

Taylor Report



September 2017

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MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

Thanks! Join us for Breakfast!

Thursday, October 5th at the Stetsonville Centennial Center from 6:30 AM—9:30 AM

Pick up your Green Bay Packer Calendar and more!

Watch for your capital credit checks coming at the end of September!!

Tropical Storm Harvey Devastates Texas

Tropical Storm Harvey hit Texas in late August and brought dangerous and life-threatening flooding to parts of Texas as well as Louisiana. In total, approximately 288,000 customers were without power as of Monday, August 28th. An estimated 55,000-60,000 co-op members were out of power in Southeast and South Central Texas.

Progress was made to restore power safely and efficiently in areas where damage assessments were completed and flooding was not an issue. Mutual assistance crews from throughout Texas responded on behalf of those co-ops that sustained damage and others from more than a dozen states offered resources to support restoration efforts. About one-third of the Texas Electric Cooperative (TEC) membership contributed crews and other resources towards the restoration efforts, demonstrating the true spirit of cooperatives.

NRECA, working through the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council, coordinated the electric power sector's response with the federal government at the highest levels. Energy Secretary Rick Perry worked diligently to ensure that all resource needs continued to be met and that there was ongoing coordination.

The following is a summary of outage information on August 28th after Harvey made landfall:

✦ **Victoria EC** lost service to nearly all of its 23,000 meters and difficult conditions limited restoration to nearly 4,000 meters. It now has 166 linemen from other Texas co-ops working on restoration—seven times its normal staffing level.

✦ **Guadalupe Valley EC** had 18,000 members affected by

the storm but now has 668 members remaining without power.

✦ **San Patricio EC** sustained near-total system outage on its 11,000 meters, but has restored all but 1,400.

✦ **Jackson EC** has no outage total available. Supported by mutual assistance from 30 linemen, Jackson put 1,900 locations back in service on Monday.

✦ **Nueces EC** lost 6,000 of 19,000 meters, but had all but 48 meters back online as of Monday.

✦ **Bluebonnet EC** had 1,782 members without power Aug. 27, but has restored power to all but 135.

✦ **Sam Houston EC** crews have restored power to 23,938 members. Currently, 4,262 members are without service.

In preparation for the storm's landfall, Texas Electric Cooperative delivered 24 loads of storm recovery poles ahead of Harvey's landfall and stored \$1.2 million of inventory in the storm damaged areas to help expedite restoration needs. After the first weekend that Harvey made landfall, TEC delivered 13 loads of storm recovery poles and four tractor trailer loads of restoration materials and supplies. They also relocated regional MD&S employees to help coordinate and issue materials into those areas of greatest need and provided meals and water to the restoration crews.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with those residents of Texas recovering from this massive storm as well as with the crews and support staff who are working diligently to restore services. —Jim Matheson, CEO-NRECA

Board Report – July 2017

- Approved June disbursements totaling \$669,979.85, reviewed credit card charges, accepted 12 new member applications, and May construction in the amount of \$76,538.86
- Reviewed financial results through June 30, 2017 with year-to-date showing a margin of \$196,461. There were 31 outages in June, with 83 total for the year, totaling 0.75 hours per member of outage time. Four of the outages in June were due to “extreme storm” conditions.
- The Board reviewed Dairyland Power Cooperative financial data. Then Director Zenner gave a report on the July Dairyland Board meeting which included: a discussion of wholesale power contract issues and options; investigation into the JPM Generating Station coal mill explosion resulting in a 10-day outage and restoral at about 75% capacity, with 2-week fall outage planned to complete repairs; addition of new load at Jo-Carroll Electric (IL) in 2018 rather than 2023 as previously expected; and, projected year-end 2017 margins of \$20.2 Million compared to budget of \$27.6 Million
- Early retirement payment to three estates was approved with total capital credits of \$1,059.05 to be paid out at the net present value of \$527.60.
- The member complaint log was reviewed and several issues discussed including: 24-months back billing for rented yard light, shed addition built around meter and transformer poles, 3-phase peak alert rate savings, and tree trimming issues
- Directors commented on the WECA District 1 meeting which included: a report on the transition from Cooperative Network to a stand-alone WECA entity; Dave Hischke, Oconto Electric Cooperative elected as WECA District 1 board member; 2 new staff positions in the 2018 WECA budget; and, a fall legislative fly-in to Washington DC.
- Director Waldhart reported on the July 6th safety meeting which included truck inspections, and OSHA required pole -top, basket, and self-rescue review and practice.
- A Member Appreciation event is being planned for the first week of October 2017 to be held at the Stetsonville Centennial Community Center.
- The Board and CEO reviewed the Co-op’s policy on internal control, fraud, and whistleblower protection.
- The Board was presented with the 2017 self-evaluation, for completion and discussion at the August board meeting.

Power Outages: Be Prepared September is National Preparedness Month!

Your electric service is generally very reliable; however, extreme weather conditions and other factors can lead to a temporary loss of power. To keep your family safe and comfortable during an outage or other emergency, it's important to be prepared. Here are some tips:

- Create an emergency preparedness kit, including a flashlight, batteries, cash and first aid supplies.
- Maintain supplies of healthy and filling snacks that don't require refrigeration, such as dried fruits, nuts and protein bars.
- Make sure you have alternative charging methods for your phone or any device that requires power.
- Purchase ice or freeze water-filled plastic containers to help keep food cold during a temporary power outage.
- Learn about the emergency plans established in your area by contacting your state or local emergency management agency.
- If you rely on anything that's battery-operated or power dependent, such as a medical device, have a backup plan.
- Maintain backup generators according to manufacturers' recommendations and store an adequate supply of fuel in a safe place.
- During an outage, monitor local radio stations or online sources for reports about power restoration. Disconnect or switch off appliances and electronic equipment that were running when the power went out. Avoid opening refrigerators and freezers to save cold air and preserve food longer.

Staying safe

Follow these measures to ensure the safety of you and your family during and after an outage.

- Generators. Operate backup generators safely by following manufacturer's instructions. Don't attempt to connect your generator to the electrical system; it can backfeed to outdoor utility lines and injure or kill utility service personnel. An automatic transfer switch—installed by a qualified electrician—will help to ensure safe operation.
- Refrigerated foods. Discard any perishable items in your refrigerator or freezer that may not be safe to consume. A refrigerator keeps food at a safe temperature for up to four hours during a power outage if it remains closed. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends discarding foods such as meat, poultry and eggs if they've been above 40°F for more than two hours.

For more tips and resources, see Power Outages from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. *Source: Questline*
Image source: iStock

