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Because It's Important

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

Your cooperative employees take the responsibility of providing electric service to members extremely seriously, because it is important. We recognize that the service we provide is no longer a luxury, but has become essential. Because of this and as I have described in recent months, we have taken steps to mitigate supply chain and power supply cost impacts on our membership.

Our efforts on your behalf are not limited to the edges of our service territory. We directly and indirectly discuss with, lobby, and provide industry expertise to lawmakers and agencies that are charged with making and implementing policies that directly impact the overall electric grid. I would like to focus on two specific areas that are time sensitive and can have a significant impact on grid sustainability and resilience. The areas are generation supply and

its transition to alternative sources, and the integration of additional demand in the form of electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure. By way of a disclaimer, Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) and I are not opposed to either of these initiatives. In fact, they represent great potential for our industry and CEC specifically. I think it is important to note that these two topics are directly related and have a significant impact on one another. Equally important is that the implementation policies of these initiatives are in direct conflict with one another.

Let's start with electric generation supply. For several years, there has been an emphasis on carbon free, renewable generation sources, typically solar and wind. Positives to these resources are the benefits to the environment and the additional diversity of resources. The transition has been slow as current

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Power Lines

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generation sources are established and cost effective. Recently, there have been government initiatives and subsidies to accelerate this transition. Setting aside any political issues for the purposes of this article, this acceleration creates concerns. Perhaps most importantly to those of us in the industry, solar and wind generators are not an equivalent replacement to traditional generators on the grid. Through our generation and transmission cooperative, CEC has an ownership stake in the Susquehanna nuclear generating station. This facility has a capacity of over 2,500 Megawatts (MW) on 1,075 acres. For comparison, a large solar facility (100 MW) in Nevada covers 640 acres, so an equivalent resource in solar would cover approximately 16,000 acres of land.

Another concern is that renewable resources are not schedulable. Nuclear, natural gas, and coal generators can increase and decrease their output as demand requires. Solar and wind facilities cannot. Improving technology in battery or other storage options may ultimately address this concern, but at this time, cannot address utility-scale generation. Accelerating this transition creates real concerns about the stability of the electric grid. For these reasons and others, our national (NRECA) and statewide (PREA) associations are working with lawmakers to ensure these concerns are taken into consideration as laws and policies are created.

Turning from supply to demand,

let's discuss the increased demand created by the increasing use of EVs. I have said to anyone who will listen that EVs represent an opportunity for load growth for our cooperative and that rural areas are uniquely positioned to implement their use with less impact on the grid. Rather than focus on the vehicles themselves and their viability for each individual consumer, I would like to focus on EVs as an electrical demand and the potential impact on the grid. Statistics indicate that most EV users will charge at home using lower-level chargers and use their vehicles for commuting and short trips to and from home. This type of charging creates little additional demand and, if done overnight during off-peak hours, will actually benefit the grid.

Current EV infrastructure funding, however, focuses on public fast-charging stations. These stations can fully charge vehicles in as fast as 15-20 minutes and create a significant demand on the grid, potentially during peak usage times. So again, putting political issues aside and focusing on the reliability and sustainability of the electric grid, the implementation of widespread use of EVs is not as simple as installing a charger and going. CEC, PREA and other cooperative leaders across the state have met several times with PennDOT to discuss these concerns and offer alternative solutions.

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"CEC, PREA and NRECA are actively working to ensure these issues are addressed and that the needs of members are considered as policies are written and implemented, because it's important."

Matt Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

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The conflicting policies I mentioned call for both an increase in electric demand and a decrease in schedulable baseload generation. Adequate supply of electricity for current needs and future growth that is schedulable and from a diverse mix of resources is vital to our ability to serve members. Managing increasing demand in the form of EV infrastructure is equally

important and offers great potential for the growth of your cooperative. It is extremely important that these initiatives are implemented well. If they are rushed and ultimately fail, it could set us back several years.

CEC, PREA and NRECA are actively working to ensure these issues are addressed and that the needs of members are considered as policies are written and implemented, because it's important.

2023 Good Neighbor Scholarship Program

CEC is proud to offer the Good Neighbor Scholarship again in 2023. Eligible candidates include high school seniors, currently enrolled college students, and adult members furthering their education. Home-school students and seasonal account members, or their children, are also welcome. We will award 10 scholarships of \$2,500 in May 2023.



Applicants must provide the following to qualify:

- Fully completed application.
- 500-word, typed essay answering: What does being a good neighbor mean to you? Describe activities you do to contribute to your community.

- An appropriate, high resolution portrait (school or sport) style photo.
- Letter of acceptance from a post-secondary institution.
- Letter of recommendation from a non-relative.

This award is limited to one scholarship per applicant, per lifetime. Applications can be submitted through CEC's website. Applicants must be able to communicate how they contribute non-paid time to help their community, school and/or church.

The funds used for these scholarships come from unclaimed capital credits and do not impact member rates in any way.

For more information and to apply, please visit www.central.coop. Deadline is March 15, 2023.

Youth Tour 2023 — Applications Due Feb. 3!

High school juniors — join students from across the country for a week long, FREE trip to Washington, D.C. from June 18-23!

Youth Tour offers students the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C. and experience the beauty and history of our nation's capital. Youth Tour participants from across the country will see the U.S. Capitol, meet with congressmen, tour national monuments and memorials, visit the National Zoo and Smithsonian, see a Kennedy Center production, and much more! Best of all, Youth Tour is FREE to students!

All high school juniors who reside in a home receiving electric service from CEC are eligible. All

application requirements are due to CEC by Feb. 3. Finalists are not only entitled to the trip to D.C., but are also eligible for special scholarships and national recognition.

The funds used for this program come from unclaimed capital credits and do not impact member rates in any way.

To learn more or to apply, visit www.central.coop.





The Safety Link



Don't be a stranger, to electrical danger.

Understanding Electricity and Breaker Panels



Manager of Safety
& Loss Control

Dylan Linke

When writing articles for this newsletter, choosing topics that are both interesting and useful to members is always a priority. This month, I want to share some general information about electricity and breaker panels.

Electricity is the flow of electrons through a material. Materials that allow electricity to flow are called conductors. Most metals are excellent conductors and one of the most common materials used for electrical wiring is copper. To provide protection from this flow, an insulator is used. Insulators, such as most plastics and rubber, resist the flow of electrons. Insulators and proper grounding help to prevent electrical shock.

Typically, electricity is provided to your home or building by way of underground or overhead power lines, which feed into a breaker panel. Each breaker in a panel represents a circuit supplying electricity to a designated area of your home or building.

Here are some basic safety considerations for breaker panels:

The breaker panel should always be accessible. Do not store any items on the floor area directly in front of the panel. Maintain an aisle in front of the panel that is at least three feet wide. The panel

should have a closed cover and should not be locked, unless work requires the cover to be locked.

The panel should have an index identifying each circuit breaker and what it supplies. It is usually found on the inside face of the cover. The index usually identifies the receptacles, general area, or equipment serviced by each circuit breaker. There should not be any missing breakers or openings in the breaker faceplate that may allow you to contact the electrified bus at the back of the panel.

Breakers should never be taped or otherwise secured in the “closed” (on) position. Each circuit breaker is rated for a maximum load (ampere). An ampere is a unit for measuring the rate of flow of electricity. If the load on a circuit exceeds the designated maximum for the breaker, the breaker “trips” and stops the flow of electricity. If the breaker is not allowed to trip, insulation and/or conductors could be damaged or melt from excessive heat. Fires or increased possibility to be shocked may also occur.

Lastly, breakers should not be taped in the “open” (off) position during repair or maintenance activity. Open breakers should be properly labeled or physically locked out.

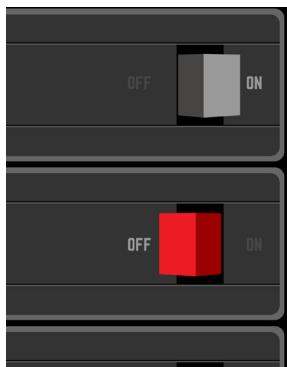
Electrical Safety Checkup: Electric Panel

Do you have recurring tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses?

- It may indicate you’re exceeding a safe level of electrical current.

Do you have arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs)?

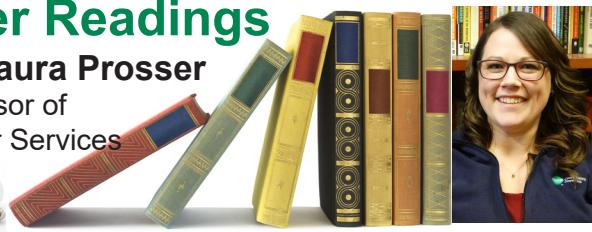
- These provide greater fire protection. Check your circuit breakers for the AFCI label.



Meter Readings

with Laura Prosser

Supervisor of
Member Services



Some folks love winter and others, like me, are not a fan, but I am sure we can certainly all agree high winter bills are never something to enjoy. Here are five tips to help increase your home's energy efficiency this winter.

1. Mind the thermostat. This is one of the easiest ways to manage your home energy use. We recommend setting your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower) when you're home. When you're sleeping or away for an extended period of time, try setting it between 58 and 62 degrees.

2. Button up your home. The Department of Energy estimates that air leaks account for 24-40% of the energy used for heating and cooling. Caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors is a simple, cost-effective way to increase comfort and save energy. If you can feel drafts while standing near a window or door, it likely needs to be sealed.

3. Use window coverings wisely. Open blinds, drapes, or other window coverings during the day to allow natural sunlight to warm your home. Close them at night to keep cold, drafty air out. If you feel cold air around windows, consider hanging thicker

Fight the Winter Chill and Save Energy

curtains or drapes; heavier window coverings can make a difference in blocking cold, outdoor air.

4. Consider your approach to appliance use. When combined, appliances and electronics account for a significant chunk of our home energy use, so assess how efficiently you're using them. For example, if you're running the dishwasher or clothes washer, only wash full loads. Power off electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like computers or game consoles.

5. Think outside the box. If you're still feeling chilly at home, think of other ways to warm up — beyond dialing up the thermostat. Add layers of clothing, wear thick socks and bundle up under blankets. You can even add layers to your home! If you have hard-surface flooring, consider purchasing an area rug to block cold air that leaks in through the floor.

By being proactive about saving energy, you can increase comfort and reduce monthly bills. To monitor your daily and even hourly electricity usage, check out SmartHub, our online account center at www.central.smarthub.coop/login.



Western PA Electricity Rates

	Price per kWh	Average electric bill based on 905 kWh*
Central Electric Cooperative	16.2¢	\$146.79 per month
Penelec	18¢	\$163.36 per month
Penn Power	16.3¢	\$147.17 per month
West Penn Power	13.2¢	\$119.60 per month

*905 kWh is the average monthly usage for CEC members.

Recipe of the Month

Good for You Sweet Potatoes

Ingredients:

- 2 large sweet potatoes, cut into 1-inch chunks
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- Salt to taste

Directions:

Spread sweet potato chunks out on a cookie sheet. Mix the olive oil, honey and lemon juice together, then pour evenly over the sweet potato chunks. Bake uncovered, stirring often, at 350 degrees for one hour.

*Thank you to Vickie Koach for
submitting this recipe!*

CEC Management Team

Matthew P. Boshaw
CEO & General Manager

Chester Conti
*Director of Finance and
Accounting/CFO*

Stephanie Deal
Director of Human Resources

Lisa A. Hoover
Director of Member Services

Christopher W. Kossman
Director of Information Technology

Fred E. Terwilliger
Assistant General Manager/COO

Read Power Lines and Win!

Last Issue's Winner:

David McDowell of Harrisville

Last Issue's E-Winner:

Edward Hoffman of East Brady

Read Power Lines for a chance to win a \$25 credit on your monthly electric bill by completing and returning the quiz below. You can also have a chance at another \$25 bill credit by submitting a quiz online at www.central.coop.

If you don't have access to the internet, indicate that on the quiz and we'll also enter you in the online drawing. Just complete and enclose the quiz and personal information below and return it with your monthly payment.

1. True or False: CEC, PREA and NRECA are working with lawmakers to ensure members are considered as policies are written and implemented.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: Breakers should always be taped in an on or off position.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: You should close blinds or window coverings at night to keep cold air out.

Answer: _____

How are we doing? (no wrong answer)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Acct. #: _____



Central Electric Cooperative

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716 Route 368, P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049

Newsletter Editor: Kessa Moore