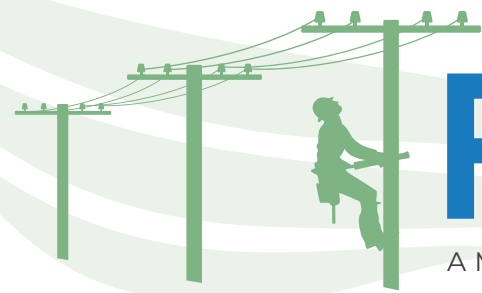


POWERLINES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

BALANCING ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AND DEMAND

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JANUARY DUE DATES

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



MARY JO THOMAS
CEO

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, nuclear energy, or from renewable sources, such as solar, wind, or hydropower.

At WWVREMC, we work closely with Hoosier Energy, our local wholesale power partner, to secure enough electricity for our communities. Our strategy incorporates a range of power sources, ensuring stable, affordable power for the communities we serve. As we diversify our energy portfolio, we are expanding our use of clean energy sources with wind, solar, landfill gas, hydropower, and other initiatives. We have also added natural gas to decrease our dependence on coal and added purchase power agreements with other energy providers to reduce operating risk. By maintaining a diverse energy mix, WWVREMC has options to ensure

reliable power at a competitive cost. These changes in our portfolio put downward pressure on rates and the wholesale power adjustment (WPA). This is good news for 2025 and into the future.

On a larger scale, electricity supply and demand across the country are managed through a market that includes long-term planning agreements, where electricity is bought and sold just like other common goods and services. Because WWVREMC works with our wholesale power partner, which is also a cooperative, we can 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, WWVREMC knows that we need to ensure more electricity in the mornings when you start your day and in the evenings when you cook dinner, run appliances, and watch TV. Demand also increases when weather patterns change, such as extremely warm or cold temperatures.

MANAGING SUPPLY AND DEMAND ACROSS THE GRID

Other electric utilities across the country 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 that enough power is delivered across the grid.

In most cases, the amount of electricity generated and how much is delivered to specific areas is coordinated and monitored by regional transmission organizations (RTOs) and independent system operators (ISOs). The hidden account number is 821301. In other areas, individual electric utilities perform these tasks.

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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.

For us, that entity is the Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO). They manage energy and reliability and operate reserve markets for an area serving 45 million customers.

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.

Winter is always a concern in these planning conversations. As I write this in late November,

the North American Electric Reliability Corp. (NERC) recently released its Winter Reliability Assessment. In this report, they state that we should have adequate resources for normal peak winter load. However, we are at risk of energy shortfalls or natural gas pipeline constraints if there is a prolonged cold snap. That risk comes from growing power demand and retired coal-fired and older gas-fired plants, according to the report. Our cooperative network continues to point out the need to swiftly implement a policy agenda that focuses on balancing affordability and reliability for cooperative families and businesses.

WVWREMC 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.

We participate annually with Hoosier Energy and the other seventeen distribution cooperatives to forecast our load growth and resource needs. We look at risk mitigation solutions to lower peak demands with demand response programs and talk with our industrial customers about participating as load-modifying resources (LMR). Our rebate

incentive programs are also part of these efforts to help you be more efficient in your use of electricity, which collectively reduces our whole cooperative's use of electricity.

Successfully managing the balance between electricity supply and demand requires the coordinated efforts of our network of utilities, power plant operators, and energy traffic managers. Together, they collaborate to help ensure that we receive the electricity we need while maintaining the stability of the electric grid for a reliable and efficient energy future.



PREPARING FOR WINTER STORMS

KNOWING WHAT TO DO BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER WINTER STORMS CAN KEEP YOU AND YOUR FAMILY SAFE.

Stay at least 35 feet away from a downed line. Don't touch it or anything in contact with it.

Consider all downed lines live and dangerous. **Call 911 and tell others nearby to stay away.**

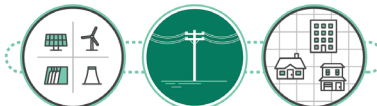
Prepare a safety kit for your home with at least two weeks of supplies, including: bottled water, non-perishable food, emergency blankets, first aid kit/medicine, flashlights, battery-operated or hand-crank radio, extra batteries, and toiletries.

Prepare a vehicle go-kit with at least three days of supplies, including: blankets, warm clothes, jumper cables, bottled water, non-perishable food, sand or kitty litter to help with tire traction, critical backup batteries, and chargers for your devices.



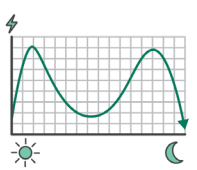
A Balancing Act: ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AND DEMAND

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.

The amount of electricity generated and how much is sent to where it's needed are typically coordinated and monitored by regional grid operators that essentially act as energy traffic managers.



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.

Regional Grid Operators

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

Factors that Impact Electricity Supply and Demand

- Demand Surges
- Extreme Temperatures
- Infrastructure Costs and Availability

- Supply Chain Challenges
- Fuel Costs
- Federal and State Regulations



Cooperative CALENDAR of STUDENT ART CONTEST

You could
win \$200

ENTER YOUR BEST ARTWORK
Fill the pages of the 2026 calendar!

DETAILS AND DEADLINE

A complete set of rules and required entry forms are available at indianaconnection.org/for-youth/art-contest. Artwork must be received by Feb. 28, 2025.

ELIGIBILITY

Indiana public, private or home-schooled students in kindergarten through 12th grade during the 2024-25 school year are eligible to enter the contest.

PRIZES

A first-place artist will be selected for each grade, K-12, and will receive \$200. The artwork of each grade level winner will also illustrate either the cover or a month of the calendar. Additional artists will earn honorable mention awards and will receive \$75. Their artwork will appear in a special section of the calendar. A "Best of Show" will be selected from among the first place winners and will receive an additional \$100.

INDIANA
CONNECTION

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QUESTIONS?

Contact Karlee Gable,
317.408.7903 or
kgable@indianaec.org.

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and make new friends this summer at Camp Kilowatt!

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NOW!

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APPLICATIONS ARE DUE
MARCH 3, 2025!

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CAMP TECUMSEH / BROOKSTON, IND

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JUNE 4-7, 2025



QUESTIONS ABOUT CAMP?

CONTACT JENNIFER SCOTT
jscott@wvremc.com or 765-223-2045

JUNE 15-22
2025

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HIDDEN ACCOUNT NUMBER

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

NO NOVEMBER WINNER

Keep reading your Powerlines each month. The next hidden account number could be yours!

PAYMENT OPTIONS

U.S. Mail

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

SmartHub

Log on at wwwremc.com.

Pay-by-Phone

Call 855-940-3859. 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.

Franklin County National Bank (FCN)

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

New location is 1201 S. State Road 101,
Liberty, IN 47353

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.
Log in 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.



BILL CREDIT WINNERS

Our monthly drawing for five \$20 bill credits from all voting members of the 2024 annual meeting continues. Here are the winners.

JANUARY

Andrew Fultz, Williamsburg

John Dickey, Brookville

Jay Ewing, Liberty

Jack Rosenberger, Bath

James Brattain, Centerville

save the date

2025 ANNUAL MEETING

We are excited to announce that the 2025 Annual Meeting will feature a new format at our new facility. This year, we will host a family-style event that will include food, family fun, and entertainment while still including pertinent information on the cooperative, prizes, scholarships, and the announcement of the election results. **Mark your calendars for the evening of June 12, 2025**, and stay tuned for further details in the upcoming months!



OFFICE CLOSING

Our office will be **closed on Monday, January 20th**, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, due to an all-employee training day.



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President & CEO - Mary Jo Thomas • Powerlines Editor - Jennifer Scott