



www.mcdonoughpower.com

The Wire

McDonough Power Cooperative • Macomb, Illinois 61455



Mike Smith
President and CEO

Capital credit allocation and retirement

An added benefit of your McDonough Power Cooperative membership

McDonough Power is a not-for-profit member-owned utility. So rather than earning profits, the cooperative invests a portion of that money toward strengthening the operations that power your life and assigns the rest to you. These funds are called capital credits and they are allocated back to our member-owners based on how much electricity each member purchased during the year. **6218A7-704C**

The 2020 capital credit allocation was processed in July 2021, after the 2020 financial statements were reviewed and audited. The 2020 capital credit allocation notice for active members was printed on the Aug. 2, 2021 electric bill. Inactive members with 2020 electricity billings were mailed a separate allocation notice.

The capital credits (margins) allocated to members' accounts for 2020 totals \$1,033,467.

The McDonough Power board reviews capital credits each year and decides how and when to repay the amounts allocated. Their decision is based on a variety of factors including the overall financial condition of the Cooperative.

Capital credit retirement

The board also approved the retirement of \$497,320 in capital credits to current and former McDonough Power members based on the amount they were billed during previous years.

Checks were mailed in August 2021 to members who had service with us in the years 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999.

If you have questions about your capital credits, please contact our office at 309-833-2101 or visit us online at mcdonoughpower.com.



**McDonough Power
will be closed
Monday, September 6
in observance of
Labor Day**





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www.mcdonoughpower.com

Office hours:
7 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Weekdays

Find us on 

DIRECTORS

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**All Co-op Electric
Outages 837-1400**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections



HARVEST SAFETY TIP

If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact us immediately by phone and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab, without touching it at the same time, and hop away to safety.



Tips for a safe harvest

Agriculture is the backbone of our country, and our livelihood greatly depends on the crops provided by American farmers. In addition to being one of the most labor-intensive professions, farming is also considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

The hard work and exhaustive labor are tough but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous, even deadly, when farming near electrical equipment.

Every year, we see collisions where tractors and other farming equipment accidentally collide with utility poles and power lines, causing injuries and power outages. These dangerous accidents can be avoided by looking up and around your surroundings when operating large farm machinery. If you're preparing for harvest season, please keep the following safety tips in mind. **5228B7-1104B**

- Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.
- Use a spotter and deployed flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other electrical equipment when working in the field.
- If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact 9-1-1 immediately and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab (without touching it), and hop away (feet together) to safety.
- Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipes and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

Sept. 19-25 is National Farm Health and Safety Week but practicing safety on the farm year-round yields positive results. We hope you never find yourself in a situation where farming equipment contacts power lines or poles, but if you do, we hope you'll remember these safety tips.



Do you know an organization that could benefit from our Operation Round-Up program?

Operation Round-Up funds are collected from members who “round up” their monthly bill. These funds are available to tax exempt organizations within the McDonough Power Cooperative service territory encompassing portions of Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Knox, McDonough, Schuyler and Fulton counties. For more information or to download an application form, visit mcdonough-power.com/community/operation-round-up/. 5326D6A-572A The next entry deadline is Monday, Oct. 4, 2021.



By signing up to round up your monthly bill, together we can financially support needs in our communities.

McDonough Power Cooperative collects member & employee contributions in our 501(c)3 charitable fund.



100% of the funds will go directly to organizations who support community service projects, at-need community efforts, economic development, education, safety and other local services.



Understanding Power Surges and Blinks

By Abby Berry

Have you ever noticed your lights blink during a thunderstorm? Or perhaps you've noticed a blinking microwave clock when you arrive home. When this happens, you've likely experienced a brief disruption to your electric service, which could result from a power surge or blink. While the symptoms of surges and blinks can appear similar, what's happening behind the scenes can be quite different.

What's a power surge?

Power surges are brief overvoltage spikes or disturbances of a power waveform that can damage, degrade, or destroy electronic equipment within your home or business. Most electronics are designed to handle small variations in voltage; however, power surges can reach amplitudes of tens of thousands of volts—this can be extremely damaging to your electronic equipment.

Surges can be caused by internal sources, like HVAC systems with variable frequency drives, or external sources, like lightning and damage to power lines and transformers.

McDonough Power Cooperative encourages all members to install



In 2019 alone, squirrels were responsible for more than 1,200 power outages.

surge protective devices (such as surge protector power strips) to safeguard your sensitive electronics. If you're experiencing frequent surges in your home or business and you believe the cause is internal, contact a qualified electrician to inspect your electrical system. **5323B9-260B**

What's a power blink?

Power blinks are also brief service interruptions, but they're typically

caused by a fault (short circuit) on a power line or a protective device that's working in reaction to the fault. Faults can occur through a variety of instances, like squirrels, birds or other small animals contacting an energized power line; tree branches touching a power line; or lightning and other similar events. In fact, when it comes to power disruptions caused by critters, squirrels reign supreme. In 2019 alone, squirrels were responsible for more than 1,200 outages.

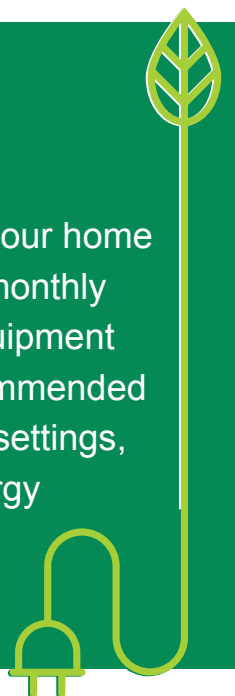
Any of the events noted above can cause your power to blink, but you may also experience a brief interruption when protective devices that act like circuit breakers are working to detect the fault. Believe it or not, these brief power blinks caused by protective devices are actually good because that means the equipment is working as it should to prevent a prolonged outage.

Regardless of the cause, McDonough Power crews will be on their way to inspect the damage and make necessary repairs after a power outage. And you can help too! Any time you experience repeated disruptions to your electric service, please let us know by calling our outage line at 309-837-1400.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Energy used for cooling and heating your home makes up the largest portion of your monthly energy bills. By combining regular equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30% on your energy bills while helping our environment.

Source: *energy.gov*



Member Prizes

Every month we will have four map location numbers hidden throughout The Wire. If you find the map location number that corresponds to the one on your bill (found above the usage graph), call our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.