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Kenneth Etzel
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Kenneth Durrett
Robert Smith
Jody Weaver
Richard Weaver



PowerLines

Photo from Unsplash

Always Learning

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

In February of this year, the State of Texas experienced what has been described as a power crisis. Stories were quick to blame individual factors for the issues that arose, but a closer look indicates there were many factors that led to the severity of the situation, and no one factor solely created the problems. I was asked to provide a presentation to our Board of Directors regarding the situation in Texas, and whether something similar is likely here in Pennsylvania. After the presentation, our board felt you might also value this information.

First, let me describe the event and cover the circumstances that led to the concerns. In February, a series of severe winter storms swept across the country, and the jet stream pushed them further south than is typical. This left Texas being abnormally affected by extremely cold temperatures. These extreme

temperatures and conditions led to a significant increase in electricity demand and generation interruptions. February would normally be a “shoulder” month in Texas, meaning a month electric utilities historically have lower demand and is when maintenance on generating resources is scheduled. Some generators were unavailable due to the weather and some because the extreme cold interrupted the supply of natural gas. An additional factor in the availability of supply is the fact the Texas electric grid is separate from other grids in the United States. Transmission capacity was also impacted by various generators being offline as well as weather related transmission outages. These circumstances led to the grid being dangerously close to collapse.

The combination of increased demand and generation supply being unavailable led to a dramatic

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Peak Alert Season has Started!

When you hear a Peak Alert announcement on the radio, please turn off all non-essential electric items, especially dehumidifiers and pool pumps, and set your air conditioner no lower than 78 degrees.

By decreasing electricity used during high-demand periods — when prices are at their highest — everyone can help stabilize future power costs.

Peak Alerts usually occur from June to September between 1 and 7 p.m.

Small adjustments in when, where, and how you use electricity do make a difference in energy costs during high-demand periods.

Together we can keep energy costs down!

increase in the price of electricity. Texas' grid has price caps in place to limit volatility in a deregulated market. The price spike hit that cap and led to rolling blackouts throughout the event. End consumers of electricity were not protected from the increased price because the retail choice market in Texas allows for variable rate contracts. These contracts provide decreased pricing during low demand and significant costs during high demand. The result was many consumers received huge electric bills.

If all of this were not enough, the distribution systems were dealing with widespread and extended outages because of the multiple winter storms. Ice, snow, and wind coupled with power supplier issues made for a terrible combination. There are significant issues, both financial and electrical, that are being addressed in Texas, but the answers are not simple, and the corrections will take time.

Now, the billion-dollar question, could this happen in Pennsylvania? All I can say for certain is our area has provisions in place which address all the concerns delineated. As a matter of fact, we had a similar situation in 2014 with the first arrival of the "polar vortex" and our electric grid and market handled the situation well, but changes were made to address concerns which did arise. This was confirmed by the fact that 2015 saw more extreme conditions than those in 2014 and we experienced none of those same concerns.

Pennsylvania's electric grid is

interconnected with other grids in the United States, offering emergency capacity from unaffected locations. Our grid operates over a much larger, diversified, multi-state area providing flexibility and redundancy of capacity as conditions warrant. As a cold weather state, our facilities are built with cold extremes taken into consideration. Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) and the other cooperatives in Pennsylvania are not exposed to retail choice and after 2014, variable rate contracts are no longer allowed here. Therefore, you would not be exposed to extreme price spikes in the market.

While these differences and preparations do not guarantee our area will not experience conditions which exceed our current capabilities, they do indicate and have demonstrated flexibility and resiliency in adapting to the circumstances as they arise. The information provided is not intended to be an indictment of the electric operations in Texas, they were faced with many factors which combined to overtake contingency plans they had in place. Instead, sharing this information is intended to highlight the steps we have taken and point out that we are paying attention and are taking the opportunity to learn from this crisis without having to experience it.

I hope you find this informative and that it provides some piece of mind that your electricity suppliers are working diligently on your behalf.



The Safety Linke



Don't be a stranger, to electrical danger.

Distractions



Manager of Safety
& Loss Control

Dylan Linke

Some distractions in our daily lives are out of our control, while others can be caused by an action taken, or a decision made, without regard to potential consequences or outcomes. It is important to recognize both types of distractions and make appropriate accommodations to keeps ourselves and those around us safe.

For example, an operator of an excavator strikes a water line while digging a trench — causing water to spray around. Then, a worker in the trench takes his shovel and starts tossing water at the excavator operator — in a water-fight way. The operator then tries to close the window to protect himself from the water. But he inadvertently hits the lever controlling the bucket. The bucket then moves, crushing the trench worker against the wall of the trench.

Horseplay starts as fun but can end in tragedy. Above, the water line break was enough of a distraction to cause a safety concern without the added confusion of a water fight — horseplay. This

is why it is important to never give in to the temptation of workplace pranks. They can take everyone's mind off the number one priority — working safely.

Whether we are talking about work-related situations or conditions, or distractions from our personal lives, it is always important to maintain focus on the task at hand.

Always allow for an adequate amount of time for rest and planning around an event, task, or activity. If you find yourself stressed or rushed into, or involving, any situation, do not be afraid to stop and consider the outcomes of your decisions or actions. Nine times out of ten, you will look back and thank yourself for that brief pause.

As we enter the summer months and the weather continues to get nicer, be cognizant of the hazards associated with distractions and always remember there is nothing more important than our individual safety and the safety of those around us.

2021 Good Neighbor Scholarship Winners

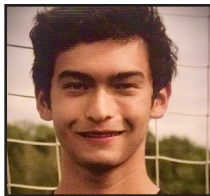
Congratulations to the 2021 recipients of the Good Neighbor Scholarship! CEC awarded scholarships of \$2,500 each to five members (or members' children) who will further their education in 2021. For more information on this program, please visit www.central.coop.



Makenna Armagost
A-C Valley
High School



Isabella DiPietrantonio
Beaver Area
High School



Miles Hoffman
Franklin Area
High School



Danae Hurrelbrink
Keystone
High School



Sarah Stallard
Slippery Rock
University

Don't Forget! Outage Alerts are Now Available!

CEC now has a new way for you to receive outage notifications specific to your service location through SmartHub. This new communication tool allows CEC to contact you when your power is out, give you an estimated time of restoration, and let you know when your power is restored.

You must have a SmartHub account and sign up to receive outage notifications.

All members who are signed up to receive notifications before July 2 will be entered into a drawing to win an Outage Preparedness Kit.

To receive notifications, CEC must have up-to-

date contact information on your SmartHub account and you must be signed up. Members who are currently signed up for SmartHub will also need to verify that their account and contact information is up to date and sign up for notifications.

To learn how to sign up for Outage Notifications, or to learn more, visit www.central.coop.



Meter Readings

with Laura Hensley

Member Energy Specialist



Peak Alerts

Every summer CEC announces Peak Alerts on local radio stations. Perhaps on a very warm summer afternoon you have heard us asking you to turn off unnecessary electric items. We run these spots to encourage you to reduce electricity usage during periods of peak demand, when electricity costs the most to purchase and generating facilities are at maximum capacities.

The specific days we alert you to conserve are determined by experts at Allegheny Electric Cooperative, our power supplier. When co-op members across the state help to conserve electricity in the summer, when we have our biggest demand peaks of the year, we all benefit with stable rates. You will hear these alerts on the warmest summer days, from 1 to 7 p.m.

When you hear a Peak Alert this summer, please turn off running pool pumps, dehumidifiers, and other unnecessary electric items until after 7 p.m., and set your air conditioner no lower than 78 degrees.

Peak Alerts and Pool Pumps

Pool Pumps

In our Peak Alert advertisements, we often note turning off pool pumps. We mention pool pumps because we know not all things can wait until later, but a pool pump running is one thing that easily can.

According to the Department of Energy, pool pumps often run much longer than necessary. While running the pump does circulate chemicals and remove debris, it is not necessary for it to run all the time. Try running the pump for just a few hours daily, for several short cycles throughout the day to manage water quality. Keep in mind, the best defense against debris is a skimmer or vacuum and when it comes to growth of algae, you will have the best luck with chemicals and some scrubbing.

For overall energy savings, be sure to install the smallest pump needed for your swimming pool and when purchasing a pool pump look for one with an Energy Star rating. Install a timer to be sure the pump is not running more than necessary and is not running during peak periods.

2021 Annual Meeting Notice

Due to continued uncertainty regarding state regulations and concerns for everyone's safety, CEC has again regrettably decided to cancel its traditional annual meeting and member appreciation event at Whitehall Camp and Conference Center. However, the director election and a nonpublic, annual business meeting will still take place.

Members will still receive a director election ballot in July. However, this ballot has again been expanded to allow for member participation within the respective areas of the normal business meeting.

The results from this ballot will be pronounced at the nonpublic, annual business meeting on Aug. 20 at 6:30 p.m. at CEC's headquarters in Parker. Detailed directions on completing the ballot and how to vote can be found on the ballot.

Additionally, if you have any questions you'd like addressed at the annual business meeting, please share them with CEC either by completing the form below or visiting CEC's website.

It is out of an abundance of caution for the well-being of the cooperative's members, that CEC has decided to hold the annual business meeting without the physical presence of the membership and is accommodating members' participation with an expanded ballot. After the meeting, the results will be posted to CEC's website. A recording of the meeting will also be available for members to view.

For additional information on the director election or nonpublic, annual business meeting, please visit the annual meeting page of CEC's website.

Submit a Question to be Addressed at the Nonpublic, Annual Business Meeting

Name: _____

CEC Account Number: _____

Question: _____

If you need more space, please submit through www.central.coop or include additional sheets.

Tellers Needed for Election

CEC is seeking members to serve as tellers for the annual election on Aug. 20. The committee tabulates director election ballots received by the Judge of Elections. Tellers must arrive at CEC's office by 3:30 p.m. Four tellers are needed.

If more members volunteer than are needed, a drawing will be held by the Judge of Elections. If there are no volunteers, CEC's Board of Directors will appoint needed tellers.

2021 Tellers Committee

Name: _____

Address: _____

Account: _____ Phone: _____ County: _____

Return coupon by July 16, 2021 to: Central Electric Cooperative, Attn: Renee Tritten, P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049.

Recipe of the Month

Strawberry Shortcake

Strawberry Topping Ingredients:

- 1 quart strawberries; rinsed and sliced
- 1/4 cup sugar

Directions:

Mix strawberries and sugar; set aside.

Shortcake Ingredients:

- 2 cups flour
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 3/4 cup milk
- 2 eggs; slightly beaten

Directions:

Sift flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt together. Cut in shortening until particles are fine (like making pie crust). In separate bowl, combine milk and eggs. Stir the milk mixture into the dry ingredients until moistened. Bake in greased 9-inch square pan at 375 degrees for 25-30 minutes. Spoon strawberries over cooled, sliced shortcake.

Thank you to Linda Knott for submitting this recipe!

CEC Management Team

Matthew P. Boshaw
CEO & General Manager

Chester Conti
Director of Finance and
Accounting/CFO

Christopher W. Kossman
Director of Information Technology

Stephanie Deal
Director of Human Resources

Fred E. Terwilliger
Assistant General Manager/COO

Lisa A. Hoover
Director of Member Services

Read Power Lines and Win!

Last Issue's Winner:

Janet Lopeno of Polk

Last Issue's E-Winner:

April Willis of Kennerdell

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: When co-op members conserve electricity in the summer, all members benefit with stable rates.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: Variable rate contracts are allowed in Pennsylvania.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: If you sign up for outage notifications before July 2, you could win an Outage Preparedness Kit.

Answer: _____

How are we doing? (no wrong answer)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Acct. #: _____



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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

Newsletter Editor: Renee Tritten