

ALONG THE LINES



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

DEDICATED TO PROVIDING RELIABLE SERVICE FOR OUR MEMBERS.

JULY 2024
VOL.17, NO. 7

POWER RESTORATION
Facts & Info p.2

85TH ANNUAL MEETING RECAP
Photos & recap p.4

BEAT THE SUMMER PEAK
Stay cool, spend less p.5

JULY CALENDAR



July is National Grilling Month

July 4th: Office Closed

HOLIDAYS OBSERVED:

New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, the day following Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve.



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10 THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT POWER RESTORATION



BY MJM PRESIDENT/CEO, JOE HEYEN



Have you ever watched a video or TV show where a person is cooking a meal, then suddenly, they snap their fingers, and the meal is fully cooked, plated, and ready to eat? That's called a jump cut.

While we wish we could "jump cut" from a power outage to power restoration, it can often take a lot more effort and people to make it happen.

At MJM, we are accustomed to members' questions about power outages and why it can take time to get the lights back on. Given our reliance on electricity, there's simply never a good time to be without it.

This month, I'd like to shed light on our restoration process to help our members understand what may be happening behind the scenes. Here are 10 things you might not know about restoration:

1. We need you. When your power goes out, it might be just at your home or small section of a neighborhood. There is a chance we may not know about it, and no one has reported it. We rely on you to let us know if your power is out.

2. Our employees might be affected too. Because MJM is a local electric cooperative owned by the members we serve, our employees are local too. They are your neighbors, friends and familiar community volunteers. When you're without power, our people might be too.

3. It's a team effort. Every one of MJM's employees are working to get your power restored as soon as possible. Our member services representatives are taking your calls, engineers and field staff are surveying damage, our vegetation management team is clearing hazards, dispatchers are organizing crews, and communicators are keeping everyone informed of progress or potential dangers. When your power goes out, we all work together as quickly and safely as possible to get you back to normal.

4. We assess the situation first. Every outage is different, and we don't know how dangerous it is or what equipment might need to be replaced. When responding to outages, we first need to see what happened, then figure out what materials we need

and a plan for how to fix the problem(s) without compromising electric flow for the rest of our members.

5. Restoration is normally prioritized by the largest number of members we can get back on in the shortest amount of time. Our crews focus on responding first to public safety issues and critical services like hospitals. Then we complete work that impacts the largest number of people first.

6. Our employees face many dangers. Besides working around high voltage electricity, our crews are on alert for wild animals, weather elements, falling trees and fast-moving cars. (If you ever drive past one of our vehicles, please do so slowly.)

7. Flickering lights are a good thing. Some folks mistake flickering lights for outages, but these "blinks" are important because they indicate our equipment worked and prevented a possible outage likely caused by wayward animals or stray tree limbs on the lines.

8. You need a backup plan. We do our best to help those who need it, but if you depend on electricity for life support purposes, you must have a back-up plan—remember, we don't always know how long restoration efforts will take. If you're unsure what to do, call us so we can help you prepare an emergency location.

9. Our employees have to plan, and eat. If you ever see our trucks in a restaurant parking lot while your power is out, know that sometimes our employees huddle in a safe, common area to map out their plan for getting your power back on. Also, our crews work long hard hours during outages and need to take time for meals just like everyone else.

10. Sometimes it's a waiting game. Our portion of the power grid is connected to other electric utilities, and we maintain positive relationships with power providers interconnected to our system. If our outage is due to an issue from their feed into our system, we must let them do their repairs and be mindful of what they're going through to fix it.

We do our best to avoid power disruptions, but they are inevitable from time to time. If the lights go out, know that your co-op team is working as quickly and safely as possible to restore power. If you experience an outage, please let us know by reporting it through Smarthub or call 217-707-6156.



ALONGTHELINES

by MJM Electric Cooperative
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Office Hours:
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

HOW TO REPORT AN OUTAGE:

Call 217-707-6156 or use your **SmartHub app**.

- When you report an outage, give your **name** and **location number**.
- Before calling, check your fuses or circuit breakers.
- Check with your neighbors. Call to report hazardous conditions.

Please do not report outages on Facebook/Social Media.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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IN THIS ISSUE

- 4 Annual Meeting Recap**
Thank you members for attending MJM's 85th Annual Meeting.
- 5 Stay Cool, Spend Less**
Beat the Summer Peak with these tips.
- 6 - 7 EPA Energy Ruling**
Info and what you can do to join the efforts to keep reliable energy.

MEMBER TRADING POST

FOR SALE: 30ft. round swimming pool. Needs a liner. \$300
 Call Doug if interested: 618-535-0383

FOR SALE: 2015 Buick Verano with 43,940 original miles, Gas Engine, 4 cyl. 2.4L, automatic 6spd transmission, 4 Door, backup camera, Sirius radio, power windows/locks, ac/heat.
 Call 217-999-8180 for more details between 9am and 6pm

To list your free ad, email info@mjmec.coop, call 217-707-6156, or mail the ad to **MJM Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 80, Carlinsville, IL 62626.**

Each ad will run for one month. Some restriction may apply.



- **PAY ONLINE**
- **TRACK YOUR USAGE**
- **REPORT OUTAGES**
- **GET NOTIFICATIONS**

SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE
 WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE, OR GO TO:

[HTTPS://MJMEC.COOP/SMARTHUB-HELP](https://mjmec.coop/smarthub-help)

RECAP: 2024 ANNUAL MEETING



CARLINVILLE - M.J.M. Electric Cooperative members gathered on Thursday, June 6, for the 85th Annual Meeting of Members at M.J.M. headquarters in Carlinville. The meeting was held in the form of a drive-thru followed by a short business meeting. Members who participated received a pork chop dinner to go and a \$15 bill credit. Live music was provided by Patty Ames.

After registration closed, Board Chairman W. Kay Schultz called the business meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance and recognized special guests.

Members voted to approve the 2023 annual meeting minutes and the secretary's and treasurer's reports.

Schultz reported that all of the cooperative's commitments for 2023 were met and that the cooperative remains in good economic standing. Robert Moore, District 2; Charles Huebener, District 3; and Todd Stewart, District 8, were all reelected to new 3-year terms on the board.

Members Registered: **421**
Meals Served: **800**

Yeti Cooler Grand Prize Winner:
Charles Lackman

\$100 Gift Card Winners:
Barbara Johnson & Bruce Hansen



STAY COOL WHILE SPENDING LESS

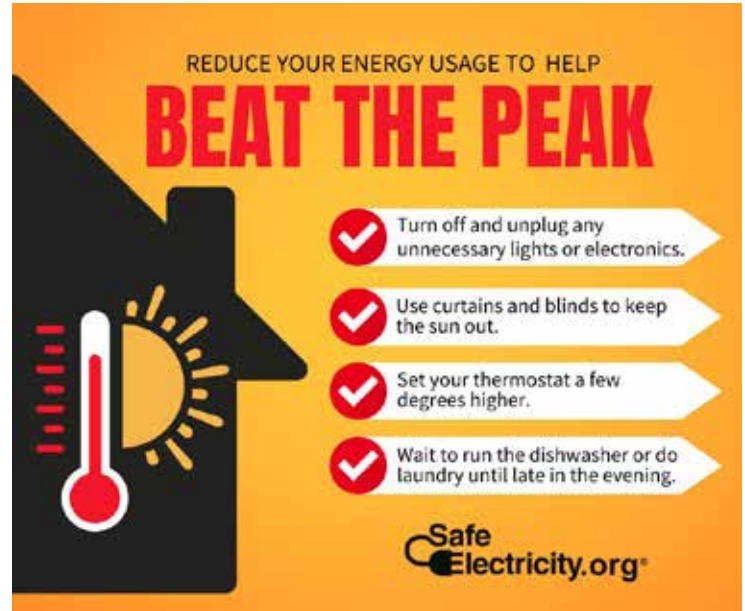
by *SafeElectricity.org*

Summer months can bring some of the highest energy costs of the year with the high demand for air conditioning. Keeping your home comfortable can be expensive, but it can also be dangerous. If your air conditioner runs too often, it can stress your home's electric system and create a risk for shock or fire.

To help your home be more energy efficient, Safe Electricity has the following tips for energy efficiency this summer:

- Update your insulation. This will keep cool air in your home and hot air out. You can add more insulation on top of existing insulation in your attic. Research the type of insulation you should use.
- Ventilate the attic. When the outside temperature is in the 90s, your attic can easily reach 140 degrees Fahrenheit. Adequately sized vents or an attic fan can help keep hot air from building up.
- Get the air conditioner ready. Shut off power to the unit before cleaning it. On the inside, wash or vacuum cleanable filters, and replace disposable ones. Outside, clear leaves and other debris away from the condensing unit. Hose off any accumulated dirt. It is a good idea to call a professional to inspect your unit early in the summer.
- Use a smart or programmable thermostat. Leave it on a higher temperature while you're away, and set it to cool the house half an hour before you return home.
- Install awnings over windows exposed to direct sunlight.
- Consider installing ceiling fans. On moderately warm days, a ceiling fan may be enough to keep you comfortable. On warmer days, you can decrease your air conditioner use by using a fan.

Even in summer, you don't have to sacrifice comfort to stay within your budget. Here are a few easily achieved cost saving tips:



- Turn off and unplug any unnecessary lights or electronics.
 - Use curtains and blinds to keep the sun out.
 - Set your thermostat a few degrees higher.
 - Wait to run the dishwasher or do laundry until late in the evening.
- Turn off the air conditioner and open windows and doors and let outside air cool your house on moderate days.
 - Avoid unnecessary trips in and out of the house. Heat and humidity come in each time you open the door.
 - Keep the sun out of your house. Close blinds, shades or draperies during the hottest part of the day. Consider planting fast-growing trees and shrubs near your home, but away from power lines, to provide shade.
 - Set heat-producing devices away from the air conditioner thermostat. Heat from the lamp could cause the thermostat to read higher temperature and keep the air conditioner running more than necessary.

If you are shopping for a new air conditioning unit, look for one with the blue Energy Star label. An Energy Star air conditioner will save money in the long run by using less electricity. Federal or state energy departments may have incentives for purchasing a more efficient model, check www.energystar.gov.





THE EPA'S NEW RULE IS: UNLAWFUL UNREALISTIC UNACHIEVABLE



**ACT NOW
AND PROTECT
YOUR RELIABLE
POWER.**

On April 25, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released four major new regulations for the electric industry, including a much-anticipated rule to cut emissions from power plants, a sweeping move that will aggravate reliability concerns for electric cooperatives and other utilities nationwide.

“The path outlined by the EPA is unlawful, unrealistic and unachievable,” said Jim Matheson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. “It undermines electric reliability and poses grave consequences for an already stressed electric grid.”

The power plant rule constrains existing coal and new natural gas plants by requiring them to install carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology that is not yet reliable or commercially available.

“The new EPA rules ignore our nation’s ongoing electric reliability challenges and are the wrong approach at a critical time for our nation’s energy future,” Matheson said.

The power plant rule will force the early closure of electricity generation sources that are available 24/7 and will also impede the construction of new natural gas plants. The timing of these sweeping new rules is particularly troubling as electric utilities face a surge in demand for electricity from factors like transportation electrification

and the rapid expansion of data centers to support artificial intelligence, e-commerce and cryptocurrency.

Under the new rule, existing coal-fired power plants that plan to operate past the start of 2039 must install CCS to capture 90% of emissions by 2032. The rule also requires new natural gas plants that operate more than 40% of the time to install CCS and capture 90% of their carbon emissions by 2032. These standards, and their reliance on unproven CCS technology, will undermine electric reliability.

Electric cooperatives understand the need to keep the lights on at a cost local families and businesses can afford. Clean energy technologies must be balanced with generation sources that are always available to ensure a reliable electric grid.

Electric cooperatives (like MJM) deliver power to 42 million Americans. Our top priority is to meet our members' energy needs, and we must have reliable electricity available to do that.

What Is 1 MW?

First in a series

Exploding demand for electricity, lingering supply chain challenges and short-sighted public policy aimed at rapidly eliminating fossil fuels from power generation have forced large portions of the United States to confront unprecedented power shortages and soaring costs. This series of infographics will look at the most critical elements at play in this time of transition for our industry and our society. This month, we examine the familiar measurement of 1 megawatt and how much power is needed to supply common facilities in our communities.

Factory

Facilities with heavy machinery can draw 1 MW of power.

Big Box Stores

1 MW will power a typical large retail store.

Office Building

1 MW can power several medium-sized office buildings.

Hospital

1 MW will power a small hospital.

Power Plant

Typical outputs:

Coal: 500 MW to 1 GW

Gas: 50 MW to 1 GW

Nuclear: 500 MW to 1.5 GW

1 MW is 1 million watts of power.

School

0.5 MW will power a medium-size public school.

EV Charging

1 MW can power four Tesla Supercharger V3s simultaneously.

Data Center

1 MW will power one small data center.

Other facilities that can draw up to 1 MW of power:

- High-speed rail
- Large farms
- Wastewater treatment
- Stadiums

Residential

1 MW can power 750 to 1,000 homes.

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Electricity used to operate major appliances accounts for a significant portion of your home energy use.

Here's an easy way to lighten the load on your clothes dryer. Before you dry a load of damp clothing, toss in a clean, dry towel. The towel will absorb excess water, shortening the drying time. If your dryer does not include an autosense feature to determine drying time, remember to reduce the timer to about half of what you normally would. Remove the towel about 15 minutes after the cycle begins. Shorter drying times will extend the life of your dryer and save energy.

Source: homesandgardens.com