

THE GRID

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Monday-Friday
7:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.

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**To Report an Outage
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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 

A Smarter, Safer Way to Inspect Poles This Summer

As part of our ongoing commitment to reliability and safety, Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative has partnered with a specialized inspection company that uses advanced ultrasound technology to evaluate the internal condition of utility poles. Over the summer months, you may notice these trained crews working throughout our service area as they complete routine pole testing.

Every pole in our system faces different environmental conditions — soil moisture, insects, weather exposure, and more. Because each pole ages differently, we’ve moved beyond the old hammer tap method, which relied heavily on sound interpretation and could miss hidden internal decay.

Today, we are using a standards based, fully auditable inspection process supported by modern tools and digital reporting.

What Makes This New Method Better?

- Ultrasound testing uses time of flight and peak energy measurements to detect inconsistencies inside the pole, areas a hammer strike can't reveal.
- GPS verified inspections ensure every pole assessment is documented with precise location and audit details.
- Analyzer App captures field data consistently across all inspectors.
- GRIDMGR cloud warehouse stores both traditional and nondestructive evaluation (NDE) data for long term tracking and system planning.



This combination of technology and process gives us a clearer, more objective picture of pole health, helping us prioritize maintenance and keep our system strong.

What Members Will See

Throughout the summer, you may notice workers wearing safety gear, using handheld ultrasound devices, tablets, and other equipment as they move from pole to pole. These crews are authorized contractors working on behalf of CMEC. They will always carry proper identification and have Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative decals on their vehicles.

Their work helps us:

- Maintain a safe and reliable electric system.
- Identify issues before they become outages.
- Extend the life of our infrastructure.
- Keep costs down by making smarter maintenance decisions.

By investing in modern inspection technology and a rigorous, auditable process, we are ensuring that our poles and the power they support remain safe, reliable, and ready for the future.

2025 Capital Credit Allocations

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Scammers are increasingly using “smishing” — fake text messages designed to look like they’re from legitimate businesses, including your electric utility. These texts may claim your bill is overdue, your service will be disconnected or you’re owed a refund. They often include a link that directs you to a fake payment site or asks for personal information. Never click suspicious links or respond to unexpected texts, even if the message appears urgent. Instead, log in to your utility account through the official website or mobile app to verify any claims. We will never ask for sensitive information like passwords or banking details through text messages.

The 2025 Capital Credit allocations were printed on the bills mailed to members in mid-June. CMEC is member-owned and not-for-profit, and any revenue earned above and beyond the cost of doing business is considered a margin. We allocate those margins as capital credits to the members who purchased

electricity during the year they were earned. These capital credits are an interest-free source of operating capital for you and the rest of our members, which allows us to finance operations with the intent of returning the credits to members later, as the board of directors authorizes.

CAPITAL CREDITS

Your slice of the cooperative pie!

- 1** We keep track of how much electricity you purchased throughout the year.
- 2** At the end of the year, we complete a financial analysis and determine operating margins.
- 3** Excess revenues are allocated to members (based on electricity use) as capital credits.
- 4** When financial conditions permit, our board elects to pay (retire) the capital credits.



STORM CLEANUP

After a storm, limbs & debris may hide an electrical hazard.

Treat all downed power lines as if they are energized.

Safe Electricity.org



Don't sweat the heat

Summer heat can strain both your comfort and your budget. As temperatures soar and energy demand peaks in the late afternoon and evening, it's time to take steps to lower your energy consumption and stay cool without breaking the bank.

Boost your home's energy efficiency

Start with an energy audit. We can't fix what we don't know about. Request a home energy audit from your local utility provider or a home energy auditor to identify where energy is being lost. Then, take action to reduce usage this summer.

Keep cool air in and hot air out

- Seal air leaks around pipes, doors, windows, cracks and openings with caulk or weather stripping.
- Schedule an HVAC system inspection with a professional to maintain performance. Check with your utility for rebates on energy-efficient replacements.
- Change your air filter regularly. A clogged air filter

makes your HVAC system work harder.

- Switch to LED bulbs for increased efficiency.
- Install a smart or programmable thermostat for automatic temperature control. Check with your local utility for incentives and deals.

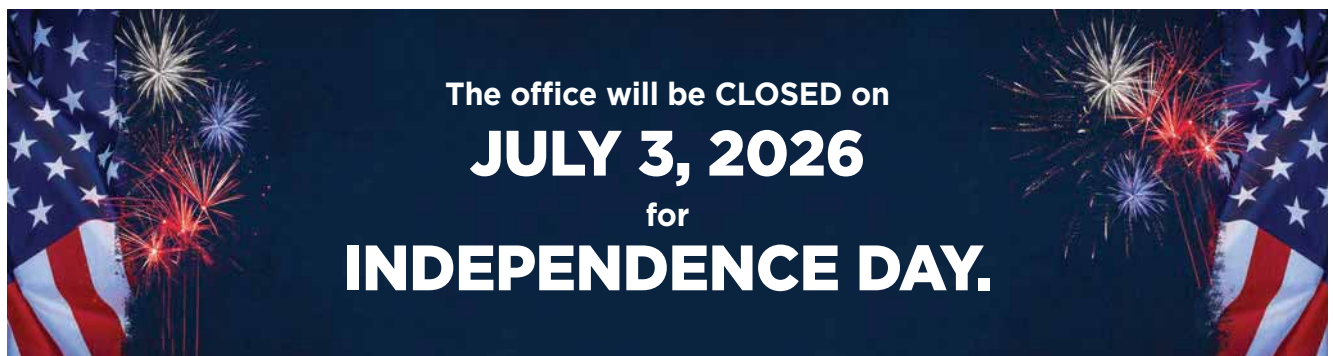
Reduce energy costs

- Run dryers, washers and dishwashers early in the morning or late in the evening.
- Wash full loads of laundry in cold water. It's the detergent, not hot water, that cleans the clothes. **Betty Stoltzfus**
- Clean the dryer's lint trap after every laundry load, and air-dry clothes when possible.
- Reduce heat-generating activities at home, like cooking during the hottest parts of the day or using heat-producing appliances.
- Use a microwave oven or countertop appliance instead of a conventional range or oven. Better yet, grill outside!

Easy actions for big savings

- Change ceiling fans to rotate counterclockwise to cool rooms and turn them off when you leave the room. Ceiling fans don't actually cool the air; they create a wind chill effect on your skin by circulating air around you.
- Stay on the lowest floor of your home for naturally cooler air.
- Close blinds and shades on sunny days to block excess heat.
- Increase your thermostat by two degrees or more and set it to higher temperatures when you're away.
- Turn off and disconnect electronics that are not in use.
- Prepare no-heat meals like salads, wraps and dips.

Making small changes to reduce energy use can make a big impact. You'll keep cool, save money on your utility bill, and help reduce energy demand.





Join us on Friday, October 2, for our 2026 Annual Meeting and Member Celebration at Peterson Park, Mattoon.

- Early Bird Registration at 6:30 a.m.
- Lunch at 11 a.m.
- Business Meeting at 1 p.m. in the Demars Center



METER SAFETY: NEVER PULL A METER

Knowing what is safe and unsafe can mean the difference between life and death. Never try to pull (remove) a meter. Not only is tampering with a meter illegal, but it is also extremely unsafe. Do not cut the seal on your meter base or tamper with your meter for any reason. Pulling a meter could cause electric shock, sparks, surges, explosions, or fire. If you need your meter pulled or disconnected for any reason, please call our office. We will be happy to assist you and arrange for a lineman to come out to your location. Call 217-235-0341; our phones are staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes can be viewed on our website: cmec.coop