



Mike Smith
President and CEO



Exciting day at McDonough Power: A visit from State Senator Mike Halpin

We had an exciting and impactful day at McDonough Power back in February, as we had the honor of hosting State Senator Mike Halpin! It was a great opportunity for us to engage in a meaningful conversation about the future of energy, infrastructure and the role we all play in shaping stronger communities.

During the visit, we discussed innovative ideas and strategies to enhance our energy systems and build sustainable, resilient infrastructure. It's inspiring to collaborate with

leaders like Senator Halpin, who are deeply committed to driving positive change and ensuring a brighter future for all.

We are grateful for the chance to showcase the important work we are doing here at McDonough Power and share our vision for progress. A big thank you to Senator Halpin for taking the time to visit and his continued dedication to making a difference in our communities.

Here's to continued partnerships and working together to build a better tomorrow!





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The power of human connections



Lineworkers are wired for service

In the quiet hours before dawn breaks, while many of us are still nestled in our beds, lineworkers begin their day, often clad in flame-resistant clothing, safety goggles, rubber gloves and thick, heavy boots.

They are the individuals who epitomize dedication to service in its purest form. As we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 18, this is an important moment to reflect on the essential role they play in our daily lives.

Amid towering utility poles and power lines, lineworkers exhibit a strength that goes far beyond the physical. Whether battling inclement weather, troubleshooting technical problems or navigating treacherous heights, lineworkers demonstrate resilience and a quiet determination to keep our lights on, our homes comfortable, and our communities connected.

McDonough Power Cooperative crews travel across our seven-county service territory, building, maintaining and repairing parts of our local system. Their extraordinary skills ensure our homes remain connected to the grid, businesses stay operational, and emergency services remain accessible — a lifeline that connects us all.

In moments of crisis, when the lights go out and we find ourselves in the dark, lineworkers emerge as beacons of hope. Their swift response restores normalcy, offering reassurance in times of uncertainty. Whether repairing storm-ravaged power lines or ensuring continuity during emergencies, their unwavering commitment illuminates life when we need it most.

McDonough Power lineworkers also answer the call beyond the boundaries of home. Our crews travel to fellow co-ops, near or far, when widespread outages occur and additional support is needed. Cooperation among cooperatives is one of our seven guiding principles, and no one embodies this core commitment better than lineworkers. **5336D8-572A**

This month, as we celebrate the remarkable men and women who ensure reliable power, let's recognize their unwavering dedication to the local communities they serve.

The next time you flip a switch, please take a moment to remember those who make it possible — lineworkers, who are wired for service and dedicated to illuminating life.

**LINEWORKER
SCHOLARSHIP
DEADLINE**

April 30, 2025



**SCAN
TO APPLY**



Prioritizing safety

McDonough Power Cooperative recognized for outstanding workplace practices

Safety is paramount in the electric industry. To advance safety education and practices, lineworkers, supervisors and warehouse personnel from electric cooperatives across Illinois gathered in Springfield for the annual Safety and Energy Conference held Jan. 29-30. The event was hosted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC).

The conference emphasized the importance of safety and leadership in the energy industry, providing participants with training and resources to ensure their well-being on the job. Sessions included discussions on active leadership, staying focused and safe practices in the workplace. **7225B5-104A**

During the conference, safety awards were presented to honor both individual and cooperative-wide commitments to fostering a safe work environment. McDonough Power Cooperative was recognized for its outstanding safety performance over the past year, receiving a 2024 award for Best Loss Time Rate. This award underscores a cooperative's dedication to maintaining a safe working environment, exceeding industry



Pictured L-R, Jamison Holthaus, Doug Bear, Gabe Williams and Riley Entwistle.

safety expectations, and cultivating a proactive safety culture.

The Best Loss Time Rate Award is given to the cooperatives with the lowest number of lost work time due to workplace injuries, relative to the number of hours worked. It reflects a cooperative's effectiveness in preventing serious incidents that could keep employees off the job.

As the electric industry continues to evolve, safety remains a top priority. It ensures that the workforce can continue to serve communities efficiently and without harm. The AIEC celebrates the electric cooperatives and individuals that prioritize safety, consistently demonstrate leadership in safe practices, and foster a strong safety culture.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Turn your suds into savings. Lower your energy use in the laundry room by washing clothes with cold water whenever possible, as heating water accounts for most of the energy used in a laundry cycle. Wash full loads to make the most of energy savings, and use high-efficiency detergent designed for cold washes. For drying cycles, clean the lint filter before each load to improve airflow and use dryer balls to reduce drying time.



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.



Stay safe this summer: Backyard electrical safety

As the weather warms and you spend more time outdoors, it's essential to prioritize electrical safety. Hidden hazards can pose serious risks.

Here are some critical safety tips to keep your loved ones safe in your backyard.

Stay away from power lines

Overhead power lines can be closer than they appear. Teach children never to climb trees near power lines, and never to fly kites, drones, remote-controlled toys or balloons in areas where power lines are present. If you see a downed power line, stay at least 50 feet away, and report it to your local utility company immediately.

Trampoline safety

If you're considering an above-ground trampoline, remember to look up for power lines. Children jumping high into the air could come dangerously close to overhead electric lines, which pose a serious risk of shock or electrocution.

Thinking about installing an in-ground trampoline instead? Before you dig, call 811 to have underground utility lines marked. Digging without knowing the location of buried electrical, gas or water lines can result in dangerous utility strikes. This simple step can prevent accidents, service interruptions and costly repairs. **12122C7-1059B**

Water safety

Water and electricity are a dangerous combination. Keep these tips in mind to prevent electrical hazards and create a safe space for swimming, soaking and outdoor fun.

- Ensure pool lights, filters and outdoor outlets have ground fault circuit

interrupter (GFCI) protection and inspect them regularly. GFCIs are designed to quickly shut off electrical power if they detect even a small change in electrical current.

- If you notice flickering lights or feel a tingling sensation in the water, exit immediately and contact a professional. Faulty wiring can cause electric shock drowning (ESD).
- Avoid using plug-in devices, like radios, speakers or chargers, near water. Opt for battery-operated, waterproof devices to reduce the risk of shock.
- Know what to do in case of an electrical emergency. If someone is shocked, do not enter the water. Turn off the power source, call 911 and use a nonconductive tool, like a fiberglass pool pole, to assist.
- If it starts to rain, unplug electrical equipment, such as string lights, radios, speakers or power tools. Teach children not to touch electrical appliances with wet hands.

Outdoor sports

Sports and play areas are a haven for children, but they can also contain hidden electrical hazards. Here's how to protect your loved ones:

- Ensure swings and other tall play structures are far from overhead power lines.
- If you have outdoor lighting for night games, ensure the fixtures are weatherproof and properly installed. Have a professional check for frayed wires or loose connections.

- If kids are playing with a ball and it goes inside a substation fence, teach them never to touch or climb the fence to attempt to retrieve it or any other item. Instead, call your electric utility to safely take care of it.
- Install a weather app on your phone to inform you of weather alerts. Lightning can occur up to 10 miles away from the heart of the storm, so if you hear thunder, seek shelter inside. **922A5-302A**

Supervise children around electrical equipment

Children are naturally curious, which is why they should be kept away from outdoor electrical equipment like utility boxes, transformers and air conditioning units. If you have an outdoor generator, make sure it is stored in a secure, ventilated area that children cannot access, and never plug a generator directly into your home's electrical system.

Avoid DIY electrical work

If you're planning a backyard upgrade, such as installing landscape lighting, sports lighting or poolside outlets, leave the electrical work to licensed electricians. DIY electrical projects can pose serious safety risks to you and your family if done incorrectly.

From poolside play to backyard sports, it's important to be aware of electrical hazards and how to avoid them. By following these guidelines, you can create a home oasis that is both fun and safe.

For more tips on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.