

# The Outlet

June 2022

*A monthly publication for members of Riverland Energy Cooperative*

## Offices Closed July 4

Our offices will be closed on Monday, July 4 for the Fourth of July holiday. Outages can be reported 24/7 by calling 800-927-6206.

## June is Dairy Month

In recognition of Dairy month, Riverland Energy Cooperative would like to take a moment to salute local dairy farmers and the entire dairy industry. The Cooperative appreciates the outstanding effort and vital contributions dairy farmers make to the area. The cooperative employees and Directors thank you!

## Time of Use Rates

Riverland Energy's Time of Use (TOU) rate was developed for members who are seeking opportunities to have a direct impact on their electric bill through their conservation efforts and daily usage habits. The TOU rate provides members with pricing that encourages them to lower usage during peak times, either by using less energy during on-peak times, or moving usage to off-peak times.

### Current TOU rates:

**Base Service Charge:** \$1.18/day

**On-peak energy charge:** 36.04 cents per kWh from 2 – 6 p.m., M - F

**Off-peak energy charge:** 7.67 cents per kWh from 5 – 9 p.m., M-F.

These rates are optional and each member may decide whether to remain on the standard rate or move to the TOU rate.

## Electrical Safety Demonstrations Presented at 25 Elementary Schools



Last month during National Electrical Safety Month, we shared the importance of respecting the power of electricity to over 1,600 elementary students. The line crew visited 25 schools throughout the month of May and presented a live demonstration where they learned the dangers associated with electricity and how to be safe around power lines.

## Summer load reduction NOTICE

Power shortages may occur this summer during times of peak demand. If the grid is nearing capacity, we will issue a "Peak Alert" to ask members to conserve energy to take some pressure off the grid.

If there is a severe risk of imbalance, members may be notified of an immediate need to reduce electricity use to help avoid rolling blackouts. This alert is called a "Max Gen Alert".

**Individuals who rely on electrically powered oxygen or other medical equipment should always have their own personal backup plan for coping with power outages and other potential emergencies. While we work hard to provide reliable electric service, we cannot guarantee the power will never fail. If your life or the life of a loved one depends on electricity, you need to develop a personal emergency response plan.**

If an alert were to happen, members will be notified by local radio stations, television outlets, social media, website and possibly phone calls and e-mails. Details can be found in Jerry's article inside of this Outlet.

# MISO Announces potential for rolling blackouts



The regional electric grid, managed by MISO (Midcontinent Independent System Operator), was strained with high electricity demand and limited generation resources. MISO uses Maximum Generation (Max Gen) procedures to help address grid constraints. In some circumstances, system conditions during a Max Gen scenario will call for electricity demand reduction measures, such as the use of our load/energy management program.

Every Max Gen Warning or Event scenario is unique. We must react to emergency grid conditions in a real-time manner and may have to call upon our members to start reducing their electricity demand at a moment's notice. Using our load/energy management program for this purpose ensures we can quickly reduce demand to avoid overloading generation resources. This use of load/energy management is different than non-emergency full load control events which help avoid purchasing power during the most expensive times of the summer or winter. Using load/energy management for Max Gen purposes supports grid reliability by reducing our electricity demand to levels that can be met by available generation resources. If demand exceeds what the grid can fulfill, rolling blackouts can occur.

A press release from MISO in late April and the short-term outlook from the U.S. Energy Information Administration this spring warn of an expected shortage of available generation resources during peak electricity demand this summer. Some key reasons for the projected shortfall include:

- Higher, volatile natural gas prices in the United States
- Coal-fired and nuclear power plant retirements outpacing the installation of new generation resources
- A significant amount of new generation resources coming online are wind and solar, which are intermittent and not always available when needed
- Electricity consumption continues to return to pre-COVID-19 pandemic patterns, increasing in the commercial and industrial sectors.

Riverland Energy has a plan in place to prepare for a potential rolling blackout event. Dairyland's System Operations Center also works closely with MISO to ensure the power grid remains stable and reliable each day. We can't control the weather or other generation resources, but we do take maintenance and preparedness of our own generation stations as seriously as we do safety.

The fact is, we are facing the possibility of power shortages this summer. To help some of this, members who do not participate in our load management program can:

- Turn off lights, televisions, electronics, and other appliances
- Cook food in a microwave instead of using a stovetop or oven
- Adjust your thermostat up or down, depending on the season
- Shift laundry, vacuuming, and running the dishwasher until after the Max Gen Event has ended
- Delay electric vehicle charging until after the Max Gen Event

Issues like reliability are critical, and we want to keep you informed and engaged. Members are notified of any alerts by social media, website, local radio and t.v. stations.

## SHIFT ELECTRICITY USE TO THE HOURS BEFORE 11 A.M. AND AFTER 7 P.M.

As temperatures rise, so does the demand for electricity. You can help by doing some of these simple things:

1. Set the thermostat to 78 degrees when no one is home. Utilize a programmable thermostat.
2. Start a load of laundry after 7 p.m. (use cold water, if possible). Or, wash clothes first thing in the morning and dry your clothes outside on a clothes line during the day.
3. Start the dishwasher after 7 p.m., then open the door when the "dry" cycle begins to let dishes air dry overnight.
4. Shut off lights. Balance closing curtains to keep the home cool with using LED lights in lamps.

Do The  
**SUMMER  
SHIFT**

## Let us know of stray voltage concerns

Stray voltage is the common term used to describe neutral-to-earth voltage in a cow or livestock contact area, usually in the barn. When a cow makes contact between two points with a difference in voltage, such as a watering cup and the concrete floor, an electric current may flow through the cow, which the cow may feel. Such situations can be caused by a variety of electrical problems both on farm and off farm.

Neutral-to-earth voltage may never be completely eliminated because it is present on all grounded electrical distribution systems. However, much can be done to resolve stray voltage concerns.

If you believe you may have stray voltage, Riverland Energy stands ready to investigate that possibility. We have the equipment and trained personnel to offer assistance.

## Be Prepared for Summer Storms and Power Outages

Summer storms are always a threat. If you experience an outage, check to see that the power issue is not on your side of the electric meter. Check fuses and circuit breakers in your home. When calling in an outage, please have this information available:

- Your account number
- Name on the electric account
- Service address where outage is occurring
- Phone number on the account
- Cause of outage if known

If you call after business hours or during widespread outages our call center, Cooperative Response Center (CRC) will answer and assist you. During widespread outages, power is resorted systematically. Attention is given first to substations and main feeder lines, followed by individual members.

### There are three ways to report an outage:

- **Call** 800-927-6206. After hours: Press #1 to report it via automatic phone recorder; or press #3 to talk to someone.
- **Text** in your outage at 55050. (Must be signed up)
- **Online** through SmartHub.



## OPERATING STATISTICS



Kristina Marsolek,  
Manager of Finance

|                                      | Monthly        |                | Year-to-date   |                |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                      | April 2021     | April 2022     | 2021           | 2022           |
| KWHS PURCHASED                       | 20,226,441     | 22,076,595     | 97,585,671     | 104,530,719    |
| KWHS SOLD                            | 19,466,832     | 21,207,641     | 93,957,541     | 100,405,270    |
| REVENUE                              | 2,785,392      | 2,986,913      | 12,839,922     | 13,442,121     |
| COST OF PURCHASED POWER              | 1,551,569      | 1,640,100      | 7,577,118      | 8,042,092      |
| OTHER EXPENSES                       | 1,155,010      | 1,501,049      | 4,657,529      | 5,155,138      |
| OPERATING MARGINS                    | 78,813         | (154,236)      | 605,275        | 244,891        |
| NON-OPERATING MARGINS                | 4,739          | 205,804        | 82,425         | 228,887        |
| CAPITAL CREDITS-ASSOC. ORGANIZATIONS | 59,891         | 56,898         | 292,441        | 281,989        |
| <b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>                 | <b>143,443</b> | <b>108,466</b> | <b>980,141</b> | <b>755,767</b> |

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH:** "Don't be afraid to give up the good to go for the great." ~ John D. Rockefeller

## Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

If you're looking to add smart technology to your home, consider smart plugs. Smart plugs are inexpensive and can be used to control lighting and other electronic devices through a smart phone app.

With smart plugs, you can conveniently manage lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. By powering off unused devices when you're away, you can save energy (and money!).

Source: [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)



## Enter our photo contest for a chance to win a \$25 electric bill credit



Submit a photo of **"Water"** for this month's photo contest before June 25. The photo that has the most votes will win a \$25 electric bill credit! Each member who submits a photo will be put into a drawing at the end of the contest for a chance to win a \$250 electric bill credit. Go to our Facebook page or website to submit a photo and vote.



**RIVERLAND**  
Energy Cooperative

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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