

**THE ELECTRIC COMPANY THAT
DOESN'T STOP AT YOUR METER**

Butler REC **NEWS**

Summer Power Supply Update

In the spring, I remember thinking about the weather in 2011. The extremely cold winter and the summer setting records with many days over 100 degrees. Then, thinking about the mild winter we had this year and wondering if this summer would be a mild one. Well, as it turns out, that was wishful thinking. In mid-July, we already had more than 20 days with highs reaching 100 degrees.

Summertime is filled with outdoor activities, recreation and work. My son, Matthew, and daughter, Jennifer, both have been out in this heat at the softball diamonds a lot this summer. I'm sure they get tired of me telling them to drink plenty of water, but staying hydrated is extremely important in this heat.

The summer heat has also contributed to higher power costs. Hydropower is our lowest-priced power source and this summer's drought reduced the amount of power we are receiving from the reservoirs.

"The drought that threatens half of the country and most of Kansas has had its effect on the availability of hydroelectric power from the Southwestern Power Administration (SWPA)," said Steve Parr, CEO of Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, our power supplier. "Their reservoirs, and therefore the energy in storage, which were about average for the first two months of the year, then well above average until May, are now

well below even the average minimum levels recorded from 1987 to 2011."

Nuclear is our second lowest-priced power source. Wolf Creek has been operating throughout this summer heat and is scheduled to be online until its next refueling outage in February 2013.

The latan 2 coal plant experienced an outage in the first part of July for repairs, but also has been operating well through the hottest part of the summer. So far in 2012, the latan 2 plant has provided 12 percent of our power supply.

The highest-priced power occurs with peaking systems that help generate the power needed during these very hot summer afternoons. By scheduling some of your usage outside of the weekday hours of 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., you not only manage the demand cost on your electric bill, but you help to control the overall power costs.

In closing, I would like to remind everyone to take time to vote. We all have our opinions on various issues in our country. What better place to voice our opinion than on a ballot.

Keep cool, drink plenty of water, stay safe and enjoy your summer.



Ben Whiteside
*Vice President of
Administration & Finance*

Make Time-of-Use Demand Work for YOU

How Billing Demand is Determined

- ▶ In July and August, the billing demand will be the highest hourly demand during the week day peak hours (5 p.m. to 8 p.m.).
- ▶ For the months of September through June, the billing demand will be the greater of:
 - The minimum demand which is 70 percent of the highest monthly demand of either July or August; or
 - Your current monthly demand which is the highest hourly usage during the week day peak hours (5 p.m. to 8 p.m.).

You get FREE DEMAND before 5 p.m. and after 8 p.m. on weekdays and all day on weekends and most major holidays.

Be Aware of Scams

Butler REC wants to warn our members of an ongoing con that has already affected thousands on the west and east coasts.

Scammers contact electric consumers claiming households are eligible for an energy credit offered by President Obama to obtain personal information. They tell victims that their utility bills can be paid under a federal government program. **No such program exists.** The solicitations have been made door-to-door, online and by phone.

Members are asked for personal information and then given fake bank account numbers to use for making a payment on their utility bill. Members are urged to alert police if they're contacted about the scam.

Visit our Website & Join us on Facebook



Visit our website at www.butler.coop. On our website, you will find a calendar of events, frequently asked questions, bill pay and energy calculators—just to name a few tools!

You can also become a fan of Butler REC on Facebook by clicking the Facebook “like” button on our homepage.

Check our Facebook page for updates, outage information and energy efficiency tips.

Joining us on Facebook is a great way to stay in touch with our members.

Co-op Connections Card Brings Value to Members & Businesses

As your electric cooperative, it's important for Butler REC to provide its members with safe, reliable power. Yet, our service goes beyond the wires. It's also important that we offer additional value that has an enormously positive impact on everyone in the community. As a Touchstone Energy® co-op, we strive to meet that goal on a daily basis.

That's why Butler REC, in conjunction with the other Touchstone Energy co-ops serving 22 million member-owners nationwide, participate in the Co-op Connections® program. This new card-based member benefit program is designed to deliver added value to our members—residential and business—by offering valuable discounts at participating local and national businesses. **And it's free.**

Whenever a Co-op Connections cardholder—whether from Butler REC or from one of the hundreds of Touchstone Energy co-ops across the country—shows the Co-op Con-



nections card at a participating business, they receive a discount. Equally, those businesses benefit from increased customer visits by co-op members

participating in the program. And it's easy to spot which local businesses are participating. Look for the Co-op Connections stickers in their windows, or simply visit www.butler.coop and check out the list of participants.

Butler REC is in the process of printing new cards for all our members. These new cards will offer more benefits than the old cards and will be delivered in the October issue of the *Kansas Country Living* magazine. We will be talking more about these new benefits in the September issue.

While our number one priority is keep the lights on, Butler REC is committed to bringing additional value to our members and the communities we serve. The Co-op Connections program is just another way to accomplish that goal. That's the cooperative difference.

Butler REC Electrical Contracting



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Residential Wiring - New Service - Service Rebuilds - Generator Hookup

Dollarhide Attends Washington, D.C., Youth Tour

Butler REC sent **ROSE DOLLARHIDE** to tour Washington, D.C. Dollarhide toured the nation's capital with 32 other students from across Kansas for the 52nd Annual "Government in Action" Youth Tour, June 14-21.

"Butler REC is proud to support the Youth Tour program and send our youth to experience government in action," said Travis Griffin, Member Services Manager. "Our hope is that local students will gain some awareness of how our political system works and how important it is for the youth to be involved in our community."

Kansas is one of the 42 states to send a youth delegation to the annual electric cooperative youth tour this year.

The Youth Tour was inspired by Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson when he declared at a national electric cooperative meeting in 1957, "If one thing goes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents."

The students began their trip by visiting Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative in Topeka before flying to Washington, D.C. The group learned about the U.S. government through visits with Senators Moran and Roberts, as well as Representatives Huelskamp, Jenkins and Pompeo. They also met with youth from other states



Rose Dollarhide poses at the Capitol after a meeting with Senators Jerry Moran and Pat Roberts.

and tours of museums, Capitol Hill, Arlington National Cemetery and the National Archives.

"The best part of this trip was getting to see so much of Washington, D.C., and hear facts about it," Dollarhide said. "Getting such an all-access pass around was super cool. It was also cool meeting people from such a wide array of small towns and having that in common navigating the big capital."

Dollarhide was selected from a group of high school applicants by Butler REC. To win this trip, students were scored on a short exam and interview. The exam covered the history of electric cooperatives and their role in our nation's history. The students were then interviewed by Butler REC Representatives. The students were scored on both the exam and interview.

Butler REC sponsors the trip for one student each year. For more information about the Youth Tour, contact Travis Griffin, Member Services Manager.



The 2012 delegation consisted of 33 participants from Kansas and four from Hawaii. Here they pose in front of our nation's capitol.



Winter Contracts are Due August 16

Check your mailbox this month for more information on winter contracts.

Don't forget, members get one year FREE tank rental. Includes delivery, set-up, regular, pigtail, blocks and a 500 gallon tank.

Over a \$60 value!

There is no need to wait until your tank is empty we can transfer your remaining propane.

Call for Summer Fill Pricing!

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