

PHONE NUMBERS & HOURS

Local..... 765-473-6668
Toll Free..... 800-844-6668
Fax..... 765-473-8770
E-mail mcremc@mcremc.coop
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!

Our energy challenges in 2010

by David J. Tudor

Five months into 2010, we find ourselves with more uncertainty in the industry than I can recall in my entire career. It is almost impossible to plan for the future of our members' power supply needs when the regulatory, legislative, and economic environments are in such flux. Re-regulation of deregulation in the U.S. is being pursued. Another transformation of the power industry is underway and is very unsettling. I'm not sure what is worse: electric deregulation or blind legislation.

The fact is: electricity is the most important energy product we Americans consume. To me, it's more important than oil, natural gas, or coal. Without electricity our great nation would not be so great. Our quality of life relies on reliable and low cost electricity. It takes electricity to run the gasoline facilities that fuel our cars and planes; to light our churches, schools, and businesses; and to refrigerate our food. It is electricity that sustains your life through an eight-hour heart operation. Without electricity there would be no running water and certainly no flavored water in bottles made at a plant fueled by electricity. Bottom line: we need electricity, rely on electricity and take it for granted everyday.

What many people don't understand is what really creates electricity and causes it to be available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It is instantly consumed when generated; there is no storage in the system. Most people simply turn on their lights, start their cars, and waltz through life assuming that it will always be there. Unfortunately, it's not that simple and significant risk is being created by the call for a greener America, without a well thought out plan. 228206

In order to provide reliable electricity, a blend of base, intermediate and peaking generation resources, along with a robust transmission system, is required (see chart at right). The current transmission system was not designed to accept new generation at any desired interconnect point and certainly was not designed for unlimited erratic and intermittent generation such as wind. The wind developers have a tendency to all develop multiple projects in the same areas – where the wind blows the most. This results in a concentration of projects and transmission congestion. Add the fact that new transmission lines cannot be built across state lines without landowner



David Tudor
President and CEO
ACES Power Marketing

and state-by-state approvals and the result is a highly inefficient transmission grid with significant risk to the overall system.

While the U.S. government seeks to limit greenhouse gases through some type of climate control legislation, other countries are building coal-fired power plants and transmission lines as fast as they can. China alone has added hundreds of coal plants over the past few years, and they are bypassing the pollution control systems that we take for granted. If America's electricity gets more and more expensive, competition from other countries

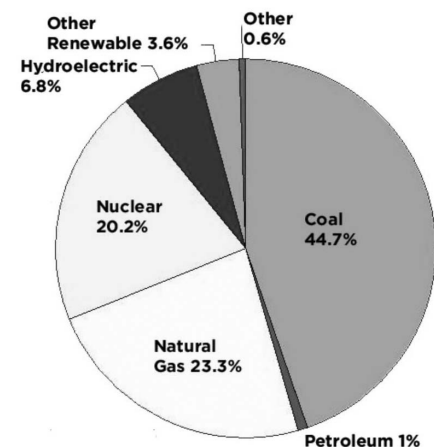
potentially replaces all of our manufacturing and materials, further damaging our economy. So we are worried about our reliance on foreign oil? What about reliance on everything we consume from China?

The positive thing about the emphasis on a greener America, beyond the obvious, is the new effort to conserve. Demand-side management programs, energy efficiency efforts, and smart grid initiatives are actually educating Americans on how to use less electricity, saving them money and aiding the environment. Conservation alone is not a well thought out plan.

I see the biggest energy challenges for Indiana in 2010 and the rest of the country to be educating the consumer on these issues. While it sounds great to be green and it's a nice color for brochures; without a well thought out plan that deals with the reality of how electricity is developed, produced, and delivered in a reliable and cost effective way, we will simply cause the building of a bunch of

Please turn to next page

2009 Electric Energy Generation by Source



Source: US Energy Information Administration (3/15/10)

Think about replacing your HVAC system

If you've been thinking about replacing your current electric furnace, electric ceiling cable heat, electric baseboard heat or heat pump, now could be the time to have it done. Now through Nov. 15, Miami-Cass REMC and our power supplier, Wabash Valley Power Association, are offering incentives to retail residential customers for upgrading to a new, more efficient electric air-source or ground-source heat pump heating and cooling system.



Kim Burton
Energy Advisor

Install a new air-source heat pump (see chart for minimum efficiency requirements) in your home, and you will receive a bill credit of \$125 per ton, up to 10 tons. If you choose a ground-source heat pump (again, see chart for minimum efficiency requirements), the amount will be \$150 per ton, again, up to 10 tons.

In addition to this bill credit, you may also be eligible for a rebate from the state and a federal tax credit worth up to 30 percent of your new system's cost. Also, Miami-Cass REMC is still offering a bill credit of \$400 on all air-source heat pumps (13 SEER or greater) and all geothermal heat pumps. All together, you could have considerable savings by investing in a new, more efficient heating and cooling system.

Go to www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=tax_credits.tx_index for information on the federal

tax credit. For information on Indiana's rebate programs, go to www.inenergyefficiency.com. Please consult your tax advisor to make sure you are eligible for these rebates and tax credit.

Our heat pump credit has the following eligibility requirements:

- You must be a current Miami-Cass REMC member with an electric forced-air furnace system, electric baseboard, electric ceiling cable or an older, less-efficient air-source or ground-source heat pump with an electric backup heat source.
- The new equipment must be installed in a home located on our lines.
- You must replace your old system with an all-electric air-source heat pump or geothermal heat pump that meets our minimum efficiency criteria of:

| Air Source Heat Pump | SEER | HSPF | EER |
|----------------------|------|------|------|
| Split system | 15 | 8.5 | 12.5 |
| Packaged system | 14 | 8 | 12 |
| Geothermal Heat Pump | EER | COP | |
| Closed-loop | 14.1 | 3.3 | |
| Open-loop | 16.2 | 3.6 | |

- New home construction is not eligible for this rebate. 323903
 - Homes switching from gas, propane, wood or some other form of heating fuel that is not electric are also not eligible for this rebate.
- To claim your bill credit, come into our of-

Now through Nov. 15, Miami-Cass REMC and our power supplier, Wabash Valley Power, are offering incentives to retail residential customers for upgrading to a new, more efficient electric air-source or ground-source heat pump heating and cooling system.

Office during normal business hours with a copy of the proof-of-purchase and installation, heat loss/heat gain calculation and AHRI certificate. Your heating and cooling contractor can provide you with the heat loss/heat gain calculation and the AHRI certificate. Your bill credit request is only for equipment purchased and installed after March 15, 2010, and must be submitted within 25 days of purchase or installation.

An air-source or water-source heat pump operates best in a home that is adequately air sealed and insulated. Please contact me at 765-473-6668 during normal business hours or e-mail me at kimb@mcremc.coop to schedule your free home performance analysis or if you have any questions concerning this program.

4-H Electric Project Workshops



May 27, 6:30 - 8 p.m.
Miami County Fairgrounds
Community Building

Miami County 4-H Electric members!

Bring your electric project and tools to this workshop. You'll have a chance to work on your project, receive hands-on assistance, and ask questions.

For more information on this workshop, contact Kim Burton, Miami-Cass REMC energy advisor, at 765-473-6668 during business hours or Randy Payne, 4-H electric superintendent, at 765-472-4942 on the weekend or in the evenings.

June 3, 6:30 - 8 p.m.
Cass County Fairgrounds

Youth enrolled in 4-H Electric projects will learn many things to help them complete the 4-H program.

- What is electricity?
- How is electricity made and distributed?
- Safety around electricity.
- What is magnetism?
- How much electricity do things use?
- Tips to know before starting your electric project.
- See completed projects.
- Ask questions of judges and your electric superintendent.

If 4-H members have questions about their project, they can also contact Kim Burton, Miami-Cass REMC energy advisor, during the day at 765-473-6668 or Ed Champ, 4-H electric superintendent, at 765-702-1989.

ENERGY CHALLENGES

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wind farms that will sit idle and collect government subsidies while our electricity prices go up and reliability goes down. There is no silver bullet green answer to meet the world energy needs. The fossil fuel naysayers need to recognize that a combination strategy is required utilizing nuclear, coal, natural gas, and renewables to meet our energy needs for the future, preserving our standard of living and to help keep us competitive in the world markets.

How about this for an idea – challenge the electric industry leaders to come up with a plan and an allocation of government funding to make America greener and sustainable in a competitive world? Hmm, sounds like free enterprise.

David J. Tudor is currently the president and CEO of ACES Power Marketing (APM) headquartered in Carmel, Ind. It is owned by 16 generation and transmission cooperatives and 1 unaffiliated distribution cooperative located across the United States. Learn more at www.acespower.com.

Think 'safety first' after summer storms

Summer brings with it tornado and severe storms season. It also brings the risk of downed power lines and floods due to these storms. Miami-Cass REMC cautions everyone to be mindful of the electrical hazards storms and flooding can leave in their wake and offers vital safety tips to avoid electrocution and serious injury when dealing with the aftermath of a major storm or disaster.

The danger does not end when the storm does. People can be hurt or killed by hazards left behind. It's wise to be cautious in any cleanup effort.

Stay away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Keep in mind a downed power line that's energized can cause other things around it to become potentially hazardous. Treat all downed or hanging power lines as if they are energized. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live. If you see a downed power line, stay away, warn others to stay away and contact the electric co-op immediately.

Cleaning up and using water-damaged appliances also carry safety risks. Electric motors in appliances that have been drenched or submerged should be thoroughly cleaned and reconditioned before they are put back into service. It may be necessary to repair or replace electrical appliances or tools that have been in contact with water. Do not use any water-damaged appliance until a professional has checked it out.

If using electric yard tools in clean-up efforts, do not operate them if it is raining, the ground is wet or while you are wet or standing in water. Keep all electric tools and equipment at least 10 feet away from wet surfaces.

Before re-entering storm-damaged buildings or rooms, be sure all electric and gas services are turned off. Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you can't reach your breaker box safely, call your electric co-op to shut off power at the meter.

Never step in to a flooded room or other area if water is covering electrical outlets, appliances or cords. Be alert to any electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water. Never touch electrical appliances, cords or wires while you are wet or standing in water.

Miami-Cass REMC recommends purchasing portable ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) for use in outlets to avoid electric shock injuries during and after the storm. If time permits



If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away, and contact emergency personnel or the electric co-op. Never drive over a downed line.

before a storm, we recommend hiring a professional to install stationary GFCIs in homes as a safety precaution if they have not been installed already. GFCIs are recommended for outdoor outlets and outlets near wet areas of the home such as the kitchen, bath, garage, and laundry room. GFCIs should also be installed in areas of the house that are below grade level, such as crawlspaces and unfinished basements.

GFCIs stop the flow of electricity instantly if there is a problem. When properly used, they save lives.

You never know when a storm may hit, creating potential electrical hazards for your family. The best solution is to be prepared ahead of time. These devices will help keep your family safe year round.

If after a storm or disaster, the power to your home is out for a prolonged period, know important safety rules, such as never using a charcoal or gas grill to cook inside! If you use a portable

generator, be sure a transfer safety switch has been installed or connect the appliance(s) directly to the generator. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the power lines, what is known as "backfeed." Backfeed creates danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power. 126801

If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel or the REMC. Never drive over a downed line.

If you are in a car which has come in contact with a downed power line, stay in your vehicle. If you must leave your car, as in the case of fire, jump free keeping both feet together and hop to safety. A live wire touching the ground causes electricity to fan out in a pool, and the action of running or striding allows one foot to move from one voltage zone to another. Your body then becomes the path for the electricity and electrocution is the tragic result.



Miami-Cass REMC celebrates all who have given their lives for our country!

Our office will be closed on May 31 for Memorial Day.

BOARD UPDATE

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

1. Counted seven board members present.
2. The March 2010 Wabash Valley board report was presented by Fred Warner.
3. CEO's report was given by Jim Yates.
4. Director of Marketing Susan Wagoner updated the board on the new energy efficiency program that will be kicked off in April.
5. The 2009 year-end financial Form 7 was reviewed.
6. Discussed the 2010 board retreat and possible topics to be addressed.
7. Minutes of the previous board meeting were approved.
8. February monthly operating, financial, marketing and safety reports were reviewed and approved.
9. The board reviewed Board Policy No. 715, Employee Education. Proposed changes to the reimbursement procedure will be brought to the next board meeting for review and approval.
10. In light of the new state law regarding firearms on the REMC's property, Policy No. 720, Rules & Regulations, was discussed. There were no recommended changes to said policy.
11. The monthly power cost adjustment tracker was reviewed by the board. The current tracker stands at 3 cents per kwh. Following review of the rate consultant's recommendations, it was determined that it would remain at its current level for the balance of 2010, assuming no additional adjustments were made by our power supplier, Wabash Valley Power Association. 66901
12. Set the next board meeting for Tuesday, April 27, at 7:30 p.m.

Youngsters to attend camp

Miami-Cass REMC will sponsor three students at the annual Touchstone Energy Camp. The camp will be held June 9-12 at the YMCA Camp Tecumseh site in Brookston.

Sixth grade boys and girls are eligible to attend and were selected by their local electric cooperative to participate in the four-day, three-night program. The students' agenda will combine traditional outdoor camp activities with environmental education, electrical safety practices and cooperative business education.

"This is a great way for students to learn about the role of electric cooperatives in their community. On top of that, they get to experience all the fun of camp," said Susan Wagoner, director of marketing at Miami-Cass REMC.

Attendees from Miami-Cass will be:

• **Madison Turner**, daughter of Jim and Amy Turner of rural Kokomo. She attends Maconaquah Middle School.

• **Savannah Wolf**, daughter of Bret and Kim Wolf of Bunker Hill. She attends Maconaquah Middle School.

• **Kendra Kraning**, daughter of John and Beth Kraning of Peru. She attends North Miami Elementary School.

The Touchstone Energy Camp program was developed by a committee of electric cooperative employees from around the state of Indiana. It is funded in part by Indiana's Rural Electric Cooperatives, Touchstone Energy members, and local sponsors. 2010 marks the camp's eighth year in existence.



Madison Turner



Savannah Wolf



Kendra Kraning

Local students head to D.C.

Nate Wilson, a junior at Lewis Cass High School, and Adam Moore, a junior at North Miami Junior/Senior High School, will represent Miami-Cass REMC on the 2010 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

Indiana's Touchstone Energy cooperatives have hosted the Youth Tour since 1960, providing hundreds of young Hoosiers the opportunity to visit our nation's capital and learn about the federal government and the cooperative utility industry. The 2010 Youth Tour begins June 10 with an orientation program in Indianapolis and will end June 17.

According to Jim Yates, CEO of Miami-Cass REMC, the Indiana delegation will be comprised of over 70 students from throughout the state, each selected by a local Touchstone Energy cooperative. In 2009, nearly 1,500 students from around the country were at the nation's capital for the week-long conference.

"Miami-Cass is pleased to be able to provide this opportunity for two of our local students," Jim Yates said. "It's a great trip and a wonderful chance to see the sights, make new friends, and learn how everyone, even young people, can make a difference in the political process."

The Indiana delegation will meet in Indianapolis on Thursday, June 10, to get acquainted and to learn

about the Indiana legislative process. The students will depart early on Friday and spend their first evening in Gettysburg, Pa. On Saturday, they will tour the Gettysburg National Battlefield, spend the afternoon in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, and

will arrive in Washington, D.C., that evening. Sunday through Wednesday is a full schedule of sight-seeing and meetings, including visits to the Vietnam and Korean War memorials, Arlington National Cemetery, a collection of museums and a night cruise on the Potomac River.

Students will participate in a Monday morning "Youth Tour Rally," where they will share their thoughts and opinions on

a variety of timely issues. This will prepare them for a busy Tuesday on Capitol Hill, when Indiana's students will visit with representatives from Indiana's congressional delegation. The week will end on a high note with the "All-States Dinner Dance" at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City.

For information about future Electric Cooperative Youth Tours to Washington, D.C., contact Miami-Cass REMC at 765-473-6668 or visit our Web site at www.mcremc.coop or Indiana's electric cooperative Web site at www.indremcs.org in the section entitled "Education & Events" and then select "Youth Programs."



Nate Wilson



Adam Moore

ALWAYS
CALL
BEFORE YOU
DIG



One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked
AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

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