

JULY 2022

# POWERLINES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC

## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

### RIISING ELECTRICITY COSTS & REQUESTS TO REDUCE USAGE FOR RELIABILITY

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#### July Due Dates

The due dates for payment of electric bills are **July 19** and **26**.

wwwremc.com



MARY JO THOMAS,  
CEO

#### ECONOMIC DISRUPTIONS & RISING ELECTRICITY COSTS

Record high inflation, supply chain disruptions and the war in Ukraine are having a dramatic impact on our costs to supply electricity. Specifically,

natural gas, coal and other market power costs represent 35-40% of WWVREMC's annual operating costs. In less than a year, these costs have increased 150% and are continuing to rise.

This is a result of global supply and demand. Even here in Indiana we are impacted by the global economy, including the demand for U.S. coal in China and U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG) in Europe. This demand has been the largest driver of these cost increases.

The tight labor market and disruptions to global supply chains also created challenges with getting skilled people and materials we need to operate and maintain supply systems.

Why am I rehashing all this in my article and what does this have to do with WWVREMC? Our power supplier, Hoosier Energy, and WWVREMC are both non-profit organizations

owned by those we serve, including you. Hoosier Energy generates and transmits electric power, and WWVREMC distributes the power to homes, farms and businesses. The increases in coal and natural gas prices have had a corresponding impact on power market prices. Those types of cost changes flow through the Wholesale Power Adjustment (WPA) on your bill and it gives me no pleasure to report that the WPA for WWVREMC members will increase 6% to cover these costs. The increase is effective this month and will be applied to the WPA for bills due in August. In dollars, the increase is approximately \$5.00 per 1,000 kWh's.

Our hope is to hold rates as stable as we can while still providing safe, reliable power. However, Hoosier Energy's outlook for the year 2022 represents a 5% overall increase in wholesale rates compared to average levels over the past five years.

The global nature of these challenges makes it difficult to know exactly how long prices may remain elevated. We expect the challenging environment to continue into the foreseeable future, possibly the next few years.

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WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC'S

## CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

TO SUPPORT THE SHEDDING  
LIGHT ON HUNGER PROGRAM



## TIME TO CHIP IN

The cooperative's annual **Shedding Light on Hunger** golf tournament is July 30, 2022 at the Liberty Country Club.

Sponsor a flag or enter your team of four before July 18th. Email Sandy Cason at [scason@wwvremc.com](mailto:scason@wwvremc.com) or visit [www.wwvremc.com/shedding-light-hunger](http://www.wwvremc.com/shedding-light-hunger) for event details and forms.

## \$220 PER FOURSOME

All proceeds benefit Whitewater Valley REMC's **Shedding Light on Hunger** program.

Entry fee includes cart and green fees, lunch, and skins game entry.



# Requests to Reduce Usage for Reliability

Continued from Page 1

Balancing the demand for electricity with just-in-time supply (currently, electricity can't be stored in meaningful amounts) and then transmitting the electricity over an expansive grid of transmission and distribution lines make the U.S. electric grid the most complex machine in our nation's history.

As an industry, we are currently impacted by a number of domestic and international economic challenges. These challenges follow the national trend over the past several years of retiring coal generation and transitioning to more intermittent, renewable resources.

So far, the pace of generation additions hasn't kept pace with the retirements of dispatchable resources they will replace. As a result, we want everyone to be increasingly more aware of the possibility of requests to reduce electricity usage.

If the supply/demand problem becomes too great, our regional grid operator (MISO) will order short duration (30-60 minutes) rolling blackouts. This would happen to preserve the operational integrity of the grid and reduce the risk of prolonged or widespread power outages.

Generation reserves are typically available for unexpected events that impact the balance of supply and demand on the system, but they aren't as large as they once were. This situation increases the possibility for reductions in electricity more frequently to prevent large-scale power outages.

Power conservation requests are not uncommon. In fact, at press time, WWVREMC, and all Hoosier Energy distribution systems, had received three alerts this year. One in January and two in May. These alerts, or maximum generation emergency warnings, come from the Midcontinent Independent Transmission System Operator, Inc. (MISO) and have varying degrees of emergency levels. Until recently, these events have stayed at a low level

for communications only to power suppliers and never moved to levels in our area calling for voluntary conservation, load shedding or rolling blackouts.

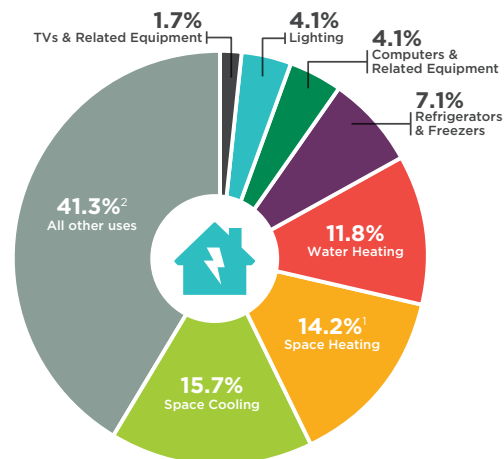
With the supply and demand issues we are facing it's a real possibility these alerts could escalate beyond the alert level. If the situation allows, WWVREMC will convey messages and requests for you to consume less energy during times when demand is high, and supply is constrained. We ask you to turn off any unnecessary lights, appliances, etc. Use the delayed start functions on appliances to move laundry and dishwashing to a later time in the day. Setting your thermostat slightly higher this summer will also help. Not only will these small steps help in our combined efforts to avoid rolling blackouts, but it will also reduce your power bill.

Please know we will continue to do everything we can to minimize the impact to you. We are working hard to make sure members are informed when these issues exist. We will continue to send messages and post on social media when these things happen. Messages and tips to help you optimize your energy consumption will also be shared.

Again, please be prepared for the possibility of outages. Should the situation dictate, power could be intentionally disconnected for periods of time (30-60 minutes) to preserve the integrity of the entire grid.

## How Americans Use Electricity

The latest data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows the combined use of clothes washers and dryers, dishwashers, small appliances and other electrical equipment (noted as "all other uses" below) accounts for the largest percentage of electricity consumption in American homes.



Source: Energy Information Administration 2021

<sup>1</sup>Includes miscellaneous appliances, clothes washers and dryers, stoves, dishwashers, heating elements, and motors.

# OPERATION ROUND UP®: A FEW CENTS CAN MAKE A BIG IMPACT

Can donating a few pennies a month to help others really make an impact? They can when those pennies are combined with similar donations from other electric cooperative members. That is the whole premise behind Operation Round Up. Through the aptly named program, those who receive their electric service from WWVREMC can “round up” their monthly bill to the nearest dollar. So, if your bill is \$92.52, it will be rounded up to \$93 with 48 cents deposited into the ORU fund. The average yearly contribution (a 50-cent contribution per month) is \$6. The maximum you’d contribute is just \$11.88 a year — or 99 cents a month. Your contribution is tax-deductible. It’s hard to believe such small donations could affect big change.

Through ORU, donations from you and other cooperative members are collected and placed in a trust. Non-profit organizations right in your community — like senior citizen programs, volunteer fire departments, and other programs benefiting those in need — can apply for grants through ORU. A volunteer board of trustees reviews the applications and chooses which programs ORU can help during that funding cycle.

“Operation Round Up’s mission to make a positive difference in our community fits in perfectly with WWVREMC’s role,” Sandy Cason, Director of Member Services and Corporate Relations said. “We’re happy we can offer this option to help our members help others.” Participation in ORU is voluntary, and members can join or drop out of the program at any time. Contact us or visit [www.wwvremc.com](http://www.wwvremc.com) for more information.

The WWVREMC Community Trust, Inc. trustees, through the Operation Round Up® program, disbursed \$7,050 to 13 organizations in the WWVREMC service area for the second quarter of 2022.

The next deadline for ORU applications is July 11. Applications are available online at [www.wwvremc.com](http://www.wwvremc.com).

## THE FOLLOWING LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVED GRANTS:

### **Bear Creek District - Boy Scouts Crossroads Council**

Assistance in registration, uniform and summer camp costs for scouts | **\$500**

### **Centerville Green Club**

Towards the purchase of 100 silver maple trees | **\$300**

### **Crossroad Christian Recovery Center for Women**

Towards the purchase of a washing machine and carbon monoxide detectors | **\$650**

### **Earlham College for Chanticleer String Quartet**

Children’s program for 2nd/3rd graders | **\$400**

### **Everton Volunteer Fire Department**

Funding to upgrade communications equipment | **\$800**

### **Franklin County 4-H**

8’ Vinyl tables for 4-H displays | **\$500**

### **Franklin County Recreational Baseball League**

Towards the purchase of a refrigerator and hot dog roller for the concession stand | **\$500**

### **Golden Tiger Band**

Winter percussion equipment | **\$300**

### **Hope Center**

Towards HVAC and plumbing upgrades | **\$500**

### **Imagination Library of Union County**

Imagination Library program costs | **\$500**

### **Liberty Fire Department**

Helmet replacements | **\$800**

### **Metamora Volunteer Fire Department**

Phase 2 of water rescue equipment project | **\$800**

### **The Town of West College Corner**

Playground equipment at ballpark | **\$500**

## PROGRAMS TO HELP YOU



We offer several programs to help optimize your energy consumption. Call us today or visit our website for more information.



Each month we hide an account number in the Powerlines. Did you find it?

## DAN R. GRABER WINS!

Dan R. Graber, West Harrison, found his hidden account number in the May newsletter and won a \$25 bill credit. Keep reading your Powerlines each month because the next hidden account number could be yours!

## Payment Options

### US Mail

Whitewater Valley REMC, P.O. Box 350  
Liberty, IN 47353

### SmartHub

Log-on at [www.vremc.com](http://www.vremc.com).

### Pay-by-Phone

Call 844-827-4759. Set up your PIN. Follow prompts.

### Liberty Office

In person or in the drop box.

### Automatic Withdrawal

Simply request a form and submit it to our office.

### FCN or Franklin County National Bank

In person or in the drop box. Bring payment stub.

### VanillaDirect

Visit [vanilladirect.com](http://vanilladirect.com) for payment locations and details.



**For more information about payment options, please call us:**

765-458-5171 or 1-800-529-5557

## Helpful Information

### Liberty Office Hours

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday

**CLOSED SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS.**

### To Report an Outage or Emergency

Call 1-800-776-0493, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Login to your SmartHub account and report your outage.

### Be ready to provide the following information:

- The name and account number under which your electric service is listed.
- Map location number.
- Your phone number - needed to call back or confirm power restoration.
- The type of problem you are experiencing - flickering lights, complete power outage, etc.

## Shedding Light on Hunger & Energy Efficiency



Did you know you can save energy and help your neighbors by participating in the cooperative's Shedding Light on Hunger program?

Please stop by our office, drop off at least two canned goods or nonperishable items, and trade those items for free light bulbs! The hidden account number is 493803. Not only are you helping those in need, but you will also be improving your homes lighting efficiency by upgrading to CFLs and LEDs. We have a variety of bulbs in stock and your donations go to local pantries and partners who help us delivery all supplies where they're needed most.



## Bill Credit Winners

Our monthly drawing for five \$20 bill credits from all voting members of the 2022 annual meeting continues. Here are the winners.

### JULY

**Don Wendel**, Cedar Grove

**David Tuttle**, Brookville

**Steven Lakes**, Centerville

**Kevin Turner**, Centerville

**Bryan Jennings**, Connersville



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