

To safely provide reliable power and high-quality service to our cooperative members in an efficient and cost-effective manner.



SEPTEMBER 2026

the Circuit



Manager's Comments

by Jayson Bishop

The month of July brought a significant heat wave to our area. Four days registered over 100 degrees and an additional 11 days at 95 degrees or more. Those temperatures are not unheard of, but it has been a couple of years since we had a stretch quite like that. Heat waves like that take their toll on electric systems all over the country with irrigation load and air conditioning pushing our system to its limits.

On Sunday, July 26th all those factors combined to stress our system like never before. Air conditioners were cranking and the heat and lack of precipitation had most of the irrigation wells pumping on a day that hit 110 degrees. Plus, there was one other unexpected factor that didn't help the situation – the lack of much wind created a sauna effect for our substation transformers already struggling to cool themselves.

Because Midwest is an extreme summer peaking system, we are used to most of our system being near its limit. Thankfully that only lasts for a few weeks in July and August. Our all-time system peak of 153 MegaWatts was set in 2021 and basically equaled in 2022 and 2023. We were down slightly in 2024 and then didn't quite get to the same level last year because of historic rainfall. But we suddenly pushed up to 157 MegaWatts on that Sunday.

Managing that is still part of providing the reliable power that you expect and deserve. Our Load Management program – in addition to saving money on our cost of power – also gives our substations a little reprieve during the afternoon by curtailing some of the load during the hottest part of the day. But because we don't get billed for load on Sundays, we don't have any wells signed up to be controlled. That hasn't been an issue for several years, but the extreme heat changed that.

Fortunately, our Operations department was working for you, even on Sunday. They were monitoring our system and decided that it was to the point that we should ask for voluntary irrigation shut offs to avoid the possibility of damage to our system. Midwest's members responded amazingly, sacrificing their time and ability to water to help everyone. Our load went down by over 25 MegaWatts, basically the same as we would control on a regular control day.

Great job by everyone working together to achieve a positive outcome. The cooperative spirit in action!

CHECK IT OUT



Our website has been updated to make seeing your account, paying your bills, and exploring programs we offer easier for you!

www.midwestecc.com

DON'T GET OUT

If your machinery, vehicle or other equipment makes contact with a power line, guy wire or electrical box, **DO NOT** get out of your cab. Stray power could energize your equipment and the ground.

To avoid becoming electrocuted:

- Call 9-1-1 and wait for us to arrive to cut the power.
- Wait to exit your cab until the power is de-energized.

In rare cases you may need to exit your cab due to smoke or fire. If you must get out:

- Make a solid jump out without touching any part of the tractor or vehicle.
- Hop away as far as you can, keeping both feet together as you hop away.

For more information visit SafeElectricity.org.

Safe
Electricity.org

Safe Electricity® Storm Safety Kit



Drinking water & food
Blankets, pillows, & clothing



Basic first-aid supplies

Prescriptions



Basic toiletries

Flashlights



Battery-operated radio

Battery-operated clock



Extra supply of batteries

Phone



Cash and credit cards

Emergency numbers



Important documents (in a waterproof container)



Toys, books, & games

Baby supplies



Pet supplies

Midwest Electric Board of Directors

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Midwest Electric is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

In honor of Labor Day,
we will be **CLOSED**
Monday, September 7th