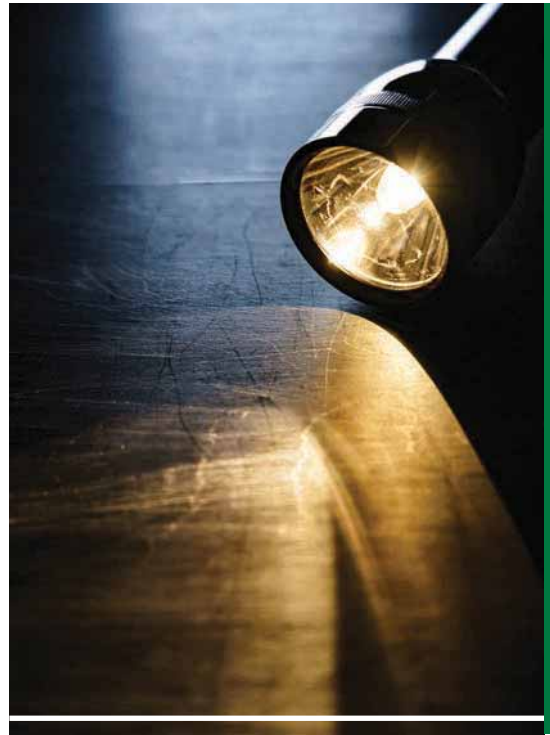


Energy Emergencies and Rolling Blackouts

On January 24th, we posted a message on social media urging our members to conserve power due to unusually high demand on the electric system. We did not believe blackouts were imminent; rather, we wanted to keep you informed of the situation.

We've heard a great deal about the increasing risks of rolling blackouts recently. Why is that? The simple answer is that electrical demand is rising while baseload generating plants are being shut down. Some plants are nearing the end of their useful lives, while others could continue operating but face mounting pressure from environmental groups and government policies to rapidly transition to renewable energy sources. This combination creates a recipe for blackouts.

So, what is really happening during a capacity warning or during actual rolling blackouts? First, it's important to understand how the bulk power system operates. The bulk system is operated by Independent System Operators (ISOs). An ISO is an organization that operates the electric grid and oversees the wholesale electricity market within a



specific region, but does not own power plants or transmission lines. In our region, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) performs this role, operating power grids across 15 Midwestern states and parts of Canada. In simple terms, they are the traffic controllers for electricity. Their goal is to keep supply and demand balanced by dispatching generators economically to meet electricity needs.

continued...



Illinois Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 80, Two South Main Street
Winchester, Illinois 62694

www.e-co-op.com
1-800-468-4732

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Working to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve since 1936.

Problems arise when there are not enough generators available to meet demand. When that happens, ISOs have several options. They can import power from neighboring regions. They can reduce demand by activating Load Modifying Resources (LMRs), which are registered participants that agree to lower their usage when requested. They may also issue a public appeal for load reduction, typically through local utilities.

If all options are exhausted and supply still cannot meet demand, rolling blackouts may be implemented. Without intervention, the entire grid could collapse. In such a case, the ISO will order transmission owners to 'shed load,' meaning they must deenergize certain transmission lines. A planned series of deenergizing and reenergizing segments is carried out to maintain the overall balance of supply and demand while keeping as many consumers online as possible.

Your local cooperative has no control over such situations. An energy emergency has nothing to do with Illinois Electric Cooperative's system. In fact, we believe our system is in the best condition it has ever been. However, if the transmission lines supplying our system are deenergized, we will lose power as well.

Illinois Electric has limited options during these events, but the most important thing we can do is keep you

informed. During an energy emergency, we receive alerts when capacity reserves become constrained, and we will share updates through social media and our website. It is unlikely that we will receive significant advance warning of impending blackouts. If rolling blackouts ever occur, rest assured that we will do everything possible to keep you informed throughout the event.

If you have questions about energy emergencies, feel free to give me a call.

Randy Long
General Manager

Photos: Operations Manager Ryan Little and Special Projects Technician Sam Surratt giving a safety demonstration to driver's ed students at Winchester High School. Both Ryan and Sam also visited Carrollton Elementary with Buckey to teach students about electrical safety.



2026 Annual Meeting
Saturday, June 13, 2026
at Cornerstone Baptist Church
226 Cornerstone Dr, Winchester, IL

Drive-through Registration at 8:00 a.m.
Meeting Begins in Church at 10:00 a.m.



Employee Spotlight

Cody Schnettgoecke

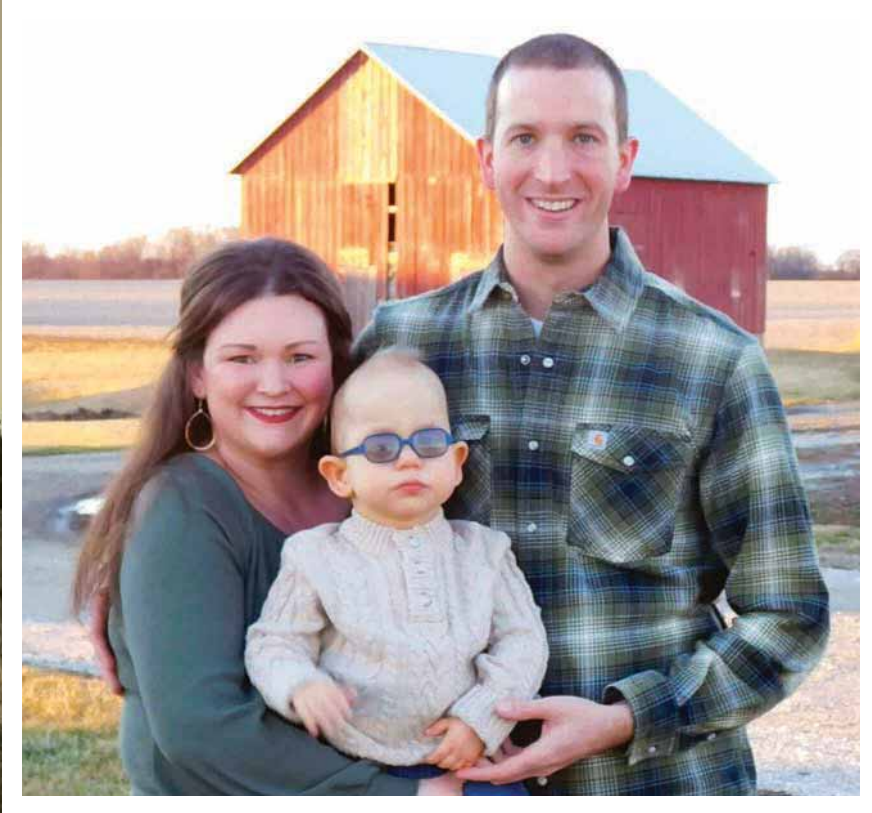
Staking Engineer

About the Employee

Cody Schnettgoecke, a Carrollton native, started working for Illinois Electric Cooperative in 2019 as a staking engineer. Today, Cody, his wife Ali, and their three-year-old son Jack live in rural Carrollton. Cody and Ali are in the process of pursuing a younger sibling for Jack through adoption.

Cody says his favorite part of his job is the people he works alongside, getting to know and helping our members. "Working at the co-op gives you variety, each day brings something new."

Outside of work, Cody enjoys activities with his family, serving his church, and anything outdoors, especially working on his family's farm, where he resides.



Cody Schnettgoecke with his wife Ali and their son Jack.



Illinois Electric Cooperative earns this award based on data modeled by the ACSI® in 2025. Award criteria are determined by the ACSI based on customers rating their satisfaction with Illinois Electric Cooperative in a survey independent of the syndicated ACSI Energy Utility Study. For more about the ACSI, visit www.theacsi.org/badges. ACSI and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC.



facebook.com/illinoiselectric