

Annual Meeting Info



We are quickly rolling up on the Park Electric Annual Meeting in October. During the meeting, 2 board trustee districts will be elected. Two years ago, Park Electric transitioned to a mail-in voting system and ballots will soon be arriving in the mail.

The following board districts up for election are:

District 2 – Dan Skattum – incumbent

District 7 – Perry Anderson – incumbent

Mail-in ballots must be signed by the member and mailed in the envelope provided to SBS (Surveys & Ballot Systems) to be received no later than October 19th. We cannot accept ballots at the office or in person at the meeting. If you have not voted by the time of the

meeting or you prefer to still vote in person, you may do so at the meeting. Each membership is entitled to one vote. Spouses or partners who are not listed as joint members are not eligible to vote, so please contact the office ASAP if you need to change this. Upon check-in at the Annual Meeting, we will be able to verify whether or not a member has voted.

The election results will be announced at the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting, regardless of how you vote.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Our faucets and appliances use a lot of hot water. You can lower your water heating costs by using less hot water in your home. Water heating accounts for a large portion of home energy bills.

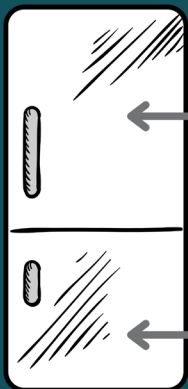
To save energy (and money!) used for water heating, repair any leaky faucets, install low-flow fixtures and insulate accessible hot water lines. When it's time to purchase a new washing machine or dishwasher, look for models that are ENERGY STAR®-certified

Source: Dept. of Energy



Keep Food Safe During and After a Power Outage

Refrigerated or frozen foods may not be safe to eat after a power outage. Use these tips to minimize food loss and reduce risk of illness.



4

Refrigerated food will last four hours. After four hours, place refrigerated foods in a cooler with ice.

24 OR 48

Food in a half-full freezer will last 24 hours. Food in a full freezer will last 48 hours.

Food Safety Tips

1. Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.
2. Throw out any food with an unusual odor, color or texture.
3. Throw out perishable food in your refrigerator after four hours without power or a cold source (like a cooler with ice).

When in doubt, throw it out!



The Challenges of Change

Currently, the electric system as a whole in the United States is facing a monumental change. Our region is affected by this need for change right along with many other areas across the country. These changes include increasing electric consumption across the grid and diminishing base load generation. As you might guess, these two factors negatively affect reliability and the cost of electricity. In recent months, Park Electric and many of the Coops across the state have been asked to make a load shed plan. This load shed plan is being created to prepare for an event where generation becomes lower than the requirements of the consumers in our region. It also covers situations where the infrastructure cannot carry the amount of energy needed across the lines without the risk of damage or failure. This plan takes into account schools, hospitals, fire departments, police, and other key first responders, as well as industry that could compromise employee safety if shed.

Let's start with the challenge of meeting demand with significant increases in consumption. The Southwest Power Pool (also known as SPP) is a regional transmission organization (RTO): a nonprofit corporation mandated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure reliable supplies of power, adequate transmission infrastructure, and competitive wholesale electricity prices on behalf of its members. Today, SPP oversees the bulk electric grid and wholesale power market in the central United States on behalf of a diverse group of utilities and transmission companies in 17 states. In the month of July SPP's consumption of electricity broke its all-time high loads 5 separate times, each time breaking the newly set record from days earlier. These large demands came as an extreme heat wave passed through the coverage area of SPP. Extreme heat and cold are large drivers of the growth in these states for various types of loads. In simple terms, the electricity demand is increasing rapidly with the changing climate.

With greater demand and a changing climate on one side of the coin, the flip side is the ongoing retirement of baseload generation. Baseload generation

is power supplied to the grid that is readily available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Examples of baseload generation are hydro dams along rivers, coal, natural gas, and nuclear. Some of these baseload generation sources are being retired at a concerning pace, and not necessarily with proven technology to replace them. Currently, many new infrastructure projects that would support wind and solar generation, referred to as renewables, are happening but the storage of the energy produced is running behind. Please understand, Park Electric is in support of renewables being a part of the generation of electricity for our members, but as of

right now, no technology would allow renewables to replace all of our base load generation. Remember the wind does not always blow and the sun does not always shine. For example, the wind blows more in the night hours, and predominately in the fall and spring, yet our peak loads are during the summer and winter. Solar has its peak generation around 3 pm on sunny days, but on cloudy or snowy days the generation is near zero. The peak daily loads for Park Electric are from 6 -9 am and 5-8:30 pm daily. With these opposing peaks, neither of these is a reliable option right now. To make renewables a reliable part of the grid, one option could be large-

scale battery projects to store the energy that is needed. However, at this time there is no proven technology to meet the needs of our large-scale loads 24/7 365 days per year other than our current baseload generation.

Should you be concerned? The short answer is yes. Think about the effects of supply and demand and how you can mitigate your demand during times of peak loads. In general, when the supply of something is short prices can surge, just like what we are seeing with oil and gas. SPP is seeing the same effects of supply and demand on the cost of power being purchased in the open market. Another concern that could happen in the upcoming years is there may be more demand for energy than there is generation of energy. The ripple effects of this could be large and may leave many people without power on days that generation sources become scarce or when extreme weather events happen. If you would like to know more about the grid, generation, or transmission, you can go to the department of energy website www.energy.gov to learn more.

