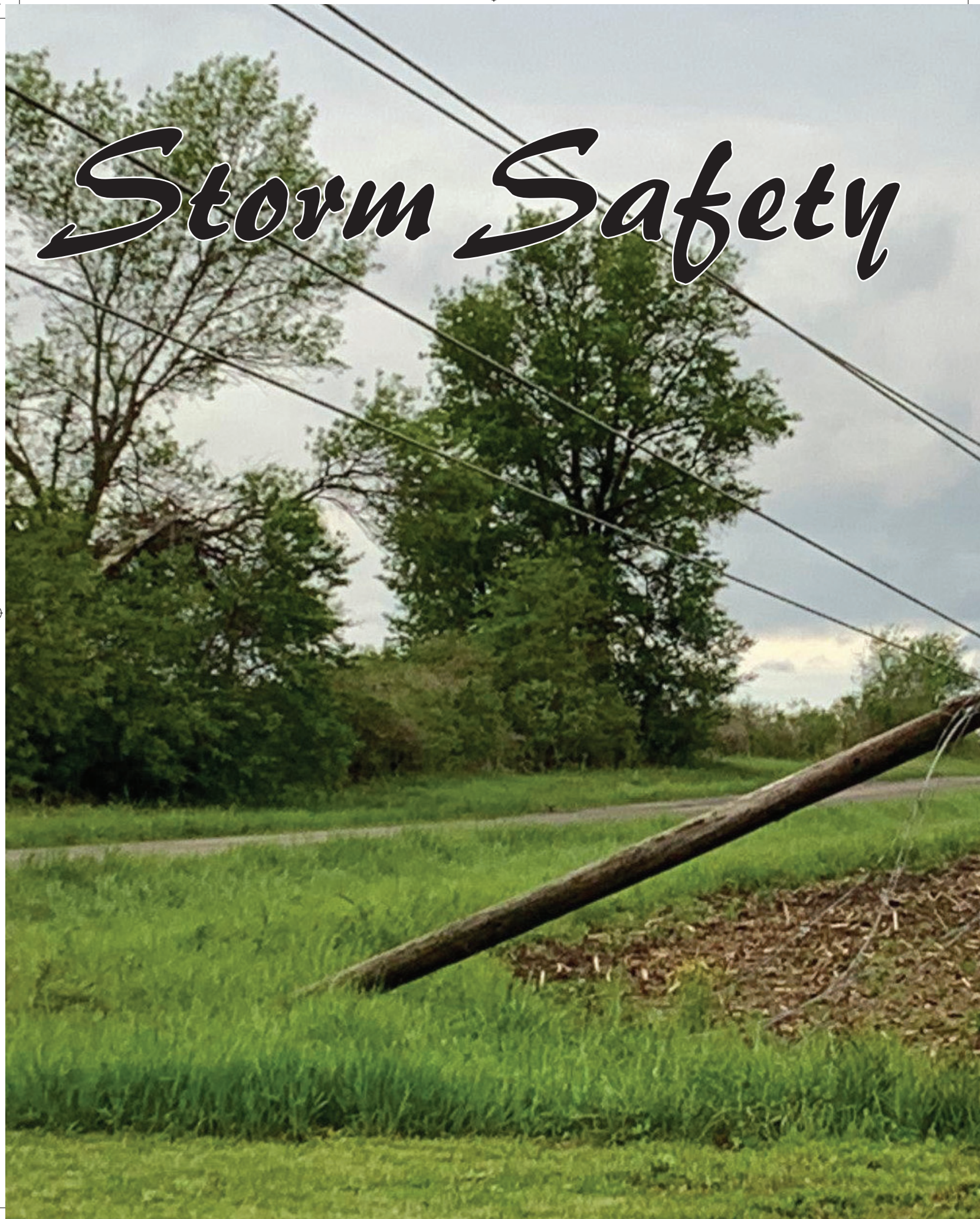
Oklahoma and Iowa do not have sales tax incentive programs for energy-efficient appliances.


The following items qualify for the retail tax exemption if they are ENERGY STAR certified. The first \$1,500 of the purchase price of each item is exempt from tax. That can add up!

- Clothes washers and dryers
- Water heaters
- Dishwashers
- Air conditioners
- Furnaces
- Refrigerators
- Freezers
- Heat pumps

Go to <https://dor.mo.gov/business/sales/taxholiday/green> to find out if

Storm Safety



A photograph of a downed power line pole in a field. The pole is leaning precariously to the left, with several power lines sagging from it. The ground is a mix of green grass and brown, tilled soil. In the background, there are more trees and a cloudy sky.

Severe weather happens year-round. Tornadoes, hurricanes and other storms can seriously damage power lines and other electrical equipment. Storm damage causes dangers that lurk after a storm has passed. *SafeElectricity.org* encourages you to be aware of and prepared for those dangers.

When you see power lines on the ground following a storm, stay away, warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live. Any utility wire, including telephone or cable lines sagging or down could be in contact with an energized power line making them also very dangerous, so stay away from all of them.

Be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. A downed power line can energize things around it, such as chain link fences and metal culverts.

Keep in mind that a line that's indeed "dead" could become energized during power restoration efforts or improper use of generators.

If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel or the electric utility. Never drive over a downed line. It could cause poles or other equipment to

come crashing down.

If you are in a car that has come in contact with a downed power line, stay in your vehicle. Wait until the utility has arrived and de-energized the line. Warn others not to approach the car. If you must leave your car, only in the case of fire, jump free from the car and hop away from it with both feet together.

If you have a generator, know how to use it safely. If your generator is permanent, call a qualified electrician to install it.

SPRING SAFETY REMINDERS

Teach children they should never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines are not touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to the branch. Fly kites and model airplanes only during good weather conditions in large open areas like an open park or a wide field.

Stay away from overhead power lines or other electrical equipment such as substations. If a kite gets stuck in a tree that's near power lines, don't climb up to get it. Electricity can travel down kite strings or wires. Contact your electric utility for assistance.

Never climb a utility pole or tower. The electricity carried through this equipment is extremely high voltage and could kill you.

When designing a tree house or outdoor play area for children, take preventive precautions before starting your project. Do not install playground equipment or swimming pools underneath or near power lines. Installation of either will require some digging; be sure to call Missouri One-Call (dial 811) to have buried lines marked so you can avoid serious injury and damage. Contact WCE to locate member wires beyond the meter.

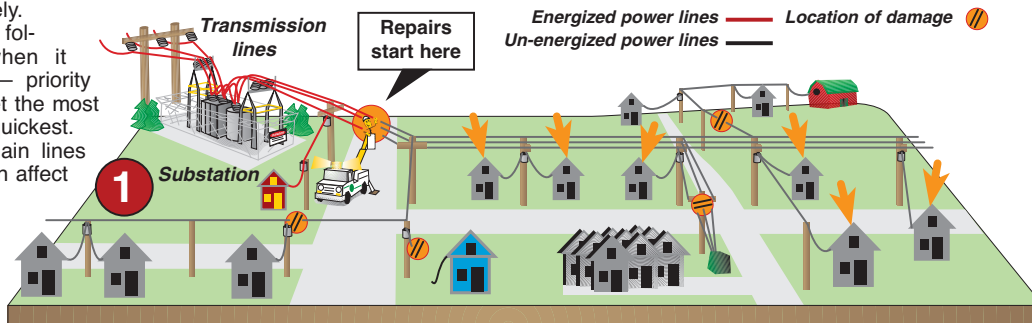
Information courtesy of SafeElectricity.org

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.

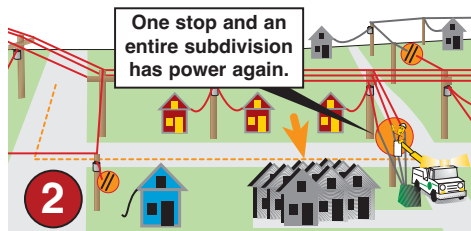
A major storm has just hit this electric cooperative system. Here's a simplified look at how your co-op typically goes about the task of restoring electric service.



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

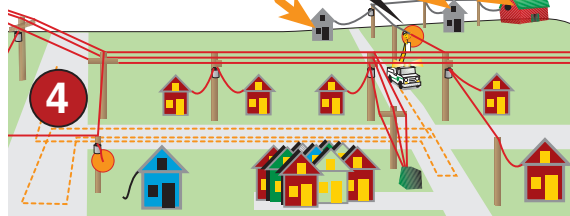
of members (shown with orange arrows) will have power returned once the main line is fixed. All other repairs would be pointless until this line is restored as it feeds all the other lines.

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.



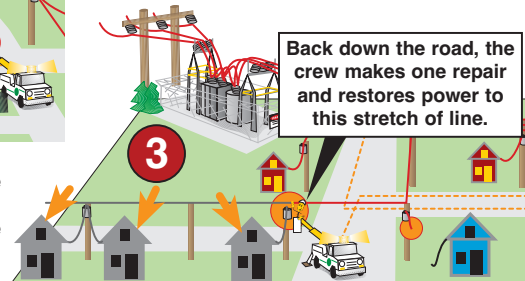
Step 3: Moving back down the road to fix this tap line will restore electricity to the three homes marked with arrows.

This repair restores power to these homes and farm.

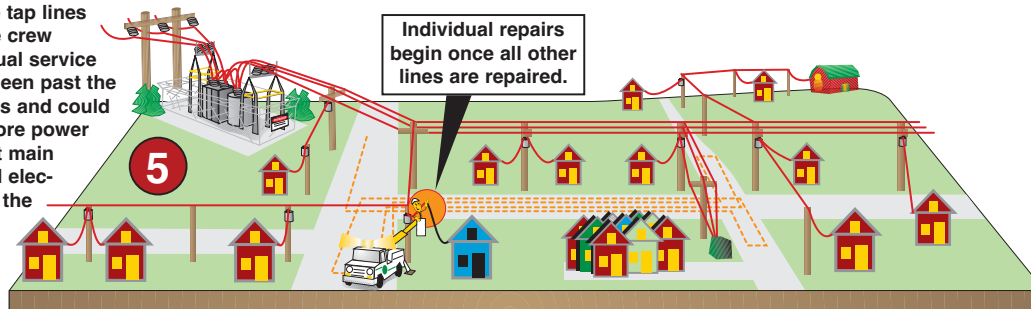


Step 4: A smaller tap line serving a number of homes and the farm on the hill is next on the list for the line crew. The move probably doesn't make the folks in the blue house too happy. They've seen the crew driving by their home and working right across the road. They see lights in homes of all their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

ENERGY *in Today's Classroom*

Are you a MIDDLE or HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE, MATH, AG OR BUILDING TRADE INSTRUCTOR? The University of Missouri-Columbia and Missouri's electric cooperatives can help you to bring a knowledge of energy, energy sources and production, generation, efficiency, and more to your classroom through this **FREE PROGRAM!**

For the past several years, WCE and the University of Missouri-Columbia have teamed up to offer an opportunity to area educators to bring a knowledge of energy, energy sources and production, generation, efficiency and more to students in classrooms across the state.

Middle school and high school science, ag science, math or building trades instructors are eligible to apply to attend the 2021 Energy in Today's Classroom program scheduled for Aug. 3-4, 2021 at the University of Missouri-Columbia. One teacher in our service territory will be chosen for a scholarship to this year's workshop.

The Energy in Today's Classroom program is a two-day graduate-level course offered through the University of Missouri-Columbia that will provide you with 15 hours of classroom training and one hour of graduate course credit from MU. This graduate credit is equivalent to 15

hours of professional development.

Designed to fully support Missouri's statewide educational standards, the course provides teachers with a background in energy and energy production. Participants will cover energy basics, energy sources, power generation and transmission, economics and energy production, energy efficiency, and will take a tour of the University of Missouri's multi-fuel power generation station and Boone Electric Cooperative. In addition to the materials and information covered during the course, participants will take home a classroom kit for their use at no cost. Tools and reference guides are included in the kit, along with several hands-on demonstration tools to enhance classroom learning.

For more information, contact Member Services Manager Brent Schlotzhauer at 800-491-3803 or brent@wcecoop.com. Application deadline is April 1, 2021.



FROM THE WCE BOARDROOM...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held Dec. 22, 2020

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, Jeremy Ahmann and Robert Simmons. Also present were General Manager Mike Gray, Michael Newland, CFO and general counsel Sheri Smiley.

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. 24, 2020; expenditures for the month of November 2020; new membership applications and membership terminations.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following November 2019 reports were approved:

Financing and Treasurer's Report: Newland presented the November 2020 Operating Report (RUS Form 7) and Comparative Operating Statement. He reviewed the Financial and Statistical Report and Treasurer's Report with monthly and annual budget comparisons. 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 reported on November 2020 financials from West Central Services. He reported that he has billed out the work that was done for the hurricanes.

Operations and Safety Report: Randy Burkeybile provided a written Operations and Safety Report. His report included the following: a crew update, outages for the month, a fleet report, and a report on current COVID-19 numbers at the cooperative and how the office is handling quarantines. He reported on the safety meetings, which included pre-recorded talks from AMEC on distracted driving and hazard recognition..

Engineering Report: Dan Disberger provided a written Engineering Report. He reported on the following: staking projects, pole inspections, new services and change services. He reported that right-of-way clearing bids are going out for 2021. .

Member Services Report: Brent Schlotzhauer presented a written Member Services Report. He reported on Operation Round Up. He reported on scholarship applications that have been approved. He reported that Youth Tour for 2021 was cancelled. Member appreciation day has also been cancelled due to COVID. A net metering



report was shared on current systems. The staggered scheduling for the office due to COVID precautions was reported on. The CYCLE program was discussed. There are five students who will not get to go on the CYCLE trip.

NW REPORT

Swisegood and Gray reported on the December board meeting. They reported on outages, wind, potential policy changes, the AECL discount and rebate, revenue deferment and reported that the 2021 budget was approved.

AMEC REPORT

Bredehoeft gave the December report for the meeting held via Zoom. He reported on government relations, member services, communications, risk management and training, accounting and HR departments. Gray reported that he had attended a conference call on COVID vaccines for employees and the timeline for when they may be made available to essential workers and how those may be distributed.

LEGAL REPORT

Smiley presented a report on legal matters.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented his monthly Manager's Report. He reported the budget will be reviewed and approved in January.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Co-op Connections card will be presented and discussed in January.

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 2020

	This month	YTD 2020	YTD 2019
Revenue	\$2,163,856	\$26,836,009	\$26,783,915
Power Bill Expense	1,354,172	15,346,879	15,919,996
Operation & Maint. Expense	552,380	6,304,455	6,691,033
Depreciation Expense	197,064	2,133,919	2,031,932
Interest Expense	113,427	1,305,633	1,295,673
Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)	2,217,043	25,090,886	25,938,634
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	(53,187)	1,745,123	845,281
Other Margins	6,460	172,066	252,770
TOTAL MARGINS	\$(46,727)	\$1,917,189	\$1,098,051

