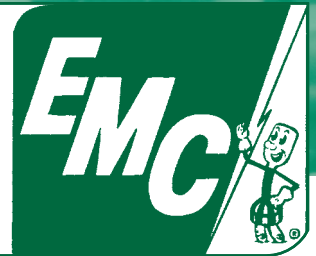


Electric News

Published for Members of the Little Ocmulgee EMC

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Where Do You Find Value?

Electricity Provides Powerful Value

If you're like me, there are aspects of your life that become a daily routine. I get ready for work, get in my car and drive to the coffee shop on the way to the office. At lunchtime, I drive to the nearest fast-food location and get lunch. Once I finally end the day at home, I stream an episode or two of my favorite show before bed.

As we all look for ways to save money in this age of increasing inflation, I began to think about my daily routine and how much value it provided me compared to the money I spent. A morning latte was costing me about \$6, a fast-food combo with a burger, fries and drink was setting me back \$10, and my Netflix subscription is about \$16 each month.

All these daily expenses totaled around \$85 a week, or about \$340 monthly. And what was the real value—short-term satisfaction and a larger waistline? Even as I started packing my own lunch, my latte was still costing me about \$120 a month. This got me thinking—is this the best value for my money?

The average daily cost of electricity is about \$4.57. You could power your entire home every day for the price of a medium latte. I could brew my own coffee, cook my own meals, binge a series and run on a treadmill for less than the cost of that drink. Now to me, that's real value!

Electricity provides benefits that we often take for granted. It goes well beyond short-term satisfaction by allowing us to charge devices and have cold food and

hot water, all in a comfortable indoor climate. Besides the privilege it affords, electricity has also remained relatively cost stable, even amid rising inflation.

As a member-owned cooperative, Little Ocmulgee EMC does everything in our power to ensure your costs stay reasonable and that electricity remains a great value for our members. It's not always easy, as there are several factors beyond inflation that impact the price of electricity—some within our control, but most beyond it.

The cost of electricity can fluctuate due to supply and demand, infrastructure investment, maintenance

and operational expenses. Weather patterns also contribute, affecting demand and generation capabilities, with extreme conditions leading to heightened energy use or disruptions. Government policies, such as subsidies for renewable energy or taxes and regulations on emissions, shape electricity costs as well. Your electric

co-op considers all these aspects when adjusting rates. And because we're a cooperative, we consider the impact of those costs on our members as well.

As our community continues to rely on electricity for nearly everything in our homes, schools, hospitals and businesses, we need it to be reliable and affordable. Rest assured, Little Ocmulgee EMC always puts you top of mind and works each day to ensure electricity remains the best value for your money.

Where Do You Find Value?

Did you know the average daily cost of electricity is \$4.57, or about \$140 a month?

Electricity fuels our daily life essentials, from heating/cooling equipment to entertainment devices and appliances. Think of how vital power is compared to other everyday purchases. **That's real value.**



Morning To-Go Latte



Fast-Food Combo Lunch



All-Day Power

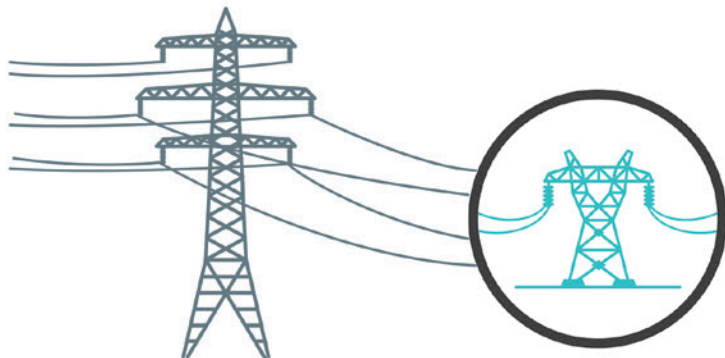
Sources: Energy Information Administration, MoneyGeek and CNET

The Steps to Restoring Power



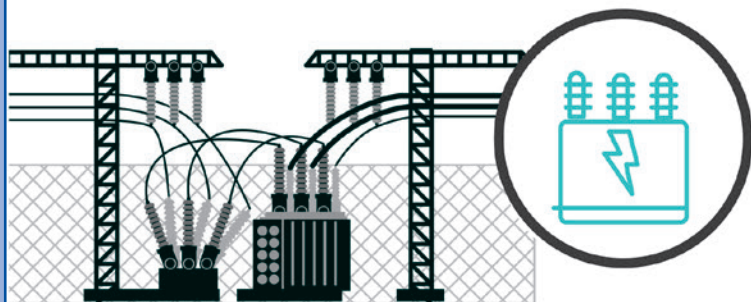
1. Report Outage

Report an outage by calling your local Little Ocmulgee EMC office or the toll-free outage reporting number at (800) 342-1290. We are prepared to take your calls, but remember: A major outage can affect thousands of members, so we appreciate your patience.



2. High-voltage Transmission Lines

These lines carry large amounts of electricity. They rarely fail but they can be damaged in severe storms. When damaged, these lines must be repaired first.



3. Distribution Substations

Crews inspect substations, which can serve hundreds or thousands of people. If the power can be corrected at the substation, power may be restored to many members.



4. Main Distribution Lines

If the problem can't be isolated at the substation, main distribution supply lines are checked next. These lines deliver electricity to large groups of members in communities or housing developments.



5. Individual Homes and Businesses

After main line repairs are complete, we repair lines that serve individual homes and businesses.

A Recipe to Fix America's Broken Energy Policy

By Jim Matheson

American families and businesses rightfully expect their lights to stay on at a price they can afford. Our national energy policy must embrace this fundamental promise—or so you would think.

Unfortunately, our country is confronted with a harsh reality—we are quickly approaching a point where there won't be enough electricity to go around.

Sobering Reliability Assessments

The North American Electric Reliability Corp. (NERC) is the nation's grid watchdog. For years, the organization has issued a string of increasingly dire reports warning that threats to grid reliability are mounting, and more frequent rolling blackouts could soon become the norm.

Nine states experienced rolling blackouts at the end of 2022 as demand for electricity outstripped supply during a period of extreme cold. In its 2023-2024 Winter Reliability Assessment, NERC warned that half of the nation faced the same risk during extreme weather this past winter.

Looking further into the future, the picture gets even more grim. Over the next five years, NERC forecasts that all or parts of 19 states from Montana to Louisiana are at high risk of rolling blackouts during normal peak conditions. And most of the country faces similar risks when demand for electricity spikes during exceedingly hot or cold temperatures.

Is this what America is supposed to be? The answer is obviously no.

How We Got Here

Keeping the lights on is not a partisan issue. But politics and energy policy have had an outsized impact on how we got here. The current state of



our nation's energy policy related to electricity can be summed up simply: Do more with less.

That's just not possible. From data centers to EVs, from home heating and cooling to the way we run America's farms, our nation is increasingly reliant on electricity to power the economy. That trend is set to grow dramatically in coming years.

And opposite that increasing demand for electricity is an alarming reduction in supply as our country shutter's existing always-available power plants to comply with various federal and state regulations. PJM, a grid operator throughout the mid-Atlantic, recently projected that 25 GW of power generation, enough to power nearly 19 million homes, will soon be taken offline in the region because of shortsighted state and federal policies.

The final challenge to meeting our nation's energy needs is the arcane set of rules and regulations required to build anything in this country. The process for siting, permitting and building infrastructure—everything from solar farms to pipelines to transmission lines—is mired in red tape and years of litigation.



Additional Threats on the Horizon

These trends are not going to get any better in the coming years.

The EPA recently proposed a rule to overhaul the way always-available power plants operate—requiring them to either deploy carbon-capture technology or run on clean hydrogen in seven years. If enacted, the proposal will lead directly to more blackouts, higher costs and uncertainty for America. That's a dangerous approach to regulation.

An Antidote for the Problem

We must have a serious policy conversation in this country about where we're going and what it will take to realistically get there. Policymakers cannot overlook the laws of physics or the reality of the current situation. Adding more renewable resources to the nation's energy portfolio can be part of the solution. But since the sun doesn't always shine, our country also needs a robust supply of always-available energy resources to call on at a moment's notice.

The grid can be strengthened, but it will take greater coordination among stakeholders, visibility on how demand for electricity is growing, and federal and local policies that promote the development of new power generation and transmission.

Keeping the lights on is vital to America's economy and national security. The stakes are too high to get this wrong.

Jim Matheson is CEO of the Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association that represents the nation's more than 900 not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives. He previously served seven terms as a U.S. representative from Utah.

Power Pole Clutter

Flyers, satellite dishes, posters, basketball hoops, decorative lights, even hunting stands. You name it, someone has tried to staple, nail or tie it to a power pole. Here's a quick look at the dangers and pitfalls associated with unauthorized pole attachments.

Illegal

Many state and local laws and the National Electrical Safety Code prohibit any unauthorized items on poles. Utilities can face fines if these attachments aren't removed.



Pole Damage

Even small holes can allow moisture and insects past the pole sealant, which can shorten the life of the pole or weaken it and cause it to fall in a storm.



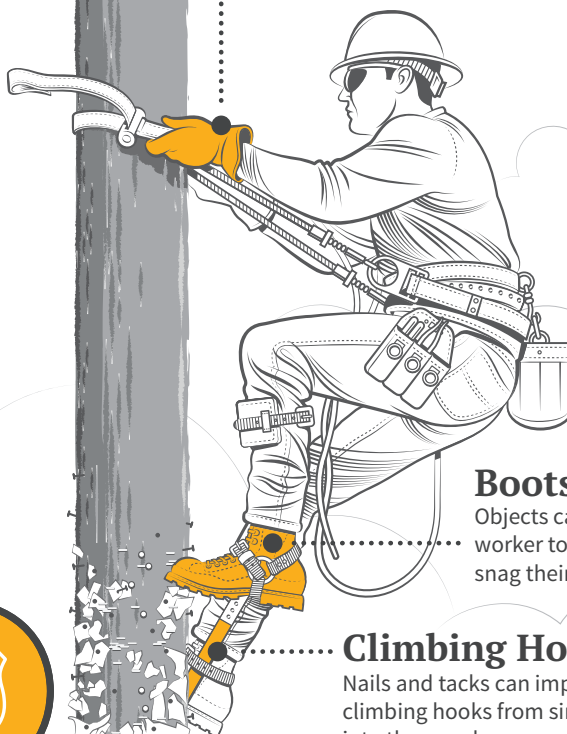
Hinders Repairs

Posters and flyers can hide identifying markers on poles and slow repair work.



Gloves

Staples, tacks and nails can puncture a lineworker's insulated rubber gloves and expose them to electric shock.



Boots

Objects can cause a worker to fall if they snag their boots.

Climbing Hooks

Nails and tacks can impede climbing hooks from sinking into the wood.



Dangerous

A person who gets too close to energized lines while attaching an object can be electrocuted.

Distraction

Some materials posted on poles, like mirrors or holiday decorations, can be a distraction to drivers.

