

# THE GRID

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**Office hours:**  
Monday-Friday  
7:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.

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**Vice Chairman**

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Andrew Fearn ....Charleston

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Ed Voltenburg .....Sullivan

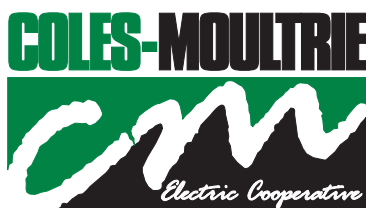
**President & CEO**

Jim Wallace

**To Report an Outage  
call #888-661-2632**

## Find Your Name and Win \$50

Find your name hidden inside this issue of The Grid and receive a **\$50 bill credit**. Credit must be claimed by the end of each month in which this newsletter is published.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative Announces New President & CEO

Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative (CMEC) is pleased to announce the appointment of James (Jim) R. Wallace as the cooperative's next President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective June 2, 2025.

Wallace brings an immense amount of knowledge and experience in the electric utility industry. With his more than 25 years of service at CMEC, Wallace is ready for this next chapter to continue to lead the cooperative in striving to meet the needs of the membership through the Seven Cooperative Principles.

Wallace currently serves as the cooperative's Interim President & CEO, named in December 2024. Wallace was hired at CMEC in 1998, taking the position of Marketing Services Specialist. In 2002, Wallace became the cooperative's Director of Operations & Engineering, holding that position until he was named Interim President & CEO.

The Coles-Moultrie Board of Directors selected Wallace following a thorough and thoughtful search process focused on identifying a leader who will continue to build on the cooperative's legacy of striving to serve its members with reliable electricity and excellent service. "We are excited to welcome Jim to his new role at CMEC," said Board Chair Kent Metzger. "The board is confident that he will bring the



*Jim Wallace, President & CEO*

right blend of leadership, vision, and experience to guide us forward while remaining deeply committed to serving our members."

"I am honored to be named the next President & CEO at CMEC," said Wallace. "I would like to thank the Board of Directors for this opportunity and their support as I start this new chapter at CMEC. I believe very strongly in the cooperative model and look forward to contributing to the continued success of CMEC alongside the very committed and professional staff here at the cooperative."

Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative is a member-owned business providing electric service to over 9,500 meters in its service territory, spanning eight counties. CMEC operates and maintains more than 2,000 miles of energized lines. CMEC has been providing energy for its rural members for 87 years. Follow us on Facebook and visit [www.cmec.coop](http://www.cmec.coop) for more information.



## Osprey's Safe Haven

Recently, CMEC partnered with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to install a new nesting structure for ospreys near Lake Shelbyville. Ospreys, known for nesting in high locations near water, often return to the same site year after year. Unfortunately, in this area, they had been building nests on our utility poles and cross arms, posing serious risks to both the birds and electrical service reliability.

This new structure provides a safe and elevated nesting site, playing a vital role in protecting the birds while minimizing power

outages for our members. We are happy to report that the female Osprey has moved off our cross arms and is now actively building on the new platform! **Ariel Taylor**

This successful collaboration included CMEC supplying and installing the pole, a biologist contributing the nesting platform, and USACE providing the nesting materials.

A big thank you to the team at Lake Shelbyville and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for their support in protecting local wildlife and maintaining service reliability!



## Reminder

CMEC and Kendall tree crews began trimming and clearing right-of-way in the area of our Union Center Substation in June.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat such as clothes dryers and dishwashers during the evening when the outdoor temperature is lower. Running heat-emitting appliances in the evening will reduce indoor heat gain during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest and ultimately keep your air conditioner from working harder than necessary.

*Source: energy.gov*



# CMEC Distribution System Outages — Part 2

By Jim Wallace, President & CEO

In last month's article, system outages pertaining to the substations were explained. I would like to provide some insight into the outages that occur between the substation and your point of service. As I explained last month, each substation has multiple three-phase feeders that feed electricity in different directions from the substation. There are breakers, one for each phase, that are designed to protect the substation in the event of a fault that may occur on the feeder. A fault occurs when an energized line makes contact with anything that is grounded. This can be a broken pole, a tree on the lines, an animal making contact, lightning, and other scenarios that are too many to list.

When the fault occurs, the breaker will open, protecting the equipment in the substation from damage. The breakers are designed to reclose up to three times before "locking out." Once locked out, CMEC personnel respond to the substation to begin "patrolling" the line to find the cause of the fault. Why do the breakers reclose up to three times before remaining open? In the case of an incidental fault, such

as an animal making momentary contact or a tree limb falling on the lines and then falling to the ground, the breaker recloses, and power remains available to the members. If the breaker only opened one time and remained open, there would be many more long duration outages when it's unnecessary. There are times when you may experience a "blink." That is usually a breaker that opened and reclosed due to a short duration fault.

Last month, I mentioned that feeders can travel up to 15 miles away from the substation. If the breaker at the substation was the only protective device and a fault occurred at mile 14, all 15 miles would be out of power until the problem was corrected. Around the system, additional sets of breakers are strategically located to minimize the number of members affected by the outage. For example, on a 15-mile long feeder, a set of breakers may be located at mile 5 and mile 10. If a fault occurs between mile 5 and 10, then only 10 miles of members will be out of service. If a fault occurs between mile 10 and 15, then only 5 miles of members will be out of service. This is called "sectionalizing," and the

size of the breakers are coordinated to operate properly.

In addition to breakers, CMEC installs fuses on many taps that branch off of the main three-phase feeder. Fuse sizes are coordinated with the breaker nearest to them so that, if the fault is one that continues, the breaker ahead of the fuse will operate twice, then the fuse will blow. That allows members not on the fuse to have power. Only the members on that fuse will be out until CMEC personnel respond. Blinks can be annoying, but many times the blinks are necessary to continue service to as many members as possible.

CMEC works hard to maintain the distribution system to ensure the most reliable service to our membership. We are continually evaluating the system after an outage to determine if there can be an improvement made to reduce the frequency of outages. If you have any questions about this information, please don't hesitate to contact the office. Next month, we will discuss outages that occur at each member's specific location and the metering system CMEC uses to improve service to our membership.

## NISC 50-year Technology Partnership

CMEC was recently recognized for a longstanding technology partnership with NISC (National Information Systems Cooperative). Pictured left, Heidi Hall (NISC); right, Jim Wallace, President & CEO



## Committed to You

At CMEC, we are here to serve you, our members. This is your co-op, governed by the Seven Cooperative Principles. We care about you and aim to improve the quality of life and economic health of our communities while providing reliable quality service.





# Happy RETIREMENT!



**Carla Bradbury, Communications Coordinator, has been serving our members for over 19 years! Enjoy your retirement — you will be missed!**

# Welcome TO THE TEAM



**Welcome Shaylee Smith, Member Service Representative. Welcome to our CMEC family!**

## Wondering what substation you are on?

Check out the upper righthand corner of your bill!  
Thank you to our membership for the feedback!

Member Name	WILLIE WIREDHAND
Account #	9999999
Substation	1 - MATTOON
Billing Date:	11/11/2024
Current Bill Due Date:	12/06/2024
Previous Balance	\$100.00
Payment Received	-\$100.00
Balance Forward	\$0.00
Current Charges	\$164.55
Total Amount Due 12/06/2024	\$164.55
Total Amount Due After 12/06/2024	\$180.77



**Join us on Friday, October 3rd, 2025**

for our  
**85th Annual Meeting and Member Celebration**  
at Peterson Park in Mattoon.



## Proposed By-Law Amendments

CMEC will have four proposed amendments to our by-laws in 2025. The membership will have the opportunity to vote on these proposals during our election to be held Sept. 9-30, 2025.

**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes can be viewed on our website: [cmeccoop.com](http://cmeccoop.com)**