



# BE PREPARED

## Energy policy issues contribute to summer reliability concerns; watch for alerts

**T**he board and staff of Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative (CVEC) would like CVEC members to be aware we are facing the heightened risk of rolling blackouts this summer due to generation facilities being retired faster than the pace of adding new energy sources, resulting in capacity shortages.

CVEC's power supplier is Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC). DPC is a member of Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), which oversees the regional power grid. The MISO service territory includes 15 states and extends into Manitoba, Canada.

Government regulations have forced the closing of generation facilities that use coal to produce electricity, such as DPC's Genoa facility. Investments in additional new natural gas facilities are being hampered by economic, social,

and governance (ESG) requirements, as lenders are reluctant to finance any facilities that may contribute to "carbon emissions."

In addition to generation, there are issues with accessing power on neighboring systems as well, known as transmission. There are large wind farms outside of DPC's service territory, but the energy is unable to be transferred to DPC via MISO as environmental groups and government regulations are not allowing the construction of the required transmission facilities.

Wind and solar are not reliable forms of energy; if the wind doesn't blow and/or the sun doesn't shine, there is no power to deliver to CVEC's members. There must be reliable energy available to fall back on when renewables are not available—this is known as baseload.

Coal and natural gas plants provide baseload, but they cannot be enabled in short order—they are designed for a steady-state operation.

The lack of baseload power generation facilities coupled with insufficient transmission lines will lead to power shortages in the coming months. To address these shortages, MISO has implemented a Max Gen procedure. Max Gen (Maximum Generation) starts with a series of alerts

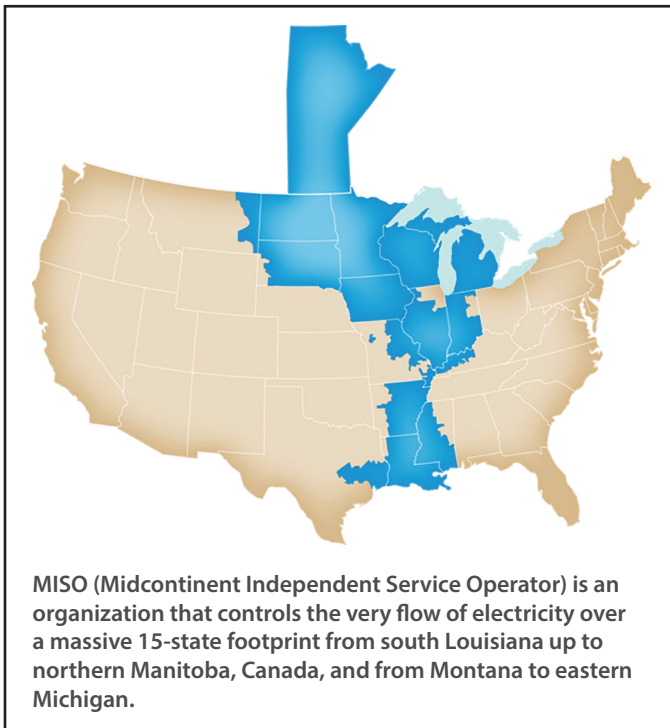
### Why does a Maximum Generation (Max Gen) Event occur?

**Max Gen Events occur due to a shortage of generation resources. In other words, the amount of electricity available on the grid is critical and may not be able to meet the demand for electricity. This could occur for multiple reasons:**

- Severe weather conditions
- Generation resources (power plants, solar/wind facilities, etc.) are unexpectedly off-line or unavailable
- Higher-than-projected need for electricity
- Transmission congestion

and advisories to CVEC. Members participating in the co-op's load management program will be notified when a Max Gen warning is issued, at which time DPC will issue a Full Load Control, similar to Peak Alert days, but without restrictions on hours. All loads that are on load management programs will be controlled, and all members will be asked to conserve energy wherever possible. If the reduction in load via Full Load Control and voluntary reduction is not sufficient to relieve the stress on the grid, firm load shed will be initiated and rolling blackouts will start.

Once rolling blackouts commence, we have no way of knowing how long they will last. If we fail to perform rolling blackouts to reduce load the grid



could collapse, resulting in significantly longer outages.

Depending on the circumstances and severity of stress on the electrical grid, there is a strong possibility some of the steps in the Max Gen process may be skipped, resulting in rolling blackouts with little or no warning. CVEC will have no electricity to manage/distribute to members.

Please prepare now. If you depend on electricity for oxygen or other life-sustaining medical equipment, it is recommended you arrange for a reliable backup in the form of an uninterruptible

power supply or a generator.

This is an entirely new set of circumstances we are being forced to deal with, unprecedented in CVEC's history. Updates will be posted on CVEC's Facebook and web pages.

Thank you, in advance, for joining CVEC as we all do our part to ensure safe, reliable, and affordable electricity for all members and the region. CVEC's board of directors and employees are dedicated to being Your Cooperative Powering Your Future.—*Russ Falkenberg, Director of IT and Member Services*

### What Should Members Do?

If notified of a Max Gen Event, CVEC's load management program may be activated outside of normal program hours. This could happen with minimal advance notice. Members who do not participate in a load management program can still help:

- Turn off lights, televisions, electronics, and other appliances
- Cook food in a microwave instead of using a stovetop or oven
- Adjust your thermostat up or down, depending on the season
- Shift laundry, vacuuming, and running the dishwasher until after the Max Gen Event has ended
- Delay electric vehicle charging until after the Max Gen Event

If we continue to retire baseload generation faster than we replace it, the situation will only worsen.



Please contact your elected officials and make them aware of your concern. CVEC supports renewable energy sources, but we cannot lose sight of the fact that we must maintain reliable baseload generation.

#### Elected Officials Contact Information:

**Senator Ron Johnson**  
ronjohnson.senate.gov  
202.224.5323

**Senator Tammy Baldwin**  
baldwin.senate.gov  
202.224.5653

**Representative Tom Tiffany**  
tiffany.house.gov  
202.225.3365

**Representative Ron Kind**  
kind.house.gov  
202.225.5506

## THINK SAFETY

### WHEN USING A GENERATOR



Of course, no one would ever purposely cause the death of a lineworker. Nevertheless, a generator connected to a home's wiring or plugged into a regular household outlet can cause backfeeding along power lines and electrocute anyone who comes in contact with them—even if the line seems de-energized.

Never connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system. There are only two safe ways to connect a standby generator to your equipment.

#### Stationary Generator:

- An approved generator transfer switch, which keeps your house circuits separate from the electric co-op, should be installed by a Master Electrician.

#### Portable Generator:

- Set up and run your generator in a well-ventilated area outside the home. Make sure it's out and away from your garage, doors, windows, and vents. The carbon monoxide generated is deadly.
- Start the generator first before connecting appliances.
- Plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator.
- If you use an extension cord be sure it's appropriately rated for the load/device connected to the generator.



# CVEC WELCOMES CORNELL ELEMENTARY 4K STUDENTS

Cornell Elementary School 4K students from Mrs. Koenig's class visited Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative on May 17. Nearly 30 students were adorably adorned in little yellow hats as they learned safety tips from Greg and Tyler, CVEC linemen.

Greg and Tyler showed them a variety of tools they use to do their work along with the climbing gear needed to safely climb poles. Tyler demonstrated his pole-climbing skills and quickly climbed all the way to the top after a few students chanted, "Go to the top! Go to the top!" The young students also listened to Greg as he shared important safety tips such as stay away from downed power lines and never play on transformers.

Keep children safe by reminding them of the valuable life-saving tips below:

## Remind the young ones in your life of these safety tips:

- Point out overhead power lines and electrical equipment to your children and emphasize that they should never climb on or play near them.
- Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines aren't touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to the branch.
- Never climb a utility pole or tower. The electricity carried through this equipment is extremely high voltage and could kill you.
- Never play on a transformer, and if one is open do not touch anything inside. Tell your parents right away.
- Never go into an electric substation for any reason. Electric substations contain high-voltage equipment, which can kill you. Never rescue a pet or retrieve a ball or toy that goes inside. Call your electric utility instead.
- Let your child know that water and electricity are a dangerous combination and should never be used near each other.
- Fly kites and model airplanes in large open areas like a park or a field. Stay far away from power lines. If a kite gets stuck in a tree that's near power lines, don't climb up to get it. Contact your electric utility for assistance.
- Never fly a kite on a cloudy day when a thunderstorm may be approaching.

—safeelectricity.org



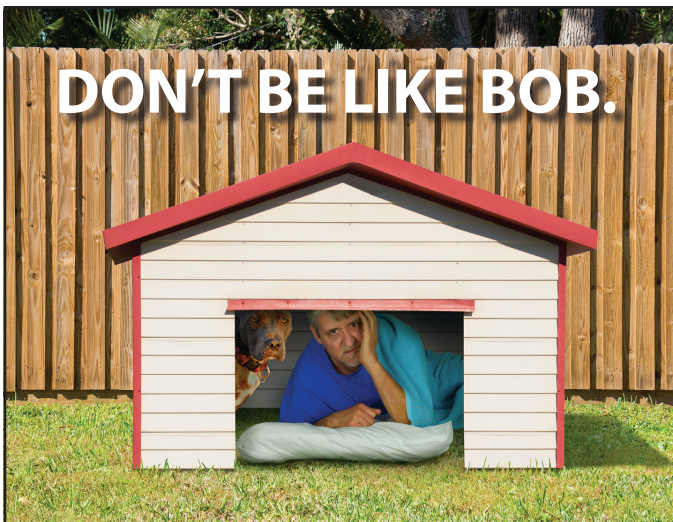
Above left: Tyler climbed to the top of the pole as the children cheered him on.

Above right: Greg demonstrated how the bucket truck works.

Left: Tyler and Greg shared some important safety tips, including never play on an underground transformer.



## DON'T BE LIKE BOB.



Bob forgot to check CVEC's website for rebates before purchasing a new appliance and missed out on some serious savings. Don't be like Bob and end up in the doghouse. Check [cvecoop.com](http://cvecoop.com) to learn how CVEC can help you save on energy-efficient home purchases and projects.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know the combined use of large appliances like dishwashers, clothes dryers and washing machines account for the largest percentage of electricity use in the average U.S. home? Take small steps to save energy when using these appliances.

Only run full loads in the dishwasher, and thoroughly scrape food from dishes before loading. Dry towels and heavier cottons separate from lighter-weight clothing, and clean the lint screen after every use. Wash clothing in cold water to save energy used to heat water.

Source: EIA and DOE



REMINDER!

## Member Appreciation Picnic

Friday, July 8, 2022  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m



**Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative**  
invites you to come and join your friends and neighbors for an old-fashioned cookout!

Brats, hot dogs, and all the trimmings, including our famous baked beans, with ice cream bars for dessert!

Please come and enjoy a complimentary lunch at 317 South 8th Street (corner of Hwy. 27/64 and South 8th Street), Cornell, WI, 715.239.6800

Come see an EV!  
Electric Vehicle  
on site from  
Dairyland Power Cooperative

Sorry, no carry-outs.



Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative

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[www.cvecoop.com](http://www.cvecoop.com) • email: [cvec@cve.coop](mailto:cvec@cve.coop)

Follow us on Facebook

Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 7:30–4 p.m.

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

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