



By Tim Stewart, CEO/Manager

SUMMER ELECTRIC RELIABILITY PROJECTIONS



Clark Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

While nationwide reliability reports are mixed, locally, Dairyland Power is poised to fulfill members' electricity needs

Recent reports from the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) and North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) have mixed reviews for grid reliability this summer.

Both entities report MISO has adequate power resources to meet typical summer peak demand, but renewable accessibility will be key to meeting energy requirements. Although MISO has an elevated risk of not meeting power needs during times of peak demand, that is a level below the “high risk” category the region was in last summer. MISO and NERC’s slightly improved outlooks are due to a combination of lower demand, delayed power plant retirements and a neighboring grid operator offering its excess power to MISO during peak energy demand times.

“While an improvement over last year, the summer outlook is not perfect. We are confident in Dairyland’s ability to

...building 400 MW worth of wind farms will not fully replace the retirement of a 400 MW coal plant because the wind farm can only generate electricity when wind is available

provide members with the electricity they need this summer due to our robust generation portfolio and power purchase agreements to cover members’ forecasted needs, with a surplus,” said Dairyland President and CEO Brent Ridge. “Dairyland will continue to advocate for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek

transmission line to support the flow of renewable energy from the west and maximize renewable energy generation. We will also work for common-sense permitting reform that allows for robust review of new projects in a more efficient timeline to avoid major delays that negatively affect members and electricity reliability.”

Aggressive decarbonization goals have caused concern for MISO, NERC, and utilities in recent years. Most new construction of generation resources has been renewables, such as solar and wind, which are limited due to fuel source (the sun doesn’t shine at night and the wind doesn’t always blow). The intermittent nature of wind and solar means they cannot be relied upon at all times of the day. When baseload power plants retire (such as coal), that foundation of electricity reliability cracks. For example, building 400 MW worth of wind farms will not fully replace the retirement of

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About MISO: MISO (Midcontinent Independent System Operator) is an independent, not-for-profit, member-based organization that manages the flow of high-voltage electricity across 15 U.S. states and the Canadian province of Manitoba. Throughout its footprint, 45 million people depend on MISO to generate and transmit the right amount of electricity every minute of every day—reliably, dependably, and cost-effectively. Dairyland is part of MISO, selling all of the electricity it generates into the MISO market and purchasing what it needs to send to its members.

About NERC: The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) is a not-for-profit international regulatory authority whose mission is to assure the effective and efficient reduction of risks to the reliability and security of the grid. NERC develops and enforces Reliability Standards; annually assesses seasonal and long-term reliability; monitors the bulk power system through system awareness; and educates, trains, and certifies industry personnel. NERC’s area of responsibility spans the continental United States, Canada, and the northern portion of Baja California, Mexico. NERC is the Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) for North America, subject to oversight by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and governmental authorities in Canada. NERC’s jurisdiction includes users, owners and operators of the bulk power system, which serves nearly 400 million people.



UNDERGROUND EQUIPMENT CLEARANCES

Each year we contract with Karcz Utility Services to complete inspections and maintenance to our underground equipment like transformers or junction boxes. To some, such equipment—or perhaps better known as “the green metal box” you may see on your property or along roadways—is an eyesore that you may be tempted to conceal. However, having the proper clearance around our equipment is extremely important to ensure we can continue to provide safe and reliable service to our members.

As Karcz crews inspect and maintain our facilities, they often face the challenge of not being able to access our equipment. Many members want to beautify the equipment on their property, but those type of enhancements restrict us from doing our job. Whether we are updating our equipment or we need to restore service during a power outage, we need to be able to access our equipment.

Examples of landscaping obstructions include:

- Fences
- Flower beds
- Trees
- Retaining walls
- Trellises
- Shrubs
- Decks

To make sure we have the proper clearances for our equipment, leave at least 12 feet from the front (side with the lock) and four feet on all other sides of the ground-mounted equipment clear. If crews come across obstructions, they have the right to remove them or work will be postponed until obstructions have been removed. This means that if there is a power outage and we need to fix the problem in the transformer but there is a fence built around it, the member would need to relocate the fence before we'd be able to restore the outage.

What not to do:



IMPORTANT TIP: Before doing any digging for yard work or landscaping, call Diggers Hotline at 811. They will come to your property and locate any utility underground facilities for free.



HELP KEEP RATES DOWN

Watch & listen for peak alerts

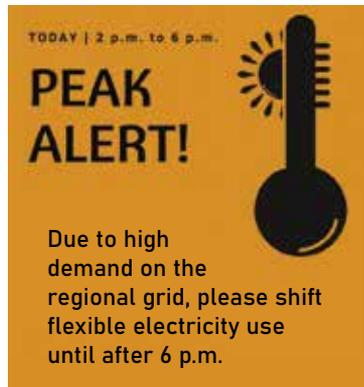
There may be days when you hear on a PEAK ALERT on the radio. When this happens, please shift your flexible electricity usage to after 6 p.m.

The Peak Alert will be issued due to high demand for electricity on the regional grid. Clark Electric Cooperative, along with other local Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, will be calling for extra electricity conservation efforts between 2 and 6 p.m. Elevated peak demand leads to higher power costs.

Here are a few things you can do: Please avoid using multiple large appliances at the same time, and wait until after 6 p.m. to run your dishwasher or washing machine. Use your grill to cook dinner outside and have a family picnic in the yard. Set your thermostat a few degrees higher.

As a cooperative member, you are part of something bigger. Every little effort you make benefits all the members of Clark Electric Cooperative and helps to keep your electricity rates stable and affordable.

When you hear PEAK ALERT please remember to shift flexible electricity use to 6 p.m. or later.



DAIRY FARM REWIRING LOAN AND GRANT PROGRAM

Many agricultural facilities are aging, and reinvestment in them has been made more difficult due to low milk prices. Wisconsin's electric cooperatives have created a farm re-wiring financial assistance program for dairy producers.



Dairy farmers who are members of electric cooperatives can apply to their local co-op for a cost-sharing package to re-wire their existing agricultural facilities to meet current electrical code standards. (New construction is not eligible.)

This process involves a pre-program inspection performed by a state-certified electrical inspector (which is provided by your cooperative), and an application to the cooperative for up to \$6,000 (or 20 percent) in grant funds and up to \$24,000 (or 80 percent) in low-interest loan funds. Farmers have five years to repay the loans.

The work must be completed by a master electrician licensed by the State of Wisconsin. Before final payment is made for the re-wiring project, the work must pass a final electrical inspection performed by the provided state-certified electrical inspector.

Wisconsin electric cooperatives are offering this financial assistance in order to protect the safety of their members and help preserve and extend the life of farmers' important assets. Clark Electric encourages its members with operating dairy farms to participate in the Safety First Wiring Program. Please contact our Operations Department for additional information on this program.

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a 400 MW coal plant because the wind farm can only generate electricity when wind is available (assuming there is an adequate transmission system in place to get the electricity to where it is needed). But the 400 MW coal plant could provide a steady source of electricity 24 hours a day.

The NERC report specifically states, "Effective preseason maintenance and preparations are particularly important to bulk power system reliability in severe or prolonged periods of above-normal temperatures."

Clark Electric Cooperative's wholesale power provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative, initiated a planned outage at its John P. Madgett Generating Station in Alma from April through mid-June. Part of the outage included an entire overhaul of its generating turbine, as well as improvements to precipitator equipment that will more than double the amount of fly ash able to be collected. Dairyland markets the fly ash for beneficial reuse, where it is recycled as a highly valued additive to cement and concrete applications. JPM is expected

to be on-line, providing reliable power for our region during critical summer days.

MISO's seasonal Planning Resource Auction (PRA) improves reliability planning by identifying requirements and resource accreditation for individual seasons. NERC's Summer Reliability Assessment identifies, assesses, and reports on areas of concern regarding the reliability of the North American bulk power system for the upcoming summer season. The summer period is June–August.

BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.

WATER

Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.

TOOLS

Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.

FIRST AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer, and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.

Always assume that power lines are energized, even if they are on the ground! Never try to move them.

Learn more at www.ready.gov

Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency

Clark Electric Cooperative
will be closed Tuesday, July 4.
Have a safe and happy holiday!

CALL 811
BEFORE
YOU DIG

Safe
Electricity.org

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Summer is a prime opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. To reduce home energy use, avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the electricity used to power the stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for air conditioning or cooling.

You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen (or the backyard) and find new ways to save energy!

Source: Dept. of Energy

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Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.