

Since 1940

# WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative*

July 2022 NEWS

TAYLOR ELECTRIC  
*Cooperative*

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



WILD WISCONSIN

BATTERY STORAGE OR GENERATOR?

WISCONSIN'S WAKEUP CALL

CONGRATULATIONS,  
TEC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!





# POWER RELIABILITY

## Planning ahead for summer storms, regional grid challenges

Kenneth Ceagske, President/CEO

Summer storm season is upon us. Taylor Electric has been doing our part over the years to maintain the system to prevent problems as much as we can. While we try to make the system as reliable as reasonably possible, right-of-way trimming can only be done so far out along the lines before we get outside our easement and into the landowners' space, so occasionally a tree can fall in from outside the lines. Critters can be another challenge, as they like to climb on equipment. Mother Nature always likes to challenge us a bit with wind and lightning.

All in all, we have an above-average score for our reliability. It is admirable that we have such good reliability; however, storms in other areas of our region and across the country prove that we are one bad event from experiencing longer outages. It is important that our members not take our historic reliability for granted. We cannot guarantee that we will never see extended outages. If you or someone you love has a condition that depends on electricity, **BE SURE TO HAVE A BACKUP PLAN FOR HOW TO GET THROUGH LONGER OUTAGES.**

Dairyland Power Cooperative is the source of our electricity. They are always vigilant in keeping our power supply and delivery system as strong as possible while being cost effective as well. In recent years, Dairyland has upgraded equipment at Elk Mound to improve its performance, and they've added another plant called RockGen to improve the capacity available in our region to handle high load times and meet the needs of our members, as the intermittent resources of wind or solar vary with the weather. Dairyland recently closed the coal plant in Genoa, but it was not cost effective, and it was not being called upon to run when it was available.

Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO) is the equivalent of the air traffic controller for the power grid. The power grid is not as simple as DPC lines delivering power from DPC power plants to TEC substations. All utilities are in this mix together. As the name power "grid" implies, it is a complex assemblage of lines that tie together in many places. This eliminates duplication, so that power delivered into the Medford area for Xcel, Medford Utilities, and TEC doesn't need to have separate lines. Instead, the three utilities share the cost of fewer lines.

The generation side of the grid functions like a big punch bowl. Every utility brings something to add to the bowl in the same quantity as it needs to take out of the punchbowl to serve its members or customers. If this inflow and outflow do not match, the system can become unstable. This balance has been maintained well for many years. At times one (or more) of the

utilities may be short on power, but another one (or more) will have extra and sell energy to the short utility.

MISO does an analysis of the availability of power based on the maximum load day from the previous year. Every year up until 2022 there has been excess capacity available. 2022 brings a new wrinkle to life. We may not have enough firm power to support that peak day.

What does that mean for you, the member? We hope this is just a possible scenario, and that the intermittent sources of energy (wind/solar) are in production and nothing goes wrong with the main generators that are all up and running on the peak days of this summer. If for some reason they are not, we could be in a situation where we would first be asked to control

If you see the temperatures creeping into maximum discomfort levels, think about what you have going on in your house or business—what can be put off until later in the day or earlier the next morning?

as many of the loads that we have the capabilities to interrupt remotely, like our heat, water heating, and generator programs. At the same time there would likely be general public appeals to reduce load or face the potential of rolling blackouts. If those requests are not successful, we may

be called on to commence with rolling blackouts at the request of MISO. Because of the interconnected nature of the system, if anybody's shortage puts us in the situation, all utilities have to take part in reducing load.

So what can we all do on an individual basis to prevent any of this from happening? Typically, the peaks happen on some of the hottest (or coldest) days of the year. If you see the temperatures creeping into maximum discomfort levels, think about what you have going on in your house or business—what can be put off until later in the day or earlier the next morning? The big things to look at are cooking, laundry, air conditioning, and excess lighting. If everybody on the TEC system turned off one 60-watt bulb, we would reduce the load by almost 2%. Adjusting AC systems to a slightly higher temperature, cooking on the grill, or postponing doing laundry keep the load down even more.

We will begin running ads on the radio this year on some of those peak days as well. These announcements won't necessarily be due to capacity shortfalls, but to encourage members to help us limit our power costs by reducing usage during peak times, as some of those peak days set a very large portion of our power bills. Anything that you can do to save energy on those days saves us all money in the end.

# A PERFECT STORM

UNEXPECTED SPRING EVENTS LEAD  
TO POWER COST ADJUSTMENT  
CHARGES THIS SUMMER



**M**other Nature handed the utility industry a perfect storm in mid-May when an early heat wave scorched the region. High temperatures ramped up demand for electricity when some utilities had power plants off-line for spring maintenance in preparation for the summer. A lack of generation resources combined with high fuel prices and not enough transmission capacity strained the regional grid, causing electricity prices to rise well beyond forecasted levels.

As a result, there was/will be a charge on members' June and July bills (for May/June electricity use). This is called a wholesale power cost adjustment (PCA) charge because there was a significant increase in the cost to purchase or produce electricity. The PCA charged in June was one-half of one cent (\$0.005544) per kilowatt-hour (kWh). For our average member using 1,000 kWh per month, that would be an extra \$5.54 on their bill. At the time of writing this article, July's PCA had yet to be determined.

"As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we set our retail electricity rates at a level that will absorb some price fluctuations or storm repairs without charging our members more than is necessary," said Ken Ceaglske, Taylor Electric CEO. "Given the extreme circumstances on the grid earlier this year, the PCA charge allows the cooperative to pay our wholesale power bill without affecting our base electricity rate."

## What is a Power Cost Adjustment?

A PCA occurs in two forms: charge and credit.

A PCA credit can occur when fuel costs are low and electricity production and sales are high. Last year, Dairyland Power Cooperative (our wholesale power provider) returned \$4 million to its member cooperatives, including Taylor Electric, because it made more money in the MISO (Midcontinent Independent System Operator) market than budgeted. At Taylor Electric, the PCA credit was given back to our members earlier in the year.

Dairyland Power Cooperative—our wholesale power provider—has an obligation to secure enough generation resources to cover the electricity needs of all 24 member cooperatives when they are at their peak demand. As a member-owner of Dairyland, Taylor Electric receives most

of our electricity needs from Dairyland. Power is provided in multiple ways:

- The power plants Dairyland owns (coal, natural gas, hydro, biogas)
- Purchase power agreements (PPAs), where Dairyland has agreed to purchase the electricity generated by a facility (solar, wind, hydro)
- Purchasing power, if needed, from the regional grid operator, MISO

The recent PCA charge is the result of multiple factors in March, April, and May 2022, including

- Higher-than-budgeted fuel costs (mainly, natural gas and coal)
- Transmission congestion within the regional grid, which limited the amount of available energy—especially renewable energy—that could be delivered where it was needed
- An unexpected heat wave when power plants were unavailable due to seasonal maintenance
- Higher-than-budgeted costs to purchase energy from the market when power plants were unavailable

As a generation and transmission cooperative, Dairyland's employees are dedicated to facility maintenance and strengthening power plant reliability. Additionally, Dairyland is proactively working to increase capacity on its transmission lines and is a partner in building the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line. CHC will move power from a variety of resources (primarily wind) to where it is needed. Dairyland places priority on the maintenance and upgrades necessary to ensure their generation resources are available, reliable, and ready to perform.

"Dairyland nor MISO can predict what Mother Nature will throw at us next, but we are closely monitoring other outside pressures that will impact our wholesale power rate, including supply chain, interest rates, fuel prices and energy market prices," said Dairyland's President and CEO Brent Ridge. "Sustainable, safe, reliable, and cost-effective electricity is our priority. Our members are counting on us."





# Congratulations

## TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S 2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



**Colby Elsner** is the son of Evan and Amy Elsner, Medford. Evan will be attending NTC in Wausau and will take business classes. He enjoys sports and played football and baseball throughout school.



**Alicia Venzke** is the daughter of Mike and Cathy Venzke, Medford. She will be attending UW-Oshkosh in the fall for nursing. She enjoys being outside, especially fishing, jet skiing and skiing.



**Jasiah Stange** is the daughter of Randy and MaryAnn Stange, Abbotsford. She will be attending UW-Stout in the fall to pursue a degree in interior design. She loves drawing, painting, cooking, and swimming. Jasiah has always had a love for anything that she can express herself through.



**Olivia Hammel** is the daughter of Shane and Patricia Hammel, Abbotsford. She will be attending Northcentral Technical College in the fall for business management and is interested in obtaining her real estate license. She enjoys playing sand volleyball.



**Kale Klussendorf** is the son of Ryan and Cheri Klussendorf, Medford. He is working as an apprentice at McMillan Electric and attending NTC this fall to become an electrician. He likes to work on restoring his truck and loves being outside.



**Ryanna Schrader** is the daughter of Jennifer Schrader, Rib Lake. Ryanna will be attending Chippewa Valley Technical College in Eau Claire to become a Certified Medical Assistant. In the fall she will be moving there. Her hopes are to one day become a pediatric nurse. Ryanna's interests are camping, four wheeling, hanging out with friends, and bowling and hunting.



**Emma Eckert** is the daughter of James and Heidi Eckert, Medford. She is planning to attend UW-Green Bay this fall majoring in Pre-Physical Therapy. Some of her hobbies are soccer, baking, snowboarding, and camping.



# CAN YOU HELP US FIND ANY OF THESE PEOPLE?

Taylor Electric Cooperative has capital credits for the following people, who we are unable to locate. If you know the current address of someone listed, here, or in cases where the person is deceased, contact information for a relative or benefactor who may have rightful claim to the capital credits, please let us know. Call us at 715-678-2411 nor 800-862-2407 with any information. Any unclaimed checks will revert to the Wisconsin Federated Youth Foundation, Inc. a charitable tax-exempt trust established by the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association for educational purposes.

- |                                |                                   |                                      |                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Aabel, Judith                  | Carr, Nancy                       | Grauman, Michael & Jill              | Larson, Charles Dr             | Rasmussen, Catherine             |
| Adams, Dale                    | Carr, Shannon                     | Gregg, Jerry & Gloria                | Larson, Doug & Karen           | Ricker, Harvey                   |
| Albert Estate Ed               | Carr, Shawn & Kyong               | Gruhlke Estate, Dorothy              | Lekie, Kalem                   | Rinehart, Glen                   |
| All Season Storage             | Catlin, Sandra                    | GTE Telephone Operations             | Lemke, Daniel                  | Rothamer, Randall &<br>Donna     |
| Anderson, Michael J            | Cedar Lane Dairy                  | Gustum, Kirk                         | Lucey, James                   | Ruch, Barbara                    |
| Anderson, Rodney &<br>Victoria | Cliver, Christine                 | Haase, Deborah                       | Lukaszewicz, Anna              | Scheuneman, James &<br>Jean      |
| Angelich Estate, Lorna         | Cox, Wendell                      | Hanson, Nancy                        | Mackie, Helen                  | Schuhmacher, Bill &<br>Cathy     |
| Arthur, James & Rosalie        | Crum, Kenneth                     | Harper, Duane & Diana                | Madsen, Christopher            | Schwenke Estate, Adres           |
| AT&T Building Operation        | Cushing, David E                  | Hein, Dawn                           | Maldonis, Ryan & Julie         | Seffron, Terry & Kathy           |
| Bacholl, Tammy                 | Dassow, Larry & Ellie             | Herbig, Joseph & Alice               | Marcott, Gary                  | Smith Jeffrey & Barbara          |
| Barina, Robert                 | Dauti, Argjente                   | Hessefort, Barbara                   | Marquardt, Nancy               | Smith, Colleen                   |
| Barker, Lloyd                  | Debie, Robert & Susie             | Hildebrandt, Charles M               | Martin, David                  | Smith, Jackie                    |
| Barnickle, Earl & Inez         | Degrad, Steve                     | Hoefl, Dolores                       | Marx, Joseph                   | Snell, Gregory A &<br>Debbie     |
| Benson, John                   | Devries, David & Areta            | Hoover, William & Connie             | MDS Acres Partnership          | Sorenson, Paul G & Darla         |
| Bergeson, Paul & Tammy         | Edelburg, Clifford Est            | Johnson William & Dian               | Mey-Kosbab, Cindy              | Sossong, James                   |
| Bergstrom, Todd S              | Edminster, Peggy J                | Jones, Michael A & Sharon L          | Milbauer, Jim                  | Spreen, Bryan W                  |
| Bernitt Estate Jr, William     | Edmunds, Jodi & Calvin<br>Krueger | Kaulfuss, Arch and Fay               | Miles, Tana                    | Stollfus, George & Amber         |
| Bosteder-Askin, Juleen         | Emens, David & Phyllis            | Kenny, Tom & Kristl                  | Mims, William                  | Sweeten, John and Marian         |
| Bourgerie, Jeff & Stephanie    | Fortner Estate, Gayle B           | Kreb, Keith H                        | Mueller, Gerald                | Thiede, Erwin A                  |
| Briggs, Richard & Linda        | Furseth, Andrew                   | Krieski, Larry & Monica              | Myers, Dale & Lynda            | Thomas, Everrett                 |
| Bruesewitz, Sherry             | Gallagher, Mike & Sue             | Krueger, Lori                        | Palmer, Ray and Angie          | Thomas, Terry & Jiskra,<br>Kathy |
| Busch, Rick                    | Pawlowski                         | Langiewicz, Richard &<br>Ludwig, Amy | Paulson, Sara & Jusin<br>Mallo | Verdone, Robert & Jane           |
|                                |                                   |                                      | Pautz Estate, Arlyn            | Verdone, Todd J                  |
|                                |                                   |                                      | Peneau, Leon & Nancy           | Voss, Robert                     |
|                                |                                   |                                      | Peterson, Carol                | Weister, Thomas & Cecille        |
|                                |                                   |                                      | Phillips, Jim & Stella         | Weyenberg, Gerald                |
|                                |                                   |                                      | Pozorski, David                | White, Kathy                     |
|                                |                                   |                                      | Puckett, Steve                 |                                  |
|                                |                                   |                                      | Quiring, Brent & Jennifer      |                                  |
|                                |                                   |                                      | Rasmussen, Gary & Sheri        |                                  |
|                                |                                   |                                      | Rasner, Richard A &<br>Shelia  |                                  |



**Celebrate Safely  
this Summer!**

Taylor Electric's office will be closed  
Monday, July 4

Fireworks displays are best left to the experts; however, if you choose to use legal fireworks, keep the following safety tips from the National Safety Council in mind:

- Never allow young children to use fireworks. Older children should use them only under close adult supervision.
- Anyone using fireworks or standing nearby should use protective eyewear.
- Use fireworks away from people, houses, and flammable material, and never point or throw them at another person.
- Only light one device at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting.
- Soak spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding.
- Consider safer alternatives to sparklers, which can burn at about 2,000 degrees, for young children. Glow sticks are a safer option.

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**Lainie Kellnhofer, Editor**

