

PHONE NUMBERS & HOURS

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Web Site..... **www.mcremc.coop**
Call Before You Dig..... 811
Office hours: 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Monday-Friday

CUSTOMER CONTACTS

James Yates
Chief Executive Officer

Robert Schwartz
Director of Operations

Charles Lewis
Director of Office Services

Jody Long
Director of Finance and Accounting

Susan Wagoner
Director of Marketing

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

- Check circuit breakers or fuses first.
- If possible, check to see if neighbors' lights are also out.
- Phone 765-473-6668 or toll free 800-844-6668 24 hours a day and report the outage. Give the name the service is listed under. If possible, give map location and account number from bill.
- Give us your phone number in case we need to call you back. State the problem, such as loss of power, partial power, dimming or flickering lights.
- Please be patient, our crews will restore service as quickly as possible.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charles W. Wilson, president
Donald E. Willson, vice president
Paul D. Childers, secretary-treasurer
Mark B. Hahn
D. Marion Hopkins Jr.
Dennis Jim Savage
Fred Warner

Are you a winner this month?

Here on these blue-edged pages, four account numbers are hidden. Find your account number, and call us during office hours by the last working day of the month, and a \$20 credit will appear on a future month's bill. Wondering what your account number is? Check your Miami-Cass REMC bill. It's on there twice. Every month, four members have a chance to win!

CEO COMMENTS

Exploring alternative energy

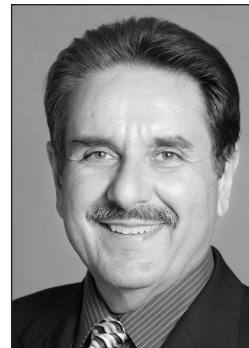
Over the past several months, I have written a lot about greenhouse gas emissions and how the pending climate change legislation could affect your future electric bills. Although this is an extremely important issue that could make a huge difference on what you pay for electricity in the future, I think other issues are also worthy of discussion. Alternative energy is an area I want to explore this month.

Your cooperative chose, through its association with our power supplier, Wabash Valley Power Association (WVPA), to make alternative energy an important part of its power supply portfolio. Approximately 4 percent of the power we purchase from WVPA on your behalf is generated from alternative energy sources. Both Miami-Cass REMC and WVPA believe it is important to act in a manner that demonstrates our commitment to the environment. The result is that WVPA has entered into three different areas which are now paying dividends for our members. These three areas are landfill gas-to-energy generation, anaerobic digesters and wind generation.

WVPA has continued to purchase the most cost-effective power for the member distribution cooperatives it serves, like Miami-Cass REMC. Many people believe wind energy is the ultimate answer for this country and our future power supply needs. I believe wind is a part of the answer, but not the only answer. Although the wind is clean and free, there are some problems inherent to wind generation.

Since energy from these wind sources can't be stored, it must be used as it is produced. This creates a couple of problems. One problem is that it may be replacing lower-cost power from baseload, coal-fired power plants which are operating much more efficiently. The other problem is during the hottest times of the summer (like July and August), when everyone's air conditioners are humming along and there is a great demand for electricity, there is very little or no wind available.

So when market prices for electricity are at their highest, wind in our area is most likely not available. In areas of the country where the wind is more readily available on a more consistent basis, there are no transmission lines to get the electricity to the areas where the large loads are concentrated. Although the wind is free, that's about all that's free when it comes to wind generation. At least for now, wind is a more expensive energy choice and a far less reliable source of power. It has been said that in order to provide for our nation's electricity needs through wind generation, we would need



James Yates
Chief Executive Officer

to cover approximately 21 percent of our country's landmass with wind generators!

One of the other alternative energy sources is anaerobic digesters. Currently, WVPA purchases power from three of these units which are located at three different dairies owned by the Bos family in northwest Indiana on Jasper County REMC lines. Methane gas is collected from the animal waste that is produced by 10,500 cows at the dairies, and it is, in turn, used to power the generators that produce the electricity used on the farms. Any excess energy is purchased by WVPA.

The last alternative source to discuss is landfill gas. Similar to the methane gas that's produced in the anaerobic digesters mentioned above, landfill gas is produced by decaying trash in landfills. This gas, which is over 54 percent methane, is then collected and used to run a gas-powered generator. In most landfills that gas is burned off. However, with today's technology, WVPA is able to transform the otherwise wasted gas into electricity. The electric energy being produced from these units is very reliable and extremely cost-competitive when compared to all other baseload options available today. 506600

Through an exclusive arrangement with Waste Management of Indiana, WVPA owns 44 generating units at seven landfill facilities throughout the northern half of Indiana. One of these facilities is located at the Waste Management landfill near Logansport in Cass County. They will also break ground on another plant in Elkhart County very soon. Each of these plants uses Hoosier-manufactured Caterpillar engine generators.

Currently, all of these facilities that are online produce enough power to supply all of Miami-Cass REMC's yearly needs, along with half of one of our neighboring cooperative's needs. The units located at Logansport produce enough energy to power over 2,000 homes, based on the average Miami-Cass REMC home's use.

According to WVPA CEO Rick Coons, "We pursue alternative generation whenever it makes good economic sense and because it's simply the right thing to do. By adding a Green-e-certified product to our program, it further demonstrates our commitment to our members, to the environment, and to our industry."

I hope you find this information thought-provoking and useful. As always, if you would like to discuss this topic in more detail, please feel free to contact me. My light is always on!

Alternative energy may be closer than you think

You've probably been hearing a lot about alternative, or renewable, energy these days. As our nation looks for solutions to the challenges posed by climate change and our ever-growing energy use, many people view these alternatives as a key component in a sensible energy future.

But, what you may not know is that Miami-Cass REMC is already playing a significant role in the development of alternative energy resources, as this month's column from CEO Jim Yates describes.

Like most co-ops nationwide, we don't actually generate our own power. Instead we're part of a larger association that exists to provide power to its member cooperatives. That association is essentially a wholesaler — working on our behalf to strategically and economically generate and purchase electricity, which then travels across transmission lines to substations we manage locally. From those substations, we deliver power to your home or business.

Several years ago we realized it was important to begin developing and using alternative energy sources. As a result of that proactive stance, we're proud to be viewed as one of the Midwest's leaders in the development of alternative energy resources. In addition to traditional sources of



Kim Burton
Energy Advisor

fuel, like coal and natural gas, the electricity we supply comes from wind, cows and trash!

Wind power is generated through huge turbines — much larger and taller than the quaint windmills that used to dot the countryside — located in rural areas where wind conditions are optimal. As the turbines rotate, they spin generators that produce electricity with no emissions. An important detail, though, is that the generators only spin when the wind is blowing!

Biomass power is electricity that is generated from naturally occurring gases. We have two sources for biomass: landfills and dairy farms. At 12 landfills throughout Indiana, we have generators in place that use the methane produced from the garbage to create electricity. In another example, anaerobic digesters on large dairy farms capture and convert the gases from animal waste to electricity. 610213

Of course, using alternative sources of energy is just one way to reduce our nation's appetite for fossil fuels. Making your home as energy-efficient as possible helps, too. If you would like to know more about steps you can take to use less electricity, contact me at kimb@mcremc.coop. It is another way we are ready to provide free advice when you want it and help when you need it.



Wind power is generated through huge turbines — much larger and taller than the quaint windmills that used to dot the countryside.



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
The power of human connections®

Facts about alternative energy and our co-op

- Miami-Cass REMC is part of an association playing a significant role in the development of alternative energy resources.
- We're considered a leader in the Midwest in terms of the development of alternative energy resources.
- Our alternative energy resources include wind, landfill gas and manure.
- Our co-op is part of a larger association that exists to provide electricity to its members. It generates and purchases the electricity that we then deliver to customers at their homes and businesses.
- Wind power is generated through huge turbines that spin generators.
- Power plants at landfills turn naturally occurring landfill gases into electricity.
- Anaerobic digesters process animal waste and capture gases, which are then burned in generators.
- Kim Burton, your energy advisor, can show you ways to reduce your home's energy consumption.

Scholarship applications now available for seniors

Miami-Cass REMC will grant scholarships to graduating seniors again this year! The scholarships are funded through the proceeds of our long distance telephone service. Applications will be accepted until March 15.

Scholarship applications are available at the Miami-Cass REMC office or on our Web site, www.mcremc.coop. Applications may also be obtained in the guidance offices of the following schools: Caston, Lewis Cass, Logansport, Maconaquah, North Miami, Oak Hill, Peru and Pioneer.

To qualify, an applicant must:

- Come from a household receiving electrical service from Miami-Cass REMC.
- Be a current high school senior with aspirations to further his/her education who can demonstrate financial need.
- Provide a current high school transcript of grades.
- Provide a letter of recommendation from a teacher or guidance counselor.
- Be able to enroll, at least part-time, at an accredited educational institution.

The Miami-Cass REMC board president will appoint a committee of three REMC directors to select the scholarship recipients. At least \$3,000 in scholarship funds will be available for awarding to deserving students.

Scholarships will be made payable to the educational institution, which must be an accredited college, university, or technical school.

Children and grandchildren of current Miami-Cass REMC board members and employees are not eligible to apply.

Students selected for scholarships will be recognized at our Member Appreciation Day/Annual Meeting on Sept. 18.

Day receives a promotion

On Saturday, Feb. 6, Miami-Cass REMC's Jaune Day was officially promoted to journeyman lineman during an Indiana Statewide Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives-sponsored ceremony held at the Indianapolis Downtown Sheraton. Day achieved this promotion after completing 8,000 hours of on-the-job and 576 hours of classroom instruction through the Rural Electric Apprenticeship Program. As a result of this training, he also received an associate's degree in applied science from Ivy Tech.



Jaune Day

Day has been an employee of Miami-Cass for four-and-a-half years. He started his career with the REMC as an apprentice lineman. Prior to this, he worked for three years at Toltest, a traveling construction company. His primary responsibility at the co-op is maintaining existing overhead and underground wires/lines. As a journeyman, he is also responsible for helping to train apprentice linemen.

Day resides in Peru with his wife, Karen, and

their two daughters. In his spare time, he enjoys boating with his family and other outdoor activities.

When asked what he likes best about working at Miami-Cass REMC, Day said, "I like working outside and the variety that comes with the job."

Day looks forward to his new responsibilities and knows there is still much to learn.

It takes every employee to make a co-op run at its best, and we're glad to have Jaune on our team. All of us at Miami-Cass REMC would like to congratulate him on his achievement and wish him the best of luck in his new position.



REAP graduate Jaune Day displays items he received, such as a diploma, following his training to become a journeyman lineman.

Schwartz completes national management program

Rob Schwartz, director of operations at Miami-Cass REMC, recently completed a six-week-long Management Internship Program (MIP) sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).



Rob Schwartz

The course was taught at the University of Wisconsin in Madison and was broken into three two-week segments with a month separating each segment. Schwartz was joined by 27 other participants from cooperatives across the nation.

MIP is designed to help managers with specific cooperative duties, such as operations or finance, gain a better understanding of the workings of the

entire cooperative. Areas of study included are financial operations, marketing, human resources, legal, board responsibilities, and more. In addition, participants gain a better understanding of the theory of electricity, which is especially helpful for those who are not in an operations position.

Schwartz said the training was invaluable and has helped him to better communicate and work with others within the Miami-Cass REMC family. Also by attending, he can apply for three credit hours of professional development.

Schwartz has been with the co-op for 10 years and has been the director of operations for approximately three years. Prior to his current position, he was a staking lineman.

In his spare time, Schwartz enjoys spending time with his family. He and his wife, Nicole, currently have three children, and they are expecting a fourth in August.

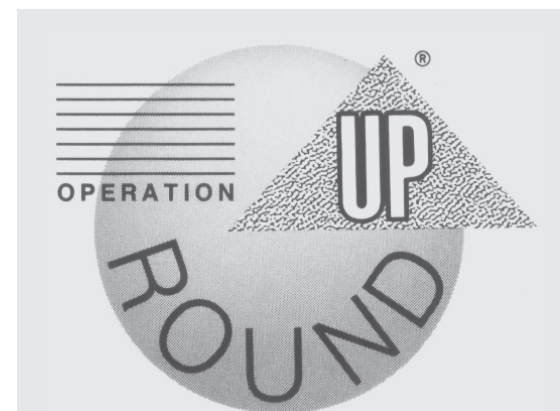
Congratulations, Rob, on your achievement!

Happy St. Patrick's Day

BOARD UPDATE

Your board of directors at work: Results from the January meeting

1. Counted seven board members present.
2. The January 2010 Wabash Valley Power board report was presented by Jim Savage.
3. The CEO report was presented by Jim Yates.
4. Minutes of the previous board meeting were approved.
5. December monthly operating, financial, marketing and safety reports were reviewed and approved. 377202
6. The board discussed legal counsel's pending retirement.
7. Appointed Jody Long and Jim Savage to the Operation Round Up board.
8. Appointed REMC Scholarship committee.
9. Selected delegates and alternates to the Wabash Valley Annual Meeting, Wabash Valley director board representative for 2010-11, and Wabash Valley member system representative for 2010-11.
10. Set the next board meeting for Tuesday, Feb. 23, at 9 a.m.



Reminder:
Operation Round Up applications are due March 31!
We want to help you make a difference in our community!



www.mcremc.coop

Planting seeds of caution around power lines

As farmers get ready to return to their fields for spring planting, Miami-Cass REMC urges farm workers to be particularly alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines. Electricity is one of the most overlooked, yet deadly, hazards of working on a farm.

According to the National Safety Council, farmers are at an increased risk for electrocution and electric shock injury compared to non-farmers. In fact, 3.6 percent of youth under the age of 20 who work and/or live around farms are killed each year from electrocution. Miami-Cass REMC urges workers to evaluate farm activities and work practices and to share that information with others — an activity that doesn't take a lot of time but can literally save lives. By following a few safety rules, these tragic accidents can be prevented. Start by making sure everyone knows to maintain a minimum 10-foot clearance from the lines.

"The minimum 10-foot distance is a 360-degree rule — below, to the side and above lines," said Rob Schwartz, director of operations at Miami-Cass REMC. "Many farm electrical accidents involving power lines happen when loading or preparing to transport equipment to fields, or while performing maintenance or repairs on farm machinery near lines. It can be difficult to estimate distance and, sometimes, a power line is closer than it looks. A spotter or someone with a broader view can help."

The most common source of electric shocks come from operating machinery such as large tractors with front loaders, portable grain augers, fold-up cultivators, moving grain elevators and any equipment with an antenna. Handling long items such as irrigation pipe, ladders and rods also pose the risk of contact with power lines. Coming too close to a power line while working is dangerous because electricity can arc, or "jump," to conducting material or objects.

Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds. Many tractors are now equipped with radios and communications systems that have very tall antennas extending from the cab that could make contact with power lines. Avoid raising the arms of planters, cultivators or truck beds near power lines and never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.

Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust and dirt contamination. Do not try to clear storm damage debris and limbs near power lines or fallen lines.

Overhead electric wires aren't the only electrical contact that can result in a serious incident. Pole guy wires, used to stabilize utility poles, are grounded. However, when one of the guy wires is broken it can cause an electric current disruption. This can make those neutral wires anything but harmless. If you hit a guy wire and break it, call the cooperative to fix it. Don't do it yourself. When dealing with electrical poles and wires, always call your electric co-op. 104702



Many farm accidents involving power lines happen when loading or preparing to transport equipment to fields, or while performing maintenance or repairs on farm machinery near lines. Miami-Cass REMC urges farm workers to take precautions when working near power lines.

Even the best laid plans often go awry. Miami-Cass REMC wants farm workers to be prepared if their equipment does come in contact with power lines.

"It's almost always best to stay in the cab and call for help," Schwartz said. "If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes a path to the ground and electrocution is the result. Even if a line has landed on the ground, there is still potential for the area to be energized. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the electric utility arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off."

Schwartz does provide solutions for leaving the cab if necessary, as in the case of fire or electrical fire.

"In that scenario, the proper action is to jump — not step — with both feet hitting the ground at the same time," Schwartz explained. "Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Shuffle to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area."

Once you get away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment. Many electrocutions occur when operators try to return to the equipment before the power has been shut off.

Managers should make sure their workers are educated on these precautions and danger areas need to be thoroughly identified and labeled. Call the REMC to measure line height — no one should attempt this on their own without professional assistance. Designate preplanned routes that avoid hazard areas and educate other workers on their location.

Farmers may want to consider moving or burying power lines around buildings or busy pathways where many farm activities take place. If planning a new out building or farm structure, contact the REMC for information on minimum safe clearances from overhead and underground power lines. And if you plan to dig beyond normal tilling, activities such as deep-ripping or sub-soiling, call 811 to have underground utilities marked first.



Spring forward!
**Don't forget to move your
clocks forward one hour!**
**Daylight saving time begins
Sunday, March 14.**