



# COMMON Ground

## NEMAHA-MARSHALL ELECTRIC CO-OP ASSN., INC.

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www.nemaha-marshall.coop



Nemaha-Marshall Electric  
Cooperative Association, Inc.

### COINCIDENT PEAK

**NOV. 26  
AT HOUR  
ENDING 9 A.M.**

## FROM THE MANAGER

# Balancing Electricity Supply and Demand



**Kathleen O'Brien**

Electricity is essential for nearly every aspect of daily life — so essential that we rarely think about how it's produced and delivered to our homes. You might be surprised to learn that behind the scenes, a network of experts is working daily (and even by the minute) to anticipate how much electricity you need before you even use it.

We're all connected to the electric grid, so ensuring the right amount of electricity for all involves a complex process of forecasting energy demand, planning for capacity and securing enough supply to meet Americans' needs.

### POWERFUL SOURCES

First, electricity must be generated at a power plant using either traditional sources, such as coal, natural gas or nuclear energy, or from renewable sources, such as solar, wind or hydropower.

At Nemaha-Marshall, we work closely with Evergy, our local wholesale power partner, to secure enough electricity for our communities, using a diverse mix of energy sources to generate the power we deliver to your home or business. By maintaining a diverse energy mix — coal, natural gas, wind, solar and hydropower — Nemaha-Marshall has options to ensure reliable power at a competitive cost.

On a larger scale, across the country, electricity supply and demand are managed through a market that includes long-term planning agreements, where electricity is bought and sold just

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## Mark Your Calendars!

### NEMAHA-MARSHALL ANNUAL MEETING

The Nemaha-Marshall Electric Annual Meeting will be held on **FEB. 18, 2025**, at the American Legion in Axtell. Registration will open at 10:30 a.m., lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m., and the business meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m.

We hope that you will attend the annual meeting and take part in the business of the cooperative.

ANNUAL MEETING IS  
**FEBRUARY**

**18**



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

**STAN BROXTERMAN**

*Lineman*

**IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY CAREER, WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

Adventurer and writer.

**WHAT'S ON YOUR LIFE BUCKET LIST? HAVE YOU CHECKED OFF ANY ITEMS?**

I don't have a bucket list, I just do what is running through my mind at the time.

**WHAT PODCASTS OR YOUTUBE CHANNELS CAN YOU LISTEN TO FOR HOURS?**

Can't sit still long enough to listen to anything for hours.

**WHAT HOBBY OR ACTIVITY DO YOU WISH YOU HAD MORE TIME FOR?**

Hiking and mountain climbing.

**DO YOU HAVE ANY ARTISTIC OR CREATIVE TALENTS?**

I forge knives, I build forges, I make lamps out of old transformers, I make guitars and anything else I think of.

**WHAT'S SOMETHING YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY BUT HAVEN'T YET?**

Write a book.

**SHARE A MOTTO, QUOTE OR MANTRA THAT INSPIRES YOU.**

If you have 50/50 chance of being right you will be wrong 75% of the time.

**WHAT QUALITY DO YOU ADMIRE MOST IN OTHERS?**

Honesty, be somebody I can trust.

**WHAT PERSONAL CHALLENGES HAVE SHAPED WHO YOU ARE?**

My job, my divorce.

**WHAT ADVENTURE HAVE YOU BEEN DYING TO GO ON?**

Hiking across Death Valley. Hiking up the mountain that overlooks Area 51.

**WHAT FOOD COULD YOU EAT DAILY AND NOT GET TIRED OF?**

Macaroni and cheese with hamburger or my chili.

**WHAT WOULD YOUR PERFECT SUNDAY LOOK LIKE?**

Holding my grandson, Emry, or talking with my parents, brother, sister-in-law and brother-in-law who have all passed away.

**WHAT ARE THREE FUN FACTS ABOUT YOU THAT WE MAY NOT KNOW.**

I like to spend time with my wife, children and grandchildren. I just bought a Suzuki trike. I enjoy making people laugh.

**WHAT SONG WOULD YOU SING ON KARAOKE NIGHT?**

"You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'"

**WHAT TOPIC COULD YOU TALK ENTHUSIASTICALLY ABOUT FOR HOURS?**

History or survival skills.

**ARE YOU A COLLECTOR OF ANYTHING?**

Anything old

**WHAT FOOD DO YOU THINK SHOULD BE ILLEGAL?**

Sauerkraut

## Watch for the Special February Issue

Your annual report will be included within the pages of the February issue of this magazine. A special cover wrap on the issue will include the notice of the annual meeting, agenda, trustee candidates and mail-in ballot.



### LOOK FOR THE KANSAS COUNTRY LIVING READERSHIP SURVEY IN YOUR EMAIL!

*Kansas Country Living* has engaged **INSIDE INFORMATION**, a research and data analytics company in Smithville, Missouri, to oversee a readership survey beginning this month. The short, 21-question survey will be conducted through email and will help *Kansas Country Living* — the official communication channel for your electric cooperative — measure reader engagement and perceptions about the publication and your electric cooperative's local pages.

Nemaha-Marshall has decided to continue using the *Kansas Country Living* to communicate with you in the centerspread. The magazine is the most cost-effective way to share essential business information with our consumer-members, along with articles about legislative and regulatory issues potentially affecting our rural way of life, cooperative youth programs, outage and construction activities, features highlighting the great state in which we live, safe electricity tips for around the farm and home, plus ways to use electricity wisely. By law, some of this information must be received by members and verified, and the magazine fulfills that requirement in the most cost-effective way possible.

If you are one of the lucky randomly selected readers to receive the survey, the email will come from **SURVEY@KANSASCOUNTRYLIVING.COM** and the email headline will clearly indicate it is a survey from *Kansas Country Living* magazine.

**When you complete the survey, you will be entered into a drawing for ONE OF 15 \$25 GIFT CARDS as our thank you for helping us keep you informed of co-op-related matters as an owner of NEMAHA-MARSHALL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE.**



# Balancing Electricity Supply and Demand *Continued from page 12A ►*

like other common goods and services. Because Nemaha-Marshall works with our wholesale power partner, we are able to pool resources and expertise to deliver affordable power to our local communities.

Electricity supply changes throughout the day because demand fluctuates based on consumers' needs. For example, Nemaha-Marshall knows that we need to ensure more electricity in the mornings when you're starting your day, and in the evenings when you're cooking dinner, running appliances and watching TV. Demand also increases when weather patterns change, such as extremely warm or cold temperatures.

## MANAGING SUPPLY AND DEMAND ACROSS THE GRID

Across the country, other electric utilities are managing the same task of balancing supply and demand, which is why we have a larger network of key players in place to ensure enough power is delivered across the grid.

In most cases, the amount of electricity generated and how much is sent to specific areas are coordinated and monitored by regional transmission organizations (RTOs) and independent system operators (ISOs). In Kansas, our RTO is the Southwest Power Pool, the monitor for our 14-state region. In other areas, individual electric utilities perform these tasks.

RTOs, ISOs and electric utilities act as air traffic controllers for the electric grid. They forecast when you, your neighbors and communities across a large region will need more power. These organizations take measured steps to ensure there's enough supply to meet demand.

## LOOKING AHEAD

As the energy sector undergoes rapid change, it's important for all consumers

to understand the basics of electricity supply and demand.

Electricity use in the U.S. is expected to rise to record highs this year and next, with the demand for electricity expected to at least double by 2050. At the same time, energy policies are pushing the early retirement of always-available generation sources, which will undoubtedly compromise reliable electricity.

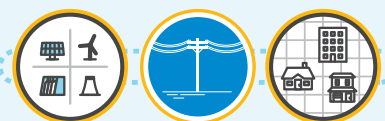
Nemaha-Marshall remains committed to providing affordable, reliable energy to the members we serve. That's why we are preparing now for increased demand and other challenges that could compromise our local electric supply.

Nemaha-Marshall has already started the process of exploring power supply options for 2029 when our contract with Evergy expires.

Managing the balancing act of electricity supply and demand is a complex job, which is why we have a network of utilities, power plant operators and energy traffic managers in place to direct the electricity we need and keep the electric grid balanced.

## A Balancing Act: ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Behind the scenes, a network of people and facilities work together to ensure you have electricity when you flip the switch.

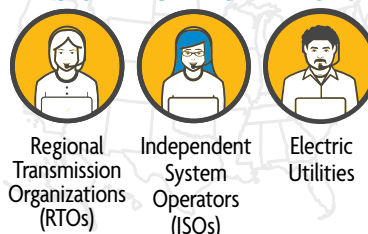


Electricity is generated at a power plant, then sent across the grid to homes, schools and businesses.

### FACTORS THAT IMPACT ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AND DEMAND

- Demand Surges
- Extreme Temperatures
- Infrastructure Costs and Availability
- Supply Chain Challenges
- Fuel Costs
- Federal and State Regulations

### REGIONAL GRID OPERATORS

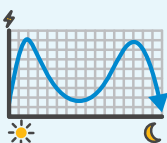


Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs)

Independent System Operators (ISOs)

Electric Utilities

The amount of electricity generated and how much is sent to where it's needed are typically coordinated and monitored by regional grid operators.



As electricity demand varies throughout the day, grid operators, power plant operators and electric utilities work to forecast, plan and purchase enough electricity for everyone.

Ensuring communities have the exact amount of electricity they need is a challenging task, but a network of industry experts make it happen every day.





An underground utility line is **DAMAGED ONCE EVERY 6 MINUTES** because someone didn't call 811.



Call 811, the "Call Before You Dig Number," at least **2 BUSINESS DAYS** prior to digging.



Even if you previously had underground utilities marked, **UTILITIES CAN SHIFT**, so it's best to call before starting a new project.



811 locators **DO NOT MARK PRIVATELY OWNED LINES**, underground sprinkler systems, invisible fences, and data communication systems. Call a private locator for these.



Once **ALL OF YOUR UTILITY AND PRIVATELY OWNED LINES** have been located, you can safely start your digging project!

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

## Underground Digging and Professional Excavation: Safety First With 811

Whether you're digging in your backyard or are a professional excavator, Dig Safe is a critical resource for you. No matter how deep you're digging, it's important to get your utility lines marked before doing so. Ensuring safety is crucial, and the only way you'll know if you're near a utility line is by getting your lines marked by professionals. Beneath every dig site lies a network of utility lines — electric, water, gas and telecommunications. Striking these lines can cause:

- ▶ Costly delays.
- ▶ Expensive repairs.
- ▶ Service disruptions to the community.
- ▶ And most importantly, serious injury or death.

Contacting 811 before digging helps prevent these risks.

### CONTACTING 811

When you contact 811, they will notify relevant utility companies to mark underground lines, free of charge, using colored flags or paint. This process usually only takes a few days.

The American Public Works Association's Uniform Color Code for marking utilities is universal and used by all professional underground utility locating companies:

- ▶ **RED** — electric
- ▶ **ORANGE** — communications, telephone/CATV
- ▶ **BLUE** — potable water
- ▶ **GREEN** — sewer/drainage
- ▶ **YELLOW** — gas/petroleum
- ▶ **PURPLE** — reclaimed water
- ▶ **WHITE** — premark site of proposed excavation

### BEST PRACTICES FOR DIGGING

After receiving utility markings, follow these practices:

- ▶ Respect the marks. Dig carefully around them.
- ▶ Maintain markings. Refresh if they fade or are removed.
- ▶ Verify responses. Ensure all utilities have reported.
- ▶ Hand dig in tolerance zones. Use hand tools within 18–24 inches of marked utilities.

Remember, 811 does not locate private utilities. Hire a private locator for systems including underground sprinklers, invisible fences, pool equipment, data communication systems or gas piping to a garage.

### TRAINING AND COMMUNICATION

Talk with individuals helping you at your home. Professionals should train their team on excavation procedures and the importance of contacting 811. Regular toolbox talks before digging can reinforce safe practices and potentially save lives.

Failing to contact 811 is unsafe and often illegal. Many states have laws requiring excavators to use the 811 system and to premark proposed sites, with potential fines for non-compliance.

### YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Always contact 811 before any excavation, no matter what the project size. Once utilities are located, wear proper protective gear before digging.

Whether you're digging a foundation for a skyscraper or installing a fence post, check before you dig. It's free, easy and helps keep your crew and the community out of harm's way. Prioritizing 811 reflects your commitment to safety and professionalism. Stay informed, stay prepared, and stay safe!