



NewsFlashes

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Electric System has Performed Well During Hot Weather

There has been a lot of news lately about the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) and periodic power outages (commonly known as rolling blackouts). We are halfway through a hot and humid summer and the stress that these weather conditions have placed on the electric grid has been managed by Great River Energy (GRE) and Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) very well. The grid has performed as expected, even when demand for electricity has approached record levels. I am pleased that LREC's mission to deliver safe and affordable electricity to our members has not been compromised by periodic power outages. MISO implemented conservative operations on June 15th in anticipation of the extreme weather conditions, but it never enacted any emergency measures to maintain system reliability.

In light of all of the headlines this year regarding periodic power outages and capacity concerns, it has become even more apparent that we need to continue to work with our members, representatives, and partners to become more agile when it comes to responding to extreme weather conditions. This agility can be attained by revisiting and revising regulations and policies of all kinds, including, but not limited to, permitting processes required for many projects that could positively serve our members and beyond. We are in good shape financially and well positioned to manage and handle tough and inconsistent weather conditions. As of the date this column is being written, there have been no periodic power outages that have affected our service territory, even though there have been many hot and humid days.

MISO manages the power grid for 42 million people in the U.S. and delivers electric power across 15 states and Manitoba. MISO consists of 56 transmission owners, including Great River Energy, Otter Tail Power Co., and Xcel Energy, and 128 non-transmission owners. I think of MISO as the air traffic controller that directs how electricity is delivered throughout the 15 states and Manitoba.

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) indicated the north and central areas of MISO are in a "high risk" category due to generator retirements and increased demand. GRE serves the northern area of MISO. GRE's position is that our area's risk for service disruption is "slightly higher" this summer due to increased demand. To provide some perspective, the typical planning reserve margin in MISO is 8.7%, and the actual reserve margin right now is around 7.7%, which creates

Tim Thompson's CEO Column is continued on the back page →

Coffee
WITH THE
Co-op



Apps +
CHATS



Lake Region Electric Cooperative has thoroughly enjoyed meeting with our members these past few months. So far, we have met with members in Wahpeton for **Coffee with the Co-op** and in Cormorant for **Apps + Chats**. Members have asked great questions, inquired about future renewable projects, and have learned about our current offerings and pilot programs. LREC is excited to continue our mini events across our service territory. We look forward to meeting with each of you. Thank you for your continued support – we can't wait to enjoy some appetizers or breakfast goodies with you soon.

- ▶ August 16th Apps + Chats at Stalker Lake Bar and Grill from 4:00-5:30 p.m.
- ▶ September 21st Apps + Chats at Number 9 Bar & Grill in Campbell from 4:00-5:30 p.m.
- ▶ October 11th Coffee with the Co-op at Ashby City Restaurant from 7:00-8:30 a.m.

GroShed Lettuce



LREC's hydroponic GroShed has successfully provided members and communities with the option to consume locally grown, always fresh, hydroponic lettuce. Each week, LREC employees harvest, package, and deliver 20-30 heads of lettuce to Larry's Supermarket in Pelican Rapids. Currently, LREC sells three lettuce varieties – *romaine*, *buttercrunch*, and *summer crisp* – with plans to add an *oakleaf* variety in upcoming weeks. To date, LREC has sold 434 heads of packaged lettuce to Larry's.

If you would like a tour of our hydroponic growing facility, please call (800) 552-7658. We enjoy teaching all about the relationship between beneficial electrification and hydroponics.



Electric System Performed Well

Tim Thompson's CEO Column continued from front page.

a 1.2 GW shortage in capacity. When the margin is at its typical 8.7%, we would expect a loss of load for one day every 10 years—compared to a loss of load for one day every 5.6 years when the margin is at its current position of 7.7%. The planning reserve margin measures the amount of generation capacity available to meet unusually high demand or generation outages this year. Loss of load describes the situation when the available generation capacity is less than the system load.

This summer has demonstrated GRE's power supply strategy in action. GRE wind resources have provided low-cost energy and its natural gas peaking plants were ready to ensure reliability for the grid and provide energy hedges for LREC and as market prices escalated. LREC and other GRE members have for years participated in programs that make the electric system healthier and more reliable, particularly during extreme hot or cold days when demand for electricity is increased. LREC offers many demand response programs — currently, there are approximately 14,000 LREC members enrolled in at least one of them. I encourage all of you, whether you are currently enrolled in a program or not, to connect with us to learn more about them. These programs allow us all to work together and reduce stress on the grid.

Periodic power outages are used as a last resort to keep the system in balance. Load shed protocols and processes are defined and drilled routinely, so when these events happen, GRE is ready. Please be assured that both LREC and GRE continue to strategically prepare for local and regional extreme weather challenges so that we may continue to count on safe electricity being delivered.

Tim Thompson



We are continually looking for ways to better connect with our members. We are excited to bring a new element to our newsletters — **Virtual Chats!** Simply scan the QR code above with a mobile device equipped with a camera and/or QR reader app to see a video from LREC CEO Tim Thompson. We believe that offering more methods of communication will be a positive experience that assists with learning more about your co-op.

Operation Round Up Funds Recently Awarded to Local Organizations

Funds were granted to five local organizations throughout Lake Region Electric Cooperative's service area from the Operation Round Up Program. A total of **\$8,000** was awarded by the Operation Round Up Board of Trustees at the July 11th, 2022 meeting. The next deadline to submit applications for Operation Round Up is **September 15th**.



- ◆ \$1,000 to **Bertha Fire Department/Bertha Ambulance Service** for updating pagers and training resources
- ◆ 1,000 to **City of Parkers Prairie** for *veterans memorial park*
- ◆ \$2,000 to **Falling Creek Players** for *Everly Brothers Experience*
- ◆ \$2,500 to **Kaddatz Galleries** for *community art tables*
- ◆ \$1,500 to **Save The Trinity** for *energy efficient doors*

Since 2007, the total amount awarded by ORU is **\$504,870.**

As a tribute to all military service men and women, the city of Parkers Prairie would like to provide a peaceful place to honor our military heroes. A veterans memorial park will provide a seating area for reflection, while offering views of both the memorial and Lake Adley. The memorial will sit on the east side of Highway 29 at the edge of town in the southern half of Monument Park.



LREC's Operation Round Up is a great way to give back and support our communities.

Benefiting the community, the Falling Creek Players bring affordable musical theater to Pelican Rapids. This creates access to quality productions that are close to home, and paid performance opportunities for local directors, actors, dancers, singers, and musicians.

To raise funds for summer programming, the Falling Creek Players created an Everly Brothers Experience fundraiser. Funds received from the show went towards summer musical theater in Pelican Rapids.



Don't Be Shocked Into Safety

On the farm, we can't always escape the dust, humidity, and dampness and neither can our electrical equipment. Having electricity is a critical service for our farming communities today. We are proud to provide you with safe and reliable power. Yet, these environmental conditions can compromise safety. Consider the following best practices:

For *Humid/Damp* Environment

- ☑ Use *underground feeder (UF) electric cable.*
- ☑ *Make sure all control boxes, light fixtures, switches, and receptacles are made of corrosion-resistant materials.*
- ☑ *Install watertight covers on receptacles and switches and over light bulbs.*
- ☑ *Locate the distribution panel away from severe environments. If a clean, dry area, such as an office, is not available, mount the distribution panel outside.*
- ☑ *Make sure that every electrical system component or piece of equipment located outside is watertight.*
- ☑ *Run conductors through horizontal conduit and seal the conduit ends so moisture cannot enter the distribution panel. When conductors run from a warm, moist environment to a cold location, condensation can form and enter the distribution panel.*
- ☑ *Inside farm buildings, mount wiring outside of walls to allow continuous inspection.*

For *Dusty* Environment

- ☑ *Place protective enclosures over all light bulbs to protect them from dust and lessen the fire hazard.*
- ☑ *Use explosion-proof switches. Fire from an explosion can occur in areas where fine dusts or harmful, highly flammable vapors come in contact with sparks from an electric switch.*

Other Considerations

- ☑ *Protect circuit boxes by thoughtfully choosing their location. Place them around a corner or away from animals to make them far less vulnerable to abuse.*
- ☑ *Run conductors in conduit to protect them from physical damage by livestock.*
- ☑ *Use nonmetallic conduit in corrosive environments.*
- ☑ *Place guards over light bulbs located where they may get struck by equipment, and use enclosures to keep moisture and dust out.*
- ☑ *Use only qualified electricians to repair damage to electrical installations.*