

MANAGER'S REPORT

Winter Reliability Forecast Shows Adequate Resources for 2024-2025 Season



Keaton Hildreth, CEO

In November, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) released a report outlining its 2024/2025 Winter Reliability Assessment.

In the report, Southwest Power Pool (SPP), our regional grid operator, is noted to have sufficient electric generation capacity to meet expected demand under normal winter operating conditions.

Electric utilities nationwide are members of one of nine regional transmission organizations (RTOs) and independent system operators (ISOs), also called power pools. These entities are federally regulated by FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) and work on a regional scale to coordinate, control, and monitor supply and demand on the electric grid. RTOs do not own the power grid, but they work as “air-traffic controllers” of the grid to ensure reliable power supplies, adequate transmission infrastructure, and “day-ahead” electric market coordination of wholesale electricity prices on behalf of their members.

While SPP is not listing reliability as being at a high-risk level for the upcoming winter season, our industry continues to navigate significant long-term challenges in maintaining a resilient and reliable electric grid.

“The immediate outlook is stable, but we’re seeing unprecedented changes in how electricity is both generated and consumed across our region,” said Keaton Hildreth, CEO at Calhoun County Electric Cooperative. “As our society becomes increasingly electrified and we see rapid growth

in sectors like data centers, demand for electricity is growing at a historic pace.”

The changing energy landscape presents both opportunities and challenges. While the SPP region has made substantial progress in bolstering its transmission infrastructure and adding renewable energy resources like wind and solar, the variable nature of these resources requires careful planning to maintain reliability. Additionally, SPP has approved an increase in its required Planning Reserve Margin.

What’s a planning reserve margin?

SPP, Corn Belt Power, and Calhoun County Electric Cooperative must plan for times of extreme power use. We do that in the form of what we call reserve margins. Reserves are resources that are held back, standing by to provide additional energy when needed. Reserve margins are the amount of unused available generating capability of an electric power system (during peak demand for a utility system) as a percentage of the total capability needed to meet peak demand. These margins are shrinking in SPP and across the country. Tighter reserve margins mean there’s less room for error when we experience unexpected events or emergencies, increasing the risk of forced outages.

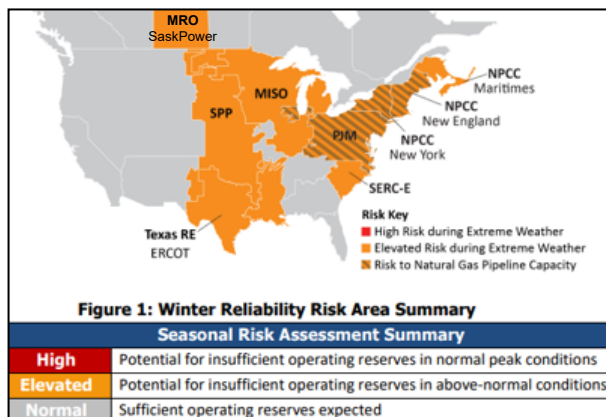
“We need a diverse mix of power resources to keep the lights on 24/7,” Hildreth explained. “That includes having dispatchable generation

like coal, natural gas, and nuclear, available when renewable resources aren’t producing at full capacity. However, many of our traditional generating facilities are being targeted by federal legislation aimed to curb emissions by implementing unproven or unavailable technologies, forcing them to retire before their end of life if they cannot comply with emissions standards.”

Proactive Steps to Ensure Reliability

Calhoun County Electric Cooperative is taking decisive action to maintain grid reliability for our members through several key initiatives:

- **Advocating for Reliability and Affordability:** Electric cooperatives across the country are owned by you, the members we serve. This means that our cooperative works together with other electric cooperatives to educate lawmakers and advocate on behalf of our members to ensure that reliable power is also competitively priced.



Winter Reliability Forecast

Continued from front

- **Resource Diversification:** Nationally, there is increasing reliance on renewable energy sources, and at the same time, we're seeing fossil fuel plants taken offline, often ahead of schedule. Additionally, we're seeing more pressure on the electric grid due to the ever-present severe weather events and historic rising demand, as we begin to electrify more sectors of our economy in the form of electric vehicles, data storage and cryptocurrency. Calhoun County Electric Cooperative believes and advocates for an all-of-the-above energy approach. The "all-of-the-above" approach promotes the idea that the United States relies on a reliable and sustainable fuel supply. There is great value in maintaining a diverse mix of fuel sources—fossil fuels and renewables- to ensure reliability and resiliency and meet the growing demand for electricity.
- **Grid Infrastructure:** As a member of Corn Belt Power, we pool resources and expertise to invest in technology, security, and infrastructure to deliver reliable and cost-effective power. Our operations are dedicated to strengthening our electric infrastructure through targeted upgrades and new construction projects, which will enhance regional connectivity and resiliency.
- **Emergency Preparedness:** We work closely with SPP and neighboring utilities to protect our members from potential energy shortages and price spikes associated with having to purchase more power when demand is elevated. By having detailed response plans in place, we can take steps to reduce electricity demand during critical periods – helping avoid the need to purchase expensive power from the market when prices are at their highest. This coordinated approach helps keep your electricity both reliable and affordable.
- **Regional Coordination:** We actively participate in SPP's reliability initiatives and maintain close coordination with neighboring utilities to support regional grid stability. By working to prepare for and respond to energy shortfalls, we can follow protocols to reduce electric demand and prevent us from having to purchase excess energy from the markets or avoid the need to interrupt power supply.

Our wholesale power provider, Corn Belt Power, works closely with SPP and other regional partners to address these long-term challenges while maintaining reliable and affordable electric service for our member-consumers. As we dedicate ourselves to powering your homes and communities throughout the winter season, know we are committed to doing everything we can to maintain your trust and find solutions to keep your power reliable and your rates stable.

CCECA NEWS

Normal power line **Lines weighed down by ice** **Top line melted after bottom line**

ICE ON POWER LINES IS A WEIGHTY SUBJECT

When it comes to getting electricity across power lines and into homes, ice can be a force to be reckoned with.

ICE ON DISTRIBUTION LINES

Ice can quickly lead to broken power poles and other pole equipment. Ice can also make falling tree branches 30x heavier and much more likely to break power lines.

ON A 300-FOOT SPAN OF 1-INCH-THICK POWER LINES

- 1/2 inch of ice adds 281 pounds of weight
- 1 inch of ice adds 749 pounds of weight
- 2 inches of ice adds 2,248 pounds of weight

WHEN ICE MELTS

Melting ice can cause power outages. If ice on the bottom (neutral) line melts before the lines above, it can cause the lines to touch.

OTHER ICE FACTS

- Damage can begin when ice exceeds 1/4 of an inch
- 1/2 inch of ice can cause a line to sag up to 12 inches
- Pressure can also be caused by a broken tree limb
- Both ice and melting ice can cause power outages

Safe Electricity.org[®]

Source: Jerri Imgarten-Whitley and Victory Electric Cooperative

Iowa Youth Tour 2025 – Sign up now!

Accepting Applications for High School Leadership Trip to D.C.

Calhoun County Electric Cooperative will send one student on an all-expenses Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C., in June

At Calhoun County Electric Cooperative, one way we invest in the next generation of rural Iowa leaders is by participating in the national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program. We're looking for high school sophomores and juniors with a passion for government and public service to apply for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to our nation's capital in June.

One student will be selected from eligible candidates to attend the 2025 Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., from June 15-21 along with 40 other student leaders from Iowa. The Iowa Youth Tour group will join with nearly 2,000 other students from across the country as they learn more about electric cooperatives and American history and come home with a greater understanding of their role as American citizens. Students will also learn about U.S. government and meet with their members of Congress. On the trip, students take in the sights of D.C. as they visit monuments, museums and historical landmarks. Students who go on Youth Tour often call it the trip of a lifetime!

We are accepting Youth Tour applications from January 1, 2025 through March 1, 2025. High school students from Calhoun County Electric Cooperative's service territory are eligible to apply; the student must be a current sophomore or junior. The application process consists of completing our application form which includes an essay question. We will conduct in-person interviews with finalists. You can download you can download the application on our website (www.calhounrec.coop) or pick up a printed copy by stopping into our office. Contact Menley Cates, Administrative Assistant/Communications Specialist at mcates@calhounrec.coop or 712-297-7112 for more information.

There is NO cost to the student selected to go on the trip. Again, this year Calhoun County Electric Cooperative is adding to the excitement of this program. Aside from an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. the top candidate will receive a \$250.00 pre-paid debit card that he/she will be able to use during the trip. The first and second place runners-up will also receive a pre-paid debit card in the amount of \$125.00. Calhoun County Electric Cooperative is a proud sponsor of the Youth Tour Program and the opportunity it provides us to show our ongoing commitment to the communities we serve.

For more than 65 years, Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives have been sending deserving students to D.C. This program is a great resume builder for student leaders and a wonderful opportunity to kickstart one's passion for government affairs or advocacy. Make sure to apply for Youth Tour 2025 by March 1, 2025!

STUDENTS:
Apply now
for a trip to
Washington,
D.C., from
June 15-21!



Area high school students interested in government and public service are encouraged to apply.

Learn more at
IowaYouthTour.com



Calhoun County Electric Cooperative decorated a Christmas tree to be viewed by community members at the Festival of Trees held in Rockwell City on December 8, 2024.



Energy Trail Tour 2025

Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association and Corn Belt Power Cooperative invite you to join us for one of two Energy Trail Tours being offered this summer. This 3-day adventure will allow you to experience,

first-hand, how your power providers convert energy from water, wind, and coal into electricity. View coal being mined and see how those mines are then returned to productive farm and native grass lands. Enjoy interactive walking tours through a hydroelectric and coal-fired energy generation facility and other stops along the way. Meet other cooperative member-owners while traveling together across the Dakotas on-board a motor-coach bound for the North Dakota's Energy Loop. Two lucky couples from Calhoun County Electric will be selected at random from those who sign up.



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 Keaton Hildreth, CEO

YES, please enter our names in the drawing for the trip.

First Person _____

Second Person _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

Our first and second choice of dates:

June 18-20 1st 2nd (please circle)
 July 9-11 1st 2nd

I/we have have not participated in this tour in the past.

Clip this coupon and return to cooperative by April 25, 2025.

January Member Challenge

Find the answers within the stories, features, and content of this newsletter and you could win a prize. **Send your answer to memberchallenge@calhounrec.coop, clip and mail to: Calhoun County Electric Cooperative, PO Box 312, Rockwell City, IA 50579 or submit on our website: www.calhounrec.coop/member-challenge-submission.** You may mail your entry along with your electric bill payment, but remember there is a deadline!

Entries for this issue **must be received by Feb. 1st**. Three names will be drawn from all correct entries. Members will receive a **\$10 credit** on their account. Members who answer the questions correctly and participate at least 4 times throughout the year, will be eligible for a \$100 Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Pre-Paid Debit card, through a random drawing, at the end of the year.

**Congratulations November winners:
 Stephen Kral, Terry Ewing, and Ron Haden**



1. Calhoun County Electric Cooperative is taking decisive action to maintain grid reliability for our members through several key initiatives Advocating for Reliability and Affordability, Resource Diversification, Grid Infrastructure, _____, and Regional Coordination.
2. CCECA is looking for high school _____ and _____ with a passion for government and public service to apply for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to our nation's capital in June.
3. Calhoun County Electric Cooperative will select _____ lucky couples at random to attend the 2025 Energy Trail Tour.

Name _____



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