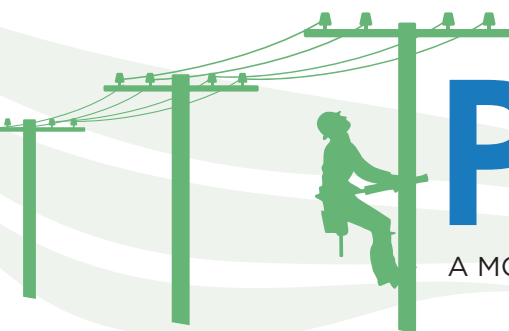


AUGUST 2022

POWERLINES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

OVERCOMING ENERGY CHALLENGES



MARY JO THOMAS,
CEO

By now, most of our members have been made aware of the importance of energy conservation as a mitigation effort. Education on what's happening around the country regarding the electric grid, capacity, demand and the weather are all important to understanding current events regarding reliable and dependable electricity. As I write this, it's still early in the season. In fact, we are only in the first week of summer. Today, the weather is so pleasant that I have my air conditioner turned off and my windows open. But that was not the case just a few days ago. And although the extreme high temperatures are a good indicator that we could have capacity problems, other things such as unscheduled generation maintenance or severe storms causing damage to equipment can also create problems for the electric grid and these may not have advance warning like a weather forecast.

Earlier this summer, we received an update from our power supplier, Hoosier Energy (HEPN), that given the outlook for hotter than normal temperatures, Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) forecasted that demand for the week of June 19 could potentially eclipse their all-time summer peak. With that outlook, MISO declared a hot weather alert, conservative operations and a capacity advisory across the entire footprint for much of that week. WWVREMC shared these hot weather alerts with members and asked you to help avoid using electricity during peak times and conserve electricity when possible. These actions are

not uncommon during extreme summer (and winter) conditions. The hidden account number is 1338100. However, the weather wasn't as extreme as anticipated and the actual load across the MISO footprint came in approximately 5% lower than originally expected. Generation and transmission systems also performed well across the footprint. HEPN's member load that week came in approximately 9% below our peak forecast.

I believe this is evidence of cooperative members working together to do their part to conserve. From residential members to commercial members, measures were taken. A couple of our largest loads in the Gateway Industrial Park, Sugar Creek Packing and Dot Foods, began looking at operations and steps they could take to reduce load. Here at our office, we shut off extra lights, raised thermostats, asked employees to turn off computers before leaving and ordered light/heat filtering shades for our south facing member entrance, just to name a few ways we amped up our conservation efforts. We are in a transition period as utilities across the nation are looking to balance resources into a blend to meet reliability expectations along with environmental regulations and concerns.

I share this information with you not to cause worry or panic, but to help educate everyone on the issues your cooperative is working on. I want to thank all of you for doing your part in curbing your electricity use when asked and being more aware of conservation and energy efficiency. These efforts help WWVREMC and will save you money as well by reducing the kWh's consumed and billed each month.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2

Director Candidate Applications
Spot the Electrical Hazard Contest Winner
Go Paperless, Get a \$5 Bill Credit

PAGE 3

Indiana Utility Receipts Tax Repeal
Board Approves Special Patronage Retirement

PAGE 4

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month
Bill Credit Winners

August Due Dates

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

    
wwwremc.com

Director Candidate Applications

AVAILABLE ON THE WEB

WWVREMC members interested in running for a seat on the WWVREMC Board of Directors are encouraged to read the Director Candidate Information Sheet and complete an application. The information sheet and application can be downloaded from the cooperative website.

Members interested in serving on the Nominating Committee can download the Nominating Committee Candidate Information Form. More information on the 2023 district election will be included in upcoming issues of the Powerlines. Applications must be received by November 1 for consideration at the 2023 nominating committee meeting.

SPOT THE ELECTRICAL HAZARD CONTEST WINNER

In May, we held an electrical safety hazard activity contest to help promote electrical safety education for kids. Della Whitaker, age 11, is the winner. Della is the daughter of Angie and Blane Chain, Cedar Grove. She received tickets to the Cincinnati Zoo as the winner.

Thanks to all the kids who submitted their activity pages.

For more ways to stay safe around electricity, visit our website at www.remc.com.



Go Paperless. Get a \$5 Bill Credit!

Paperless billing is not only a convenient way for you to pay your bill, but it also gives you access to your account and an easy location to store your bills. Going paperless allows you to pay your bills directly online, rather than needing to mail a payment or travel to pay your bill. It also allows you to have easy access to your billing history without the paper clutter at home.

Going paperless is great for the environment and members benefit in other ways too.

- A monthly email notification will be sent via email.
- See the identical bill statement online as you would receive at home.
- You will be able to access your SmartHub website or mobile app 24/7.

- Receive your statement in real-time without any delays.
- Reduces your paper clutter at home and no more misplaced bills.
- Pay your bill online using your checking account or credit card. You will receive an email confirmation of your payments made online or through our mobile app.
- Your Powerlines newsletter will be emailed to you so you won't miss important co-op news.

Sign up before October 1 to receive your power bill by email and receive a one-time \$5 bill credit.

Reduce the number of paper bills being sent to your home by enrolling in our paperless billing notifications. It's free and simple!

READY FOR A LITTLE GOOD NEWS?



BEGINNING JULY 1, WWVREMC WILL NO LONGER PAY THE INDIANA UTILITY RECEIPTS TAX, AND IT WILL BE PASSING THOSE SAVINGS ALONG TO THE MEMBERS.

This tax elimination will annually put an estimated \$28.5 million back in the pockets of 1.3 million Hoosiers served by the state's 38 electric cooperatives. WWVREMC members alone will save an estimated \$450,000 annually from the repeal of this tax.

This was made possible because of the efforts of Indiana's electric cooperatives advocating for their consumer-members and negotiating

with the Indiana General Assembly to repeal this tax, ultimately saving money for each and every electric cooperative member across Indiana.

In the past, this tax has been part of our base rates and part of the rate you pay and not a separate line item on the bill. We will separate out the credit on member's individual bills beginning in August until our next rate change.

Board Approves Special Patronage Retirement

GOAL IS TO OFFSET INCREASE IN THE WHOLESALE POWER ADJUSTMENT (WPA)

During their June board meeting, the board of directors discussed passing a special patronage retirement through the Wholesale Power Adjustment (WPA). The refund comes from a special retirement of Hoosier Energy (HEPN) capital credits allocated for 2021. The HEPN board approved the retirement in March and gained subsequent lender approval in May, making the payment possible.

This special retirement refund will be added to the WPA and will help offset the \$5.00 per 1,000 kWhs increase we announced last month. The WPA is adjusted monthly and is a per kWh charge. The average reduction for WWVREMC members is \$2.37 per 1,000 kWhs billed making the net increase approximately \$2.63 per 1,000 kWhs. The change will be part of the WPA calculation starting with bills mailed in August and will apply through the next twelve months.



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

NO JULY WINNER

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.remc.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 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.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

An easy way to save energy is to seal air leaks and holes where plumbing pipes run through walls in your home. You can also check wall-mounted cabinets for plumbing holes or air gaps in the back.

Fill any holes or gaps with spray foam. Wear protective gloves and use a damp rag for cleanup.

Source: Dept. of Energy



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.

AUGUST

Denise Thibaut, Liberty

Ronald R. Buckler, Brookville

Gina Robinson, Liberty

Marion J. Lawson, Connersville

Greenmeadow Farms Inc., Liberty



101 Brownsville Avenue, P.O. Box 349, Liberty, IN 47353
765-458-5171 • 1-800-529-5557

www.remc.com • info@www.remc.com

President & CEO - Mary Jo Thomas • Powerlines Editor - Sandy Cason