



By Tim Stewart, CEO/Manager

LATE SUMMER HEAT WAVES TEST ELECTRIC GRID

Dairyland Power Cooperative facilities, member conservation efforts helped keep the lights on



Clark Electric Cooperative

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A heat wave swept the nation the end of August, setting records from coast to coast and the Upper Midwest was not spared. Temperatures the week of Aug. 21—primarily Aug. 23 and Aug. 24—soared into the 90s with 100-degree temperatures peaking on Wednesday, Aug. 23. Compounding the problem were high humidity and low wind generation on the regional grid.

As the week began, the regional grid operator (Midcontinent Independent System Operator – MISO) issued alerts to power plant operators and transmission-line owners to suspend any non-essential maintenance or other activities

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—Brent Ridge, Dairyland Power President & CEO

that would increase the risk of a power outage if something went wrong (i.e., a tree branch falling into a line during right-of-way trimming).

On the morning of Aug. 24, MISO issued a Maximum Generation (Max Gen) Event. When a Max Gen Event is declared, MISO is signaling that the regional grid is at an increased risk of not being able to provide enough power to meet the needs of consumers. By

issuing a Max Gen Event, MISO was able to call upon additional resources to help balance electricity supply and demand.

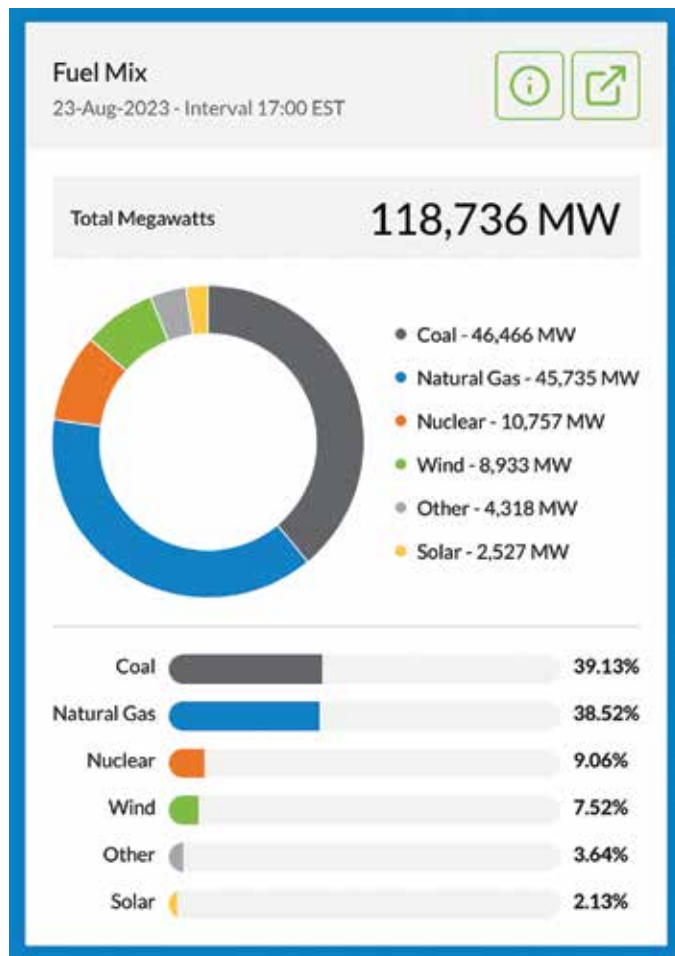
Dairyland Power Cooperative, our wholesale power provider, offered up all its power plants to run at full capacity. The mix included coal, natural gas, and hydroelectric power (Dairyland has power purchase agreements for most of its wind and solar facilities but does not operate the facilities). Additionally, Dairyland declared two Full Load Control events on Aug. 23 and 24 to help reduce members’ electricity use during times of both peak demand and peak prices. These coordinated efforts paid off as the grid remained stable and MISO never advanced further through its Max Gen declaration process.

In a statement issued after the heat wave, Dairyland President & CEO Brent Ridge gave credit to Dairyland’s board of directors and members “...for investing in safe, reliable power plant operations. I am also grateful for the diligence of our teams to maintain and prepare facilities for operations during the extreme weather swings we experience in our service territory.”

Ridge noted how crucial baseload generation and reliable transmission systems are to keeping the lights—and air conditioning—on during peak summer heat.

“The high demand for electricity during these extreme temperatures also reinforces the need for both the Nemadji Trail Energy Center power plant and the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line. The completion of these projects is critical to strengthen reliability and help us achieve our goals to reduce carbon throughout the entire region,” he said.

Preliminary data indicates that the Dairyland system—serving 24 electric cooperatives in a four-state region, including Clark Electric Cooperative—approached a record for peak demand on Wednesday, Aug. 23, between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m.; however, the deadline for this article was prior to the final calculations. The existing peak was 1,171 megawatts (MW), reached on June 29, 2018. Prior to August, the last time MISO



declared a Max Gen Event Step 2a was on Dec. 23, 2022, during Winter Storm Elliott.

What about September?

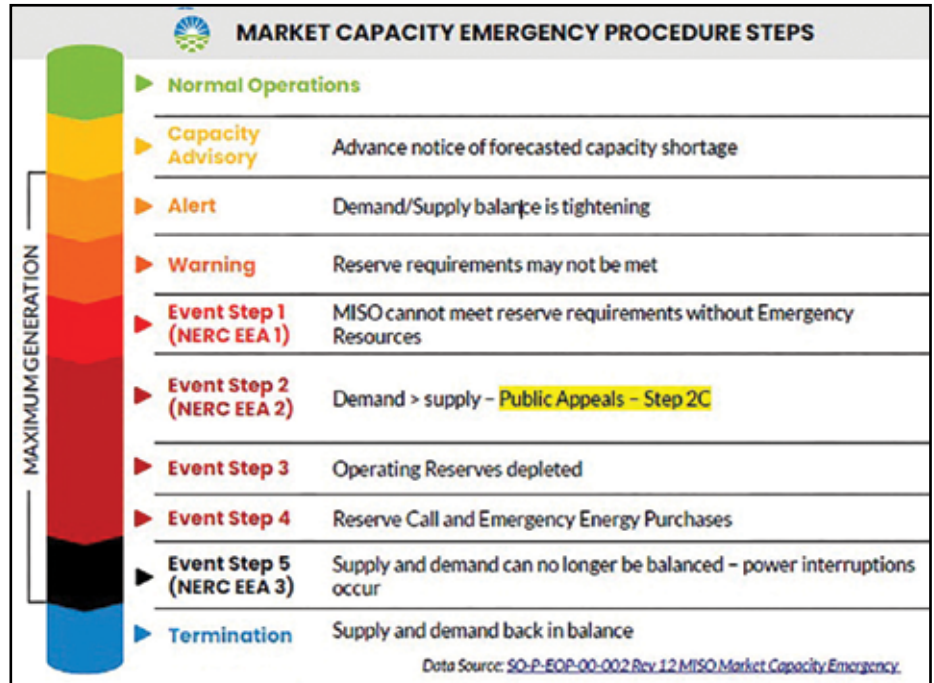
Hopefully the early September heat wave found many members enjoying their Labor Day weekend in the shade or by a lake or river. Even though temperatures soared into the upper 90s Sept. 3-5, MISO only declared a Hot Weather Alert. Why? Multiple reasons:

- Lower humidity
- The holiday weekend meant many businesses were shut down, thus reducing the demand for electricity during the hottest temperatures
- More power generation from wind resources on the grid

As a local electric cooperative, Clark Electric Cooperative remains committed to the delivery of safe, reliable, and cost-effective electricity to members' homes and businesses. Clark Electric Cooperative appreciates all members

who participate in the cooperative's load management/energy management program and, also, heeded calls to reduce unnecessary electricity use during

times of high energy use. Our members put the cooperative difference into practice. Thank you.



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PROVIDING POWER AND SO MUCH MORE

Cooperatives exist in many forms and deliver a host of products and services such as financial services, grocery/food, dairy, grain, and of course energy. The cooperative movement we know today traces its roots to a set of business guidelines drawn up by Charles Howarth, one of 28 weavers and artisans who founded the Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers in Rochdale, England, on December 21, 1844. The tradesmen had banded together to open a store selling food items they could not otherwise afford. The enterprise was so successful the group was able to eventually open a cooperative factory and textile mill.

When introduced in the United States by the National Grange in 1874, these “Rochdale Principles” fueled a cooperative explosion. They evolved into the seven cooperative principles used today. Although stated in many ways, the seven cooperative principles hold that a cooperative must provide:

1. Voluntary and Open Membership: Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political, or religious discrimination.

2. Democratic Member Control: Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership.

3. Members’ Economic Participation: Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative.

4. Autonomy and Independence: Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members.

5. Education, Training, and Information: Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperative.

OCTOBER IS CO-OP MONTH

6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives: Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures.

7. Concern for Community: While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

These principles are underpinned by six ideals—the values of Self-Help, Self-Responsibility, Democracy, Equality, Equity, and Solidarity.

Above and Beyond

Electric co-op membership offers value far beyond affordable, reliable electricity. At Clark Electric Cooperative, we work hard to deliver safe, affordable, and reliable electricity to our 9,600 members every day. But we don’t stop there. Because we’re a cooperative, we strive to find ways of providing real value to you and the communities we serve.

So what exactly does real value mean? In some ways it’s basic, like connecting with a real, local person when you call our office. It could be finding a copy of the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* in your mailbox every month, which keeps you informed about your co-op, the electric industry, and what’s happening at the state and federal levels. It’s also providing the best possible service at the best possible price, returning capital credits every year, and always remembering that members own this organization.

Real value also means getting the lights back on as quickly as possible and communicating with you during outages. The outage information map on our website allows you to see outages and track restoration progress. We also offer a service where we text you if you’re part of a predicted outage. The application works with smart phones, tablets, and computers.

Real value can also be seen with

cooperatives helping cooperatives. Electric co-ops nationwide have a mutual-aid agreement that brings line crews in from other co-ops to help us restore power in the event of major storms.

Real value is commitment to community. In addition to providing opportunities for our youth through scholarships and leadership training, Clark Electric Appliance and Satellite Inc. established the Adler-Clark Electric Community Commitment Foundation to support programs and events that enrich the lives of people in Clark County and the surrounding communities. To date, the Foundation has awarded \$636,710.

October marks National Co-op Month, when we talk about why our not-for-profit, consumer-owned business model is special. We set ourselves apart by offering our members real value, and working to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve. To learn more, visit www.cecoop.com.





With more electric vehicles on roadways, it is important for all emergency responders to have the proper safety training to make informed decisions to keep everyone involved safe.

First responders must make good judgments, and that requires them to be well versed in potential dangers they may encounter at the scene of a fire or other emergency.

On September 6, Mike Klimkosy and Cody Kastorff from EVSafe.org presented an electric vehicle safety training for local fire departments, law enforcement, and tow-truck operators from Clark, Marathon, and Jackson counties at Clark Electric Cooperative.

Approximately 50 participants were in attendance for the 3.5-hour training. The training presentation was focused around the safety of the emergency responders and those involved in the incident when responding to accidents and/or fires involving electric vehicles.



ENERGY ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR QUALIFYING MEMBERS

The winter heating season has now begun. It's important for you to make every attempt to keep current on your electric bill. We understand that things do happen that put financial burdens on people. Certain organizations can offer assistance or point you in the direction of a group that can help. The Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) administers the federally funded Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Public Benefits Energy Assistance Program. You may be eligible for services if:

- You received benefits from WHEAP or your gross income for the last three months is equal to or less than 60 percent of Wisconsin's state median income (SMI) for your family size.
- Your dwelling/apartment has not been weatherized before.
- Your household meets certain priorities that may include a high energy burden or use, an elderly or disabled member or a child under six.

WHEAP Income Guidelines for the 2023–2024 Heating Season (10/01/2023 through 9/30/2024)

60 percent of state median income guidelines

Household Size	One Month Income	Annual Income
1	\$ 2,820.67	\$33,848
2	\$ 3,688.58	\$44,263
3	\$ 4,556.50	\$54,678
4	\$ 5,424.50	\$65,094
5	\$ 6,292.42	\$75,509
6	\$ 7,160.33	\$85,924
7	\$ 7,323.00	\$87,876
8	\$ 7,485.75	\$89,829

For more information and application details, please contact your local office:

- Clark County:** Department of Social Services – 715-743-5233
- Chippewa County:** Department of Human Services/ Economic Support – 715-726-7862
- Marathon County:** Energy Services, Inc. – 715-842-3111
- Taylor County:** Human Services Department – 715-748-6123
- Wood County:** Department of Social Services, Wisconsin Rapids office – 715-421-8600; Marshfield office – 715-387-6374
- Jackson County:** Department of Health & Human Services – 715-284-4301


To learn more or to locate your local agency, call toll free 1-866-HEATWIS (432-8947) or visit homeenergyplus.wi.gov. Other resources include www.cecoop.com, click the Bill Payment Tab and then the energy assistant link; Focus on Energy Targeted Home Performance, 1-800-762-7077 or visit www.focusonenergy.com; Keep Wisconsin Warm Fund – Bill Pay Assistance, 1-800-981-WARM (9276) or visit www.kwwf.org. (Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration Brochure)

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**Clark Electric
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Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.