



SEDGWICK COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

currentnews

**SEDGWICK COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

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HEADQUARTERS

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FROM THE MANAGER

EPA's Power Plant Rule Threatens Electric Reliability

As a member-owner of Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative, keeping the lights on at a cost you can afford is the focal point of everything we do. Transparency is one of our core values, so in addition to sharing co-op successes, I believe we also have a responsibility to tell you about the challenges too.

In May, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a rule that impacts energy production from power plants. The power plant rule will undoubtedly threaten access to reliable electricity for our local community and communities across the country.

The rule constrains existing coal and new natural gas plants by requiring them to install carbon capture and storage (CCS) — a technology that has potential but has not been proven to be viable as required. No power plant in North America currently uses CCS at the scale and levels mandated by EPA. When power plants can't comply with EPA's CCS requirements, they will be required to shut down, significantly limit operations, or switch fuels. These unrealistic standards will force the unnecessary and early shutdown of many power plants that currently provide reliable electricity 24/7.

Renewable sources, such as solar

and wind, are important components of our overall generation mix. But given the intermittent nature of these energy sources, we simply cannot depend on them because the wind doesn't always blow, and the sun doesn't always shine. The need for always-available power generating resources is still essential.

The timing of the power plant rule is equally troubling. At the same time the EPA is leading our nation down the path to fewer power plants, utilities are facing a surge in electricity demand — driven by the onshoring of manufacturing, the growth of the American economy and the rapid expansion of data centers to support artificial intelligence, e-commerce and cryptocurrency.

Many states have already experienced rolling outages, and if the supply of electricity is further threatened by the EPA's power plant rule, the problem will only get worse. In fact, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the nation's electric reliability watchdog, recently forecasted that over the next five years, all or parts of 19



Scott Ayres

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4-YEAR-OLD AGE DIVISION

First Place	Charlie Henry
Second Place	Greta Schneider
Third Place	Lennox Hillman

5-YEAR-OLD AGE DIVISION

First Place	Rory Sybesma
Second Place	Dominic Brunke
Third Place	Thomas Gegen

6-YEAR-OLD AGE DIVISION

First Place	Bowen Ward
Second Place	Knox Ryder
Third Place	Bodie Beyer

7-YEAR-OLD AGE DIVISION

First Place	Bronston Rozendal
Second Place	Henry Sybesma
Third Place	Tessa Pinkley

8-YEAR-OLD AGE DIVISION

First Place	Luke Lehner
Second Place	Oaklynn Lutz
Third Place	Ben Brunke

9-YEAR-OLD AGE DIVISION

First Place	Emmery Beisel
Second Place	Joseph Dietz
Third Place	Levi Jones

10-YEAR-OLD AGE DIVISION

First Place	Ava Clouse
Second Place	Jace Hansen
Third Place	Kinsley Kampling

11 & 12-YEAR-OLD AGE DIVISION

First Place	McKynlie Benn
Second Place	Jacob Dietz
Third Place	Ty Vieslmeyer

122 Participate in Co-op Sponsored Pedal Pull

This year 122 children participated in the pedal tractor pull at the Sedgwick County Fair with the top three winners in each age group qualifying to compete at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson on Sept. 8, 2024.

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative would like to thank everyone who watched or participated. We would also like to thank Eaton Roofing & Exteriors, Border States Electric, Bolinger & DeVore Farms LLC, Devore Cattle LLC and Killco Appliance Repair for their prize donations.

Special thank you to the employees and board of directors who volunteered their time to help with this year's pedal pull.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2024 PEDAL TRACTOR PULL WINNERS!



Ava Clouse wins first place in the 10-year-old bracket and is headed back to the Kansas State Fair on Sept. 8.



Lennox Hillman competes in the 4-year-old bracket to win third place.

Cooperative Family Loses Don and Agnes (Aggie) Metzen

DON and AGGIE METZEN were members of the cooperative since 1970 and recently passed.

Don served his cooperative community as a trustee on the Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) Board for 17 years and Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative Board for 24 years. In lieu of flowers, memorials have been established at:



Don Metzen



Aggie Metzen

► **ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL**
12917 E Maple Grove Road
Mt. Hope, KS 67108

► **ST. JOHN CATHOLIC
CHURCH BUILDING FUND**
18630 W. 71st St. S.
Viola, KS 67149

Please keep their family in your thoughts and prayers.

Help Us Locate Former Members

The names listed below have capital credits refunds due to them, but we are unable to locate these former members. If you have information that would help us contact any individual or business listed below, please call the office at 316-542-3131 or 866-542-4732.

Barkley, Brad	Herman, Bradford K	Merchant, Frank & Katherine
Barron Jr, Delbert E	Hoephinger, Lonnie & Brandy	Nicholson, Daisy
Beckman, Bernie	Howerton, Craig & Laurie	Parsons, Brent
Bosley, Lonnie	James, Russell	Rausch, Jerry & Jami L
Brand, Rita	Jennings, Jason	Ray, Roger
Carlsen, Neil	Jones, Clayton	Selby, William C
Conway, Shamenta	Kearney, Andrew & Jessica	Shell, Michael
De La Torre, Alfredo & Lizeth	Keck, Melissa	Simons, Lawrence
D's Edge of the Lake	Kelly, Wayne	Spelts, Gwalinda
Evans, Kevin T & Joni	Kerner, Troy	Stamm, Dellarie
Finley, David	Lien, Kathleen	Steffens, Kerry & Wanda
Fredericks, Joyce	Littlejohn, Cynthia	Surman, Jon
Furthmeyer, Michael C	Mabry, Josh	Verico, Michael
Grehl, Falco & Janice	Martin, Jane M	Winn, Diana
Helvie, Robert & Terri	Mc Kenzie, David B & Barbara F	

LISTEN FOR PEAK ALERTS AND SAVE

This month, we are asking members to participate in Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative's Peak Control program. This voluntary program helps you save on your summer energy bills and can also help the co-op hold down wholesale power costs in the other eight months, during our off-peak period.

A major portion of our annual wholesale power bill is based on power consumed during the 3-6 p.m. demand time frame during the summer months. The price of electricity is at a premium during that three-hour window due to the "high demand" for energy production during those hot, summer hours.

WHAT IS PEAK CONTROL?

Peak control is a voluntary program in which our members can participate to hold down electricity costs.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE IN PEAK CONTROL?

You can participate by monitoring your use of electric appliances and equipment that require larger amounts of electricity during peak hours. Any steps you can take to lower your energy use from 3-6 p.m., Monday-Friday will help control costs.

WHEN SHOULD I PARTICIPATE IN PEAK CONTROL?

Participate when "Peak Alerts" are issued, typically from 3-6 p.m. weekdays from June 1 through Sept. 30. Like us on Facebook and follow us on X (formerly known as Twitter) to receive peak alerts.

The actual peak demand for June, July, August and September is the billing demand for each respective month. Special emphasis is placed during July and August, as the peak electricity demand registered by the co-op during those two months drives the demand billing for the following "off peak" eight months. Be aware of days when temperatures are forecast to be above 95 degrees. These are the type of days when peak demand can occur.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PEAK CONTROL?

Reducing electric usage between 3 and 6 p.m. will help reduce our peak load. Each kilowatt shaved or shifted during peak load is a cost savings for all cooperative members.

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states are at high risk of rolling power outages during normal peak electricity demand conditions.

It's also no secret that when demand is high and supply is low, costs go up. We're concerned about threats to reliability as well as cost increases for our members.

I don't say all of this to worry you, but I do want our members to understand the challenges that lie ahead. Just as we've always done, we will look for solutions that serve our members best. We are joining electric co-ops across the country and our statewide trade organization, Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., to fight these regulations, and we are working with our local elected officials and statewide policymakers to help them understand the consequences this would have on all Kansans.

Co-ops are no strangers to innovation, and we're taking proactive steps to address today's energy challenges and tomorrow's energy needs. We've led the charge on industry endeavors such as community solar projects, and we'll continue to explore new technologies and strategies that bolster reliability and our local grid.

Electric cooperatives like Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative deliver power to 42 million Americans. At the end of the day, our top priority is to meet our members' energy needs, and we must have reliable electricity available to do that.

If you're interested in learning more about policy impacts to power reliability, or to make your voice heard on this matter, visit www.voicesforcooperativepower.com.

NATIONAL FARM SAFETY AND HEALTH WEEK, SEPT. 15-21

BY MADDY ROHR, K-STATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION NEWS SERVICE

Hearing loss, common in farming, can be prevented; effects are cumulative, says K-State safety experts

Natural hearing loss comes with age, but exposure to a loud environment — common in agriculture — can cause noise-induced hearing loss, said a pair of Kansas State University safety experts.

Loud machinery, equipment and even animals can play a role in hearing loss related to farming and ranching, said Brad Dirks, associate director of the K-State physician assistance program.

"Exposure hearing loss can be from a one time experience like a loud concert or using a circular saw without protection," Dirks said. "Cumulative (hearing loss) can happen over time, like working 40-50 years around machinery that push you above the decibel cutoff of 80-85."

For reference, Dirks said people talk at about 60-70 decibels, a movie theater ranges from 75-105 decibels and a motorcycle produces 80-110 decibels.

"How close you are to the noise and how long you're exposed is very important," Dirks said.

Tractors with a cab are more muffled compared to those without, and machinery in open spaces will dissipate noise compared

to those in enclosed areas. Tractors normally produce 110-120 decibels.

Animals can also cause exposure to hearing loss. Their effect is often overlooked when compared to machinery.

"Pigs squealing can be around 100 decibels, and so prolonged exposure to something like pigs ... in a closed environment can be a problem," said Tawnie Larson, project coordinator with the Carl and Melinda Helwig Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering.

She also mentioned the noise from working cattle and calves that are calling back and forth with mothers as being a cause of hearing loss.

Dirks recommends using foam plugs in ears or earmuffs as a preventative measure.

"If you really want to protect your ears, do both; use the foam earplugs and then put the headphones or the earmuffs over and it becomes much more protective in those environments," he said.

Ear plugs are convenient to keep in pockets and many headphones can be carried around the neck until needed.

"Producers, parents or managers need to

think about providing everyone that's working with them and working on the farm or ranch to have something that can protect their ears," Larson said.

Youth and babies are also at risk of induced hearing loss and should be provided with appropriate protection at an early age.

"It's a cumulative thing, so the younger you start with that noise exposure, the more years you have to be exposed to high noise levels," Dirks added.

Hearing safety is important because it is permanent, and not something that can be fixed.

"And you can get hearing assistive devices, hearing aids that will amplify (sound), but that vocal range and the high range of those sound waves is gone — and once it's gone, it's gone. You can't bring them back," Dirks said.

Dirks added that hearing loss can also come from an obstruction in the canal, such as wax or build up. Those can be solved by a doctor.

"(Hearing loss) is preventable," Larson said. "You can turn it down, walk away, or you can wear hearing protection. (Protection) is pretty easy to find at any hardware store."