

● JULY 2025

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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

**Summer reliability
assessment**

**Energy efficiency tips
for older homes**

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favorites**

Show you care with RECare ▶ See Page 13

FRANKLIN REC OFFICE CLOSURES

Please note the following office closures:

- **Friday, July 4:** Closed in observance of Independence Day.
- **Thursday, July 10:** Closed until 1 p.m. as staff will be serving breakfast at the Franklin County Fair 4-H Food Stand.

While you're at the county fair, don't forget to stop by Pleasant Hill to redeem your free homemade ice cream vouchers, courtesy of Franklin REC!

FROM YOUR BOARDROOM

During the May meeting, Franklin REC directors approved the following:

- Voting in favor of National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation bylaw amendments
- 2024 patronage allocation
- 2025 patronage retirement
- 2025/2026 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association dues
- A donation request



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Summer Office Hours

Monday-Friday 6:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Closed Saturdays, Sundays and holidays

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Calls answered 24/7

Secure Pay-by-Phone Number

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Website

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

RELIABILITY REPORT RELEASED AHEAD OF WARM SUMMER MONTHS

BY GARRETT THOMPSON



In early May, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) released a report outlining its 2025 Summer Reliability

Assessment. The report raised concerns regarding several regional transmission organizations (RTOs) and their electric generation and transmission challenges this summer.

This month, I want to take this space to discuss what it all means and how Franklin REC is working with its industry partners to address these issues.

NERC's summer reliability assessment

NERC placed Southwest Power Pool (SPP) and Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) in an "elevated risk" category for electric generation/capacity shortfalls this summer. Franklin REC is a part of the SPP footprint.

Despite the elevated risk category, SPP anticipates a high likelihood of meeting demand for electricity this summer.

SPP conducts an assessment each year to identify and mitigate threats to energy reliability during the summer season lasting from June to September. The analysis considers factors such as historical and predicted future electricity use, weather forecasts, the variability of available wind energy, drought conditions and generation and transmission outages.

Seasonal forecasts indicate a 40-60% chance of warmer-than-average temperatures this summer within the SPP footprint. There are similar chances for below-average rainfall for most of the area covered by SPP. Given these expected conditions, SPP's studies conclude there is high probability it will have sufficient native generation to meet the demand for electricity peak-usage hours over the summer season. This analysis does not consider the availability of energy imports from other regions, the impact

of demand response programs that can automatically reduce demand in response to real-time conditions during peak hours, or the potential impact of voluntary conservation programs that incent consumers to reduce their electricity use when generating reserves are slim.

If extreme weather, unexpected outages or other circumstances affect the region, SPP has systems, tools and procedures ready to mitigate risks and maintain electric reliability. Under different scenarios, the grid operator may call on generating units to commit to run earlier or more often than usual, delay planned equipment outages, import energy from neighboring systems or tap into available reserves depending on the severity and duration of events affecting energy reliability.

What does this mean for Franklin REC?

The way we generate electricity is rapidly changing. More and more, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power are coming online, while traditional sources like coal, nuclear and natural gas are being retired. Franklin REC believes and advocates for an all-of-the-above energy approach. All-of-the-above promotes the idea that the U.S. depends on a reliable and sustainable fuel supply that includes developing and incorporating domestically produced renewable energy resources to supplement baseload generation that includes biofuels, natural gas, nuclear, hydropower and coal.

It's important to remember that the electric grid is made up of thousands of generating stations and millions of miles of line. A power plant outage or natural disaster could have an impact on SPP's projections. Franklin REC, Corn Belt Power Cooperative and Corn Belt Power Cooperative's primary power provider, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, are well-positioned to meet this summer's peak demand. And, as we have always done, we will communicate potential issues with you as they arise.

GET TO KNOW YOUR CO-OP

In this edition of our “Get to Know Us” series, we’re featuring three outstanding members of our Franklin REC team: Chad Foster, Nicholas Nelson and Dave Keninger. Each shares what they love about working at the cooperative, the projects they’re most proud of and how they see Franklin REC making a difference in the community. They’ll also reflect on the evolution of the cooperative and offer advice for those starting their careers. Read on to learn more about Chad, Nicholas and Dave and their contributions to Franklin REC!

We continue to work with policymakers and regulators on a state and federal level for a sensible all-of-the-above generation approach.

The ongoing energy transition must recognize the need for time, and technology development, while including all energy sources to maintain reliability and affordability. A resilient and reliable electric grid that affordably keeps the lights on is the cornerstone of our rural economy.

Electric cooperative families and businesses rightfully expect the lights to stay on at a price they can afford. To maintain the reliability of your power supply, we must adopt an all-of-the-above strategy that includes renewable energy as well as dependable resources we have come to rely on like coal, natural gas, nuclear and hydropower. This diverse energy mix is essential to meeting those expectations day in and day out.

We are keenly aware that the sun doesn’t always shine, and the wind doesn’t always blow. While we support and encourage the development and use of renewable energy, the intermittent nature of renewables means there may be times when there simply isn’t enough of it to keep the lights on all the time. Its place is to supplement a reliable and affordable baseload generation mix. That’s why we must continue to recognize the value of and operate baseload generation plants now and into the future.

Our mission remains the same. We are here to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity that is also environmentally responsible. We will continue to advocate on your behalf and do everything we can to continue to live up to that mission.

Garrett Thompson is the CEO/general manager of Franklin REC.

CHAD FOSTER Member Service Advisor



Q: What is your favorite part of working at Franklin REC?

Working with a great team and helping members with problems or concerns. Getting the power back on.

Q: How would you describe Franklin REC’s impact on the community? I think we are a respected business; we are willing to go the extra mile to help out where we can.

Q: What is one thing you wish more members knew about Franklin REC? How the financials operate as a not-for-profit organization.

Q: If you had to sum up Franklin REC in three words, what would they be? Trustworthy, dependable, committed.

Q: What is one piece of advice you would give to someone just starting their career? Hang in there, you will have a better understanding with time.

DAVE KENINGER Board Director



Q: What’s your favorite part of being involved with Franklin REC?

Working with fellow board members, cooperative staff, members and outside sources

to solve problems to benefit our members.

Q: How has Franklin REC changed since you started?

The industry is continuously evolving, making it more complicated to stay ahead of change.

Q: What’s one thing you wish more members knew about Franklin REC? How co-ops work and the benefits of a cooperative.

Q: What’s a project or initiative at Franklin REC that you’re especially proud of?

Implementing our four solar fields and the savings they will generate for our members over the next 17 years.

Q: If you had to sum up Franklin REC in three words, what would they be? Family working together.

NICHOLAS NELSON Lineman



Q: What is your favorite part of working at Franklin REC?

The people.

Q: How would you describe

Franklin REC’s impact on the community? Helping wherever we can.

Q: If you had to sum up Franklin REC in three words, what would they be? Caring, dedication, commitment.

Q: What is one piece of advice you would give to someone just starting their career? Jump in with both feet.

UNDERSTANDING WHICH POLES POWER YOU

Have you ever driven down the road and wondered which power poles are delivering electricity to your home or business? In Franklin REC's service territory, electricity flows through a network that starts with regional generation sources, is transported through transmission lines by Corn Belt Power Cooperative (Corn Belt Power) and is finally delivered to you by Franklin REC's distribution lines.

Corn Belt Power's transmission system carries electricity at high voltages (69kV or 69,000 volts) into Franklin REC distribution substations using tall, 70 to 80-foot utility poles. Once the power reaches these substations, the voltage is reduced to a safer level suitable for proceeding through the distribution process.

Once the electricity leaves the substation, it travels along Franklin REC's distribution lines, typically supported by utility poles ranging from 30 to 50 feet in height. Depending on the energy needs of a particular area, these poles may carry one or

multiple power lines, including several phases in regions with higher demand. When electricity reaches its destination, it passes through a transformer, where the voltage is once again reduced to a safe level for use in homes, farms and businesses.

Whose lines are they, anyway?

In Iowa, electric service territories are clearly defined. That means the electric utility that serves your property is based on location – not personal preference. It's why your neighbor a mile away might be served by a different utility altogether.

This structure benefits everyone. It ensures that each utility, like Franklin REC, can plan for future demand, maintain their system efficiently, and provide high levels of reliability through proactive maintenance and vegetation management.

Special thanks to Franklin REC Lineman Cole Marzen for contributing to this article.



H-structures and staggering structures

Corn Belt Power maintains the 69kV transmission lines that bring high-voltage electricity into Franklin REC's service territory. These lines are supported by two main types of structures. H-structures consist of two tall poles connected by a horizontal crossarm, forming the familiar "H" shape commonly seen across open areas. Staggering structures, on the other hand, use a single tall pole with zigzag stacked arms, designed for locations where space or terrain requires a more compact setup.



Three-phase distribution lines

You'll recognize these poles by their wide "T" shaped crossarms and three wires across the top. These lines are used in areas that require higher electricity demand, such as commercial sites, farms or neighborhoods with high demand. The three top wires represent phases A, B and C, while the lower wire is the neutral. Even if only one or two phases are needed at a location, they often travel together to serve other locations farther down the line.



Single-phase distribution lines

The most common type of pole in Franklin REC's territory, single-phase distribution lines, serve homes and smaller businesses. These poles have one energized wire at the top and a neutral wire below it. Simple and effective, this structure efficiently delivers the power you need for everyday life.

CO-OP SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES



Congratulations to First Class Lineman **Cole Marzen** on five years with Franklin REC! Cole's dedication and leadership in the field help ensure our members receive safe, reliable service.



We also recognize Consumer Accountant **Tessa Haller** for reaching her one-year milestone. Tessa has become a valuable part of our office team, supporting essential billing and payment operations.

Thank you both for your hard work and commitment to our cooperative!

FRANKLIN REC WELCOMES SUMMER HELP EMPLOYEE DAWSON WIKERT



Franklin REC is pleased to welcome **Dawson Wikert** as our summer help employee for 2025. Dawson is a recent graduate of Hampton-Dumont CAL High School and will be working alongside our experienced line crew throughout the summer.

Dawson plans to continue his education at Northwest Iowa Community College, where he will pursue a degree in powerline technology. His interest in the electric industry and passion for hands-on work makes the summer help program a natural fit.

"I'm most excited for the experience and the opportunity to gain knowledge about the industry," Dawson shares.

We're excited to have Dawson on board this summer and look forward to seeing where his future takes him!

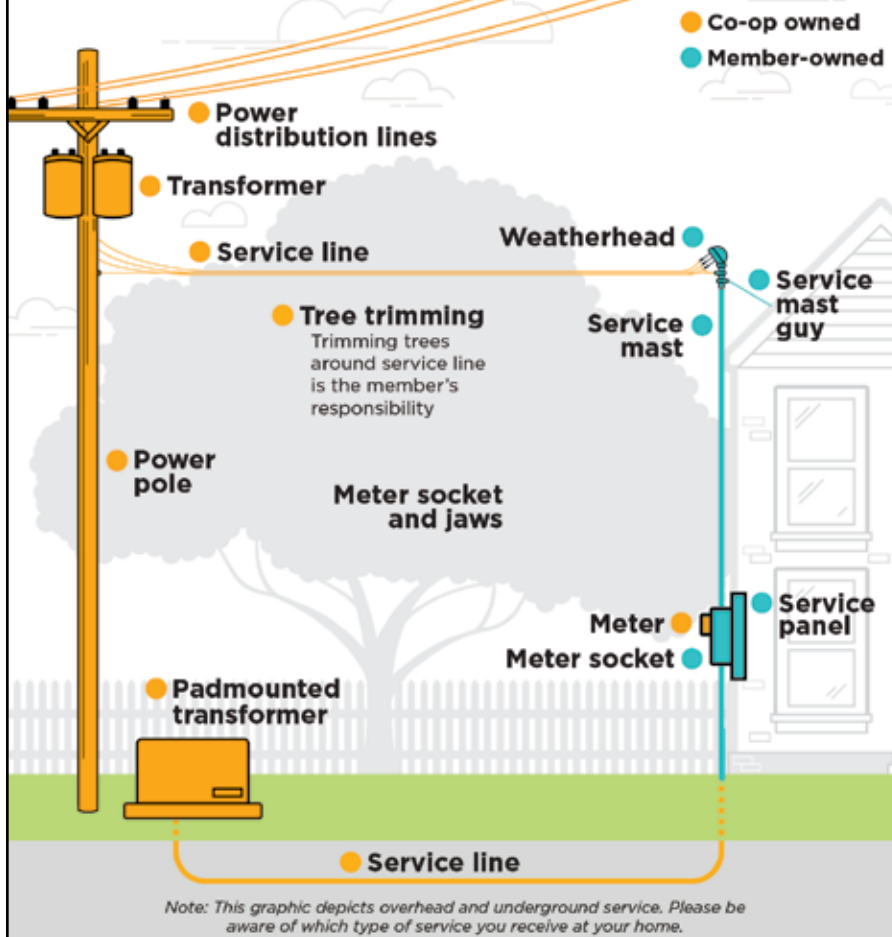
WHAT DOES MY FACILITY CHARGE ENTAIL?

The monthly facility charge is associated with the fixed cost at the specific service location including maintenance, equipment and necessary upgrades to provide the location, with reliable and quality electric service. The set amount of the facility charge varies depending on the necessary size of the service at the exact location.

Who Owns What?

Electric Co-op Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the co-op (in **gold**) and the member (in **blue**). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.



SHOW YOU CARE WITH RECare

As an electric cooperative, Franklin REC is invested in helping our communities thrive, and that means supporting our low-income member-owners, too. RECare is a nationwide program exclusive to rural electric cooperatives encouraging fellow members to make a one-time or monthly donation to potentially help alleviate the stress for other members straining to pay their electric bills.

Funds may also be used to weatherize the recipient's home to make electricity use more efficient. And don't worry; your donation is directed to a local community action agency for distribution to low-income families on Franklin REC lines. You can feel good that the dollars you donate are helping your friends and neighbors.

YES

I want to help my neighbor by contributing to RECare.

- ☐ I will make a one-time contribution to Franklin REC's RECare program. My check is enclosed.
- ☐ I will contribute \$_____ per month to Franklin REC's RECare program. I understand this amount is automatically added to my monthly electric bill.

Name: _____

Account #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip Code: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

TOUCHSTONE ENERGY® VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH OF MAY 2025 RECIPIENT: MADISON ALERT



We're proud to recognize **Madison Alert** as the May 2025 Touchstone Energy® Volunteer of the Month for her dedication to giving back to her community.

As part of this honor, Madison has chosen to donate her award to Revitalize Dumont, a nonprofit organization working to transform Dumont's former school building into a functional, welcoming space for the community. Her thoughtful contribution will help support ongoing efforts to breathe new life into a meaningful piece of the town's history.



IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

The magazine
for members of
Iowa's electric
cooperatives

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Visit our website at www.franklinrec.coop



WHERE WE HAVE MEMBERS WE ACTIVELY LIVE OUR COMMITMENT

We're not just a service provider – we're active members of our community. We take pride in serving our members and going the extra mile in everything we do. Get closer to your **local cooperative** for ways we support you and strengthen our community.



Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections®