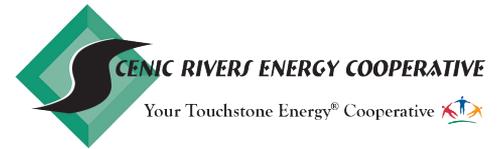




SAFE AND RELIABLE ELECTRICITY

The process behind the promise

Steve Lucas, CEO



What happened in Texas? Could it happen here? Those two questions have been on many people's minds since the polar vortex. The questions are straightforward; the answers are more complex.

During the February polar vortex, extreme cold was experienced in our region and throughout a vast area of the United States, including states like Texas that rarely suffer single-digit temperatures.

Our region withstood the recent polar vortex for three primary reasons:

- A reliable, properly regulated interconnection
- Balanced energy supply
- Well maintained and winterized equipment

Texas operates its own, deregulated grid—the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT). Our wholesale power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative, is part of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) regional transmission organization (RTO). MISO is federally regulated and works with its member utilities to ensure a reliable balance of supply and demand on the region's grid.

MISO was operating under Maximum Generation Events during the polar vortex. Rolling blackouts were not needed in our region. Rolling blackouts are emergency measures that drastically curtail electricity use with the purpose of avoiding a catastrophic event, as seen in Texas. They are a harsh reminder of the importance of a reliable, carefully controlled grid.

Although ERCOT prepares for varied forecasts like every balancing authority, its planning for extreme winter temperatures was inadequate. As an example, RTOs help direct power plant availability by managing when and which resources are offline for maintenance to ensure regional reliability. It is essential to have a sufficient and balanced mix of generation available.

Here in the Upper Midwest, we also know how to dress

for winter. We keep ourselves safe and warm with proper outerwear... and we apply the same principles to our electrical facilities. Infrastructure in our region is built for extreme cold, with insulation and heated pipes combatting polar vortex temperatures. This includes wind turbines, which are designed with heating technology to de-ice blades.

It is important to acknowledge that every resource has its strengths and limitations. For example, wind and solar energy have the clear advantage over fossil fuels in terms of emissions. However, both are reliant on weather factors (sun and wind) for reliable generation. Although natural gas is a reliable, baseload resource, natural gas pipeline systems are nearly fully subscribed during extremely cold conditions, which can limit capacity for power production.

A sustainable energy future means:

- Steady, measured investments in renewable energy
- Bridging resources, such as natural gas that can ramp up quickly to produce energy when the sun doesn't shine and the wind doesn't blow
- Infrastructure investments to support intermittent energy resources

Electric cooperatives and others in the energy sector will continue to develop renewable options and pursue new technologies. But absent new large-scale alternatives and advances in energy storage, the stalwarts of today's energy fleet—coal and nuclear energy facilities—must continue to operate in many regions. In some, they remain the most cost-effective options for producing electricity.

As a critical services provider, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative is thankful for our dedicated employees. Operating from Gays Mills, Darlington, and Lancaster; our 36 employees cover a lot of miles of lines each year. We work every day to maintain our critical infrastructure in order to continue to bring you safe, reliable, and affordable electricity.



A balance of energy resources is necessary to ensure reliable, affordable electric service through extreme weather conditions.



Sleep In Heavenly Peace PROVIDES BEDS TO CHILDREN WHO NEED THEM

By Emily Schenel, Boscobel Dial

“It’s tough crawling into bed at night and getting comfortable knowing there are kids out there who don’t have a bed to sleep in.” That was how the Grant County Chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace President Leon Neuheisel described his feelings about participating in the Sleep in Heavenly Peace Program.

Neuheisel read about the program in a newspaper and was shook up to learn so many children are without beds.

“I read that article and it really grabbed me,” Neuheisel said. “I called a friend and told him about the program and he said count me in, and now we have a core group of eight people preparing for a build.”

According to the Sleep In Heavenly Peace website, “All children deserve a safe, comfortable place to lay their heads. Across the US, too many boys and girls go without a bed or even a pillow to sleep on. These children end up sleeping on couches, blankets and even floors. This can affect their happiness and health.”

The website goes on to explain that Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) is a group of volunteers like Neuheisel and the Grant County Chapter, “dedicated to building, assembling and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need.”

The program got its start, as they describe, “like many other charities, in a garage. It was Christmas time, a time of joy and happiness, a time of giving and love, but also a time of bitter, cold weather and snowstorms. A project that was started with the build of one bed for a single family developed into something a whole lot more.”

Neuheisel shared that the goal of the group will be to provide beds, mattresses, sheets, pillows, and blankets to anyone aged 3-17 in Grant County.

He shared that they are looking for individuals or groups who would be interested in helping deliver and set up the beds and “see the smiles on the child’s face when they see their new bed.”

The core group recently held their first build and is accepting applications for those who need beds in the county.

“Everyone I’ve talked to feels it’s a really important thing,” Neuheisel said. “The cooperation has been fantastic.”

Although it is just a core group right now, Neuheisel shared that when warm weather comes there will be more availability to host larger group builds for beds.

“If groups were available in helping build, we could come and do it in their parking lot or other location. We also have a core member who is donating the use of a room in

his shed so in warmer weather we can invite people to help do builds outside with us.” For now, the group will be working out of a donated space in Platteville.

“You don’t need to be an experienced woodworker to volunteer,” Neuheisel noted. “We will train you how and teach you to use the tools safely.”

The organization provides groups like the Grant County Chapters with all of the blueprints and instructions needed to create bunk and single beds for the children, and Neuheisel noted that the community has provided a “tremendous amount of people who want to build.”

In addition to building, others have also been helping by making and donating quilts, including Neuheisel’s granddaughter who made two tie blankets for the project as well.

“Along with their time, people can also donate sheets, pillows and blankets,” Neuheisel noted, adding that those who may be interested in sending a monetary donation to go towards building supplies as well as mattresses and bedding

can do so by sending them to SHP WI Grant County, P.O. Box 607, Platteville, WI 53818.

Those interested in more information about the Grant County group can check out their Facebook page at Sleep In Heavenly Peace-WI, Grant County.

Neuheisel added that there are no religious or political affiliations with this group and hopes that many kind-hearted people will be interested in helping out. The group is currently in need of financial support to help purchase a few more tools for their builds as well as mattresses. Donations can be sent to the address included in the article or there is also a link on the groups’ Facebook page. This link allows donors to also choose specific amounts such as \$5 for a pillow or \$200 for the full cost of a single bed. “No donation is too small,” Neuheisel noted.

“There are many wonderful organizations that provide food and clothing and it is great that they are able to do that, but this is a need a lot of us don’t realize because it’s a need that happens behind closed doors. Many families don’t come straight forward and say my kid needs a bed, but if they know they are available through this program, we hope they will come,” Neuheisel said.

“...this is a need a lot of us don’t realize because it’s a need that happens behind closed doors.”

–Leon Neuheisel, SIV chapter president



Attention Members:

Dairyland Power Cooperative, our power supplier, is sponsoring a mail survey of a randomly selected sample of our residential members asking information about your home, appliances, energy efficiency, and opinions regarding a handful of energy topics. The survey will include the name and logo of Dairyland Power Cooperative. If you receive a copy of this survey, we request that you take 10 minutes to complete it and return it to the survey processor in the postage-paid envelope that will be provided or use the online survey link provided. If you have questions, please call us at 1-800-236-2141. We thank you in advance for your participation.



LINEWORKERS BRING THE LIGHT.

Lineworker Appreciation Day
On April 12, remember to #ThankALineworker.



MEMBER PHOTOS OF THE MONTH

The winning photo for March (left) in SREC's 2021 Member Photo Contest was taken by Deb Gates of Eastman. The winning photo for April (right) was taken by Kim Hull of Gratiot. All winning photos are featured in our 2021 Member Photo Calendar.

SREC's Annual Meeting is April 10!

Join us at
1625 Hwy. 61, Lancaster
(former Shopko parking lot)
at 10:30 a.m.
Registration begins at 10 a.m.

OR

Join us online!
Register for the virtual
annual meeting at
**www.sre.coop/
annualmeeting2021**
by noon on April 9.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140 degrees, but most households usually only require them to be set at 120 degrees.

Consider lowering your water heater's temperature to save energy and slow mineral buildup in the heater and pipes.

Source: www.energy.gov



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