

CONTACT US

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OFFICE HOURS

7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday

STREET ADDRESS

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Peru, IN 46970

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 168
Peru, IN 46970

POWER OUTAGES

To report a power outage,
call 844-473-6668. We are available
24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Todd Smith, *Vice President*

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Clearing the path to reliability

Trees are majestic, beautiful, and good for the soul. But we also know that our members depend on us to deliver reliable power to their homes and businesses. That's why Miami-Cass REMC strives to balance maintaining the beautiful surroundings we all cherish with ensuring reliable electricity. You might not realize it, but there are several benefits to regular tree trimming.

RELIABILITY

Keeping power lines clear of overgrown vegetation improves service reliability. After all, we've seen the whims of Mother Nature during severe weather events, with fallen tree limbs taking down power lines and utility poles. While many factors can impact power disruptions, about half of all outages can be attributed to overgrown vegetation. This is why you sometimes see our contractors, Mint City Crews, out in the community trimming trees near power lines.

All U.S. electric utilities are required to trim trees that grow too close to power lines. Scheduled trimming throughout the year keeps lines clear from overgrown or dead limbs that are likely to fall, and we can better prepare for severe weather events.

Plus, we all know it's more cost-effective to undertake preventative

maintenance than to make repairs after the fact. Drone inspections of power lines and vegetation allow us to reduce labor and equipment costs while bolstering reliability. Through the use of small drones, we can accurately monitor the health and growth of trees and identify potential problems

SAFETY

Working near power lines can be dangerous, and we care about your safety and that of our lineworkers. For example, trees touching power lines in our members' yards can pose a grave danger to families. If children can reach those trees, they can potentially climb into a danger zone. Electricity can arc or jump from a power line to a nearby conductor, such as a tree.

Any tree or branch that falls across a power line creates a potentially dangerous situation. A proactive approach lessens the chances of fallen trees during severe weather events that make it more complicated and dangerous for lineworkers to restore power.

AFFORDABILITY

As a co-op, Miami-Cass REMC always strives to keep costs down for our members. If trees and other vegetation are left unchecked, they

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can become overgrown and expensive to correct. A strategic vegetation management program helps keep costs down for everyone.

When it comes to vegetation management, there are ways you can help. When planting new trees, make sure they are planted a safe distance from overhead power lines. Medium-height trees (40 feet or smaller) should be planted at least 25 feet from power lines. Taller trees (over

40 feet) should be planted at least 50 feet from power lines. You can also practice safe planting near pad-mounted transformers. Plant shrubs at least 10 feet from the transformer door and 4 feet from the sides. If your neighborhood has underground lines, contact 811 before you begin any project requiring digging.

Additionally, if you spot an overgrown tree or branch dangerously close to overhead

lines, please let us know by contacting the office.

We have deep roots in our community and love our beautiful surroundings. It takes a balanced approach, and our vegetation management program is crucial in ensuring service reliability.



ROB SCHWARTZ
CEO

MEET OUR STUDENT BOARD



In the December 2023 Indiana Connection, we announced the formation of our student board. The purpose of the board, comprised of students who attend area high schools, is to learn about the cooperative, develop leadership skills and understand the co-op business model.

In this and future issues of Indiana Connection, we will introduce a member of the student board to our readers.

This month, we introduce board member **Jordyn Ulery**. Ulery is a student at Peru High School.

HAPPY EASTER! OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29, FOR THE HOLIDAY.

CARDEN JOINS REMC STAFF

I was born and raised in Howard County and graduated from Northwestern High School. I married my husband, Brandon, in 2019 and moved to Cass County where we reside and are Miami-Cass REMC members.

When the weather is nice, you can find me outside taking our daughter and two dogs on walks. In my spare time, I'll be catching up on a reality TV show or hunting and fishing when the season is in.

As the new member service representative, I look forward to learning and growing with the co-op!



JANUARY Board Meeting

1. Counted seven board members attended. Attorney J. Michael Deweese also attended.
2. Allie Jones from IEC gave a government relations presentation.
3. MC REMC Student Board representatives gave a presentation on the student board.
4. Jim Savage presented the WVPA monthly report.
5. Deweese presented the monthly legal report.
6. Rob Schwartz presented monthly CEO report.
7. Minutes from the previous board meeting were approved.
8. Financial reports were reviewed and approved.
9. December monthly operating, member services, human resources, and safety reports were reviewed and approved.
10. Set next board meeting for Tuesday, Feb. 27, at 6 p.m. at the REMC headquarters.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

Lengthen the life of your clothes dryer with regular cleaning. Clean the lint filter after every load, which improves air circulation and safety. Check the lint trap opening to ensure it's clean. Use a vacuum to remove any lint that's fallen inside the opening. If you use dryer sheets, check the lint filter for residue buildup. Remove any residue with hot water and a nylon brush or toothbrush. Over time, dryer sheets can leave a film on the filter, which can affect the performance of the motor. *Source: Energy.gov*



POWERING UP: ELECTRIC SERVICE IS RESTORED METHODICALLY TO MAINTAIN SAFETY

When a major storm causes widespread damage, electricity cannot be restored with the flip of a switch. Here's how it's done methodically, efficiently and safely.

Every electric cooperative follows a basic principle when it comes to restoring power: priority is given to the lines that get the most back in service the quickest. *Here's a basic order of repair:*

- 1 **Transmission lines.** These high voltage lines carry electricity from generating plants to substations (or between substations). Since tens of thousands of people could be served by one transmission line, damage here needs to be taken care of first.
- 2 **Substations.** These electrical facilities contain equipment that switch or regulate the voltage of electricity. They lower the voltage from the transmission lines so the electricity can be transmitted through the distribution lines. Problems here can affect thousands of consumers.
- 3 **Main distribution lines.** You see these along roadways. They carry electricity from the substations to groups of consumers, like towns or housing developments.
- 4 **Tap lines.** These lines run from the main distribution lines to utility poles and underground transformers outside houses or buildings.
- 5 **Individual service.** These lines run from the transformer on the pole along the road or street or underground box to the consumer's electric meter on the side of the home or business.

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