

President's Report



William R. Dodds
President/CEO

What is the power grid and how does it work?

When people go without power during widespread outages, it seems like discussions turn toward the power grid. But what exactly is the power grid, and how does it work? In the U.S., the power system consists of more than 9,200 electric generating units with more than 1 million megawatts of generating capacity connected to more than 600,000 miles of transmission lines, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

- First, power is generated at a power plant by converting some form of energy into power. Examples of energy sources include wind, water, steam, oil, coal, nuclear, solar and natural gas.
- Once the power is generated, it is converted to high voltages so it can be pushed a long distance through the grid via transmission lines (345,000 volts) or subtransmission lines (69,000 volts).
- Eventually, it is stepped down so it can be sent on to lower-voltage power lines called distribution lines (7,200 volts), which take the electricity to houses and businesses.
- Once it makes its way there, it gets stepped down again before it enters the structure through drop-down lines (220 volts).
- Sensors are located at key points throughout the grid to monitor outages.

Some electric utilities generate all the electricity they provide using their own power plants. Some utilities purchase electricity from other utilities, independent power producers or a wholesale market.

How consumers, or end users, purchase energy varies from region to region:

- The utility providing power may be a not-for-profit municipal electric utility; an electric cooperative owned by its members; a private, for-profit electric utility owned by stockholders (often called an investor-owned utility); or in some states, a power marketer.
- A power marketer is often a trading company engaged in the purchase and sale of electricity. Generally, these marketers do not own generation



or transmission facilities. Rather, they buy electricity from utilities, independent power producers and other suppliers to sell wholesale to other utilities or marketers.

Newer technology is improving how the grid works, inspiring the phrase “smart grid” to describe this evolutionary process. For example, some improvements include:

- Individual microgrids. With some sources of energy now at consumers’ disposal, some individuals and businesses have their own power source (solar panels, for example).
- Energy storage technology. This enables companies to store excess energy when not needed and use it later when there is more demand.
- Smart meter technology. This creates two-way communication between consumers and the electric utility or cooperative by automatically notifying them about outages and other potential issues. Smart meters also allow consumers to see how much electricity they use, when they use it and its cost. Combined with real-time pricing, this allows end users to save money by using less power when electricity rates are highest.

For more information about electricity safety and energy efficiency, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Spoon River Electric’s office will be closed Monday, July 5 in observance of Independence Day.

Spoon River Electric Cooperative

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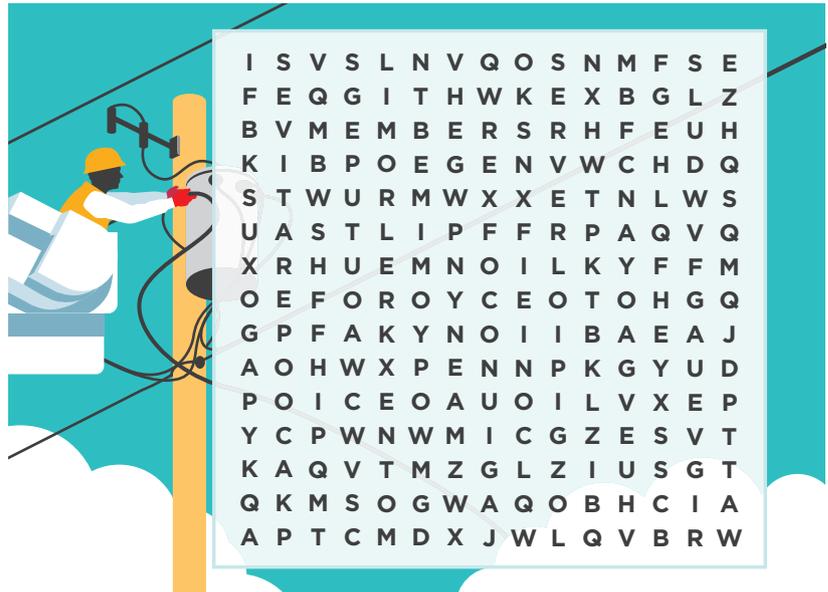
Spoon River Electric Cooperative – By the Numbers

Miles of line energized: 1,272
Number of members served: 5,022
Number of power poles
in territory: 29,361

COOPERATIVE WORD SEARCH

As a member of an electric cooperative, you're part of something special!

Read the facts below to learn how co-ops are unique, then find and circle the **BOLDED** words in the puzzle.

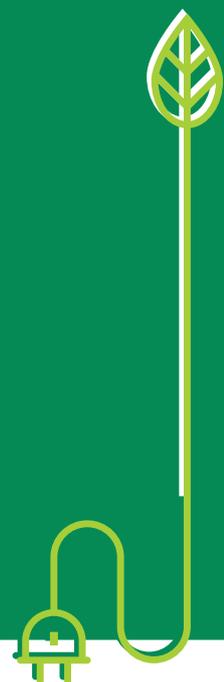


WORD BANK:

- **COOPERATIVES** are local organizations and businesses, so they understand the communities they serve.
- Co-ops don't have customers; instead, they have **MEMBERS**.
- All co-ops are guided by the same set of cooperative **PRINCIPLES**.
- "Concern for **COMMUNITY**" is the seventh cooperative principle.
- Co-ops are led by the members they **SERVE**.
- You're a member of an **ELECTRIC** cooperative, but there are also housing, grocery and other types of co-ops.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat (like clothes dryers and dishwashers) during the evening when it's cooler. This will minimize indoor heat during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest.





\$6,250 donated to local organizations through Spoon River Electric's Operation Round-Up

The Spoon River Electric Operation Round-Up Committee recently donated \$6,250 to two local food pantries and five local organizations within our service territory: \$1,500 to Youth Acres, \$1,500 to the Cass Putnam Rescue Services, \$750 to the Loving Bottoms Diaper Bank, \$900 to the Ellisville Volunteer Firemen and \$600 to the HELP Center of Rushville. The Abingdon United Methodist Church's The Cupboard & The Closet Food Pantry and The Salvation Army's Feeding Hope summer food program each received \$500.

Cooperation Among Cooperatives is one of our guiding principles. We were able to team up with McDonough Power Cooperative's Operation Round-Up Program and grant Loving Bottoms Diaper Bank funds to purchase a pallet jack and additional shelving for its warehouse. To learn more about Loving Bottoms Diaper Bank, check out www.lovingbottoms.org or its Facebook page.

The Spoon River Electric Operation Round-Up Committee has been fortunate to continue donating to our local organizations and food pantries throughout the service territory.

We hope to be able to visit all our organizations again soon!

These donations are made possible by the generous members of Spoon River Electric who voluntarily make the decision each month to "round up" their electric bill to the next dollar and donating this "extra change" directly to the Operation Round-Up Program. All of the funds collected are donated back into our communities as charitable

grants. The average donation a member makes annually ranges from \$6 to \$12.

For more information about the Operation Round-Up Program, visit our website: srecoop.org under the Operation Round-Up tab or call Taryn at 309-647-2700.

***Important note:** *If you know of a food pantry in need at this time, please contact Taryn at Spoon River Electric Cooperative.*

AVOID UTILITY SCAMS

Scammers will threaten you with everything from shutting off power to your home to legal action. Don't fall victim to these types of scams.

- Our employees will never show up at your door to demand payment.
- Never give personal information to an unknown caller or visitor. Our representatives have access to the details they need to service your account.
- Demands for immediate payment by wire transfer, cryptocurrency, gift cards or cash reload cards should immediately raise red flags.
- If you think you've been contacted by a scammer falsely representing the co-op, please let us know as soon as possible.

No game is worth getting struck by lightning

If you've been a parent, coach or player at an outdoor sporting event, you may have found yourself in this predicament. The clouds roll in and the sky gets dark, but you have "finish-game-it-is." After all, it will only take a few more minutes.

This is one situation when finishing the game, match or inning is not worth the risk. Each year, thunderstorms produce an estimated 20 to 25 million cloud-to-ground lightning flashes in the U.S., each of which is a potential killer, according to the National Weather Service (NWS).

Some flashes strike directly under the storm where it is raining. Other times, the flashes reach away from the storm in places where people perceive the lightning threat to be low or nonexistent and catch people off guard.

About 30 people are killed by lightning each year and hundreds more are injured, some suffering permanent neurological injuries. About two-thirds of the deaths are associated with outdoor recreational activities.

The NWS recommends that outdoor recreation organizers have an established lightning safety plan and follow it every time inclement weather conditions are present.

As part of the plan, coaches or organizers should establish who will listen to the latest accurate weather forecasts prior to a sporting event. It should also be clear who will make the decision to postpone or cancel if necessary.

The lightning safety guidelines should also address the following, according to the NWS:

- Once in play, when should the activities be stopped? The short answer: When you see lightning, hear thunder or the skies look threatening, all activities should be stopped.
- Where should participants, officials and spectators go for safety? No place outside is safe. Substantial buildings with wiring and plumbing are ideal. Small outdoor buildings, including dugouts, rain shelters, sheds and pavilions are NOT safe places to seek shelter.
- When should activities be resumed? A minimum of 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder. Electrical charges can linger in clouds after a storm has seemingly passed.
- Who should monitor the weather and make decisions about play? A level-headed and objective person should be the designated weather and lightning



monitor. This should NOT be the coach, umpire or referee. The lightning monitor should know the weather safety guidelines and be empowered by teams, parents, coaches and spectators to make decisions.

- What should be done if someone is struck by lightning? Call 9-1-1 for immediate medical attention. Victims do not carry an electrical charge. CPR or AED may be needed if the individual's breathing or heart has stopped.

Don't make decisions on when to call the game or match based on personal experience or pressure from others. For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

THM IEC Memorial Scholarships awarded

Jenna Spangler, a 2021 graduate of Bushnell-Prairie City High School, has been selected as a recipient of the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Scholarship. Spangler is the daughter of John Spangler of Marietta, a Spoon River Electric Cooperative member, and will be attending the University of Illinois, Urbana, in the fall to study food science and human nutrition. Spangler was selected from among 252 applicants.

The Thomas H. Moore IEC Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 1994 to provide financial assistance to deserving students. Applicants must be high school seniors who plan to enroll full-time at



an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school. Scholarships are based on grade point average, college entrance test scores, work and volunteer experience and participation in school and community activities.

Twelve \$2,000 scholarships are

awarded annually to Illinois students who are sons or daughters of electric cooperative members, directors and/or employees. Six scholarships are given to students enrolling at a four-year institution; four are reserved for those enrolling in a two-year Illinois community college; one (the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship) is awarded to the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director; and the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship is presented to a student to attend the lineworker's school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College.