

Midwest Energy, Inc.

Current Comments

April 2025

Making energy work for YOU

Thank a Lineman: April 14 is Lineman Appreciation Day

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association recognizes the second Monday in April as Lineman Appreciation Day. Different organizations recognize different dates for Lineman Appreciation Day. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) observes National Lineworker Appreciation Day on July 10, to honor the birthdate of its founder, Henry Miller.

Regardless of when it's observed, we salute all linemen, past and present, who go the extra mile in all conditions to keep the lights on. Thank you!



Make Sure Your Storm Kit is Stocked This Spring

Storm season is upon us, and you don't want to be stuck without a plan. By preparing a storm kit, you can keep your household safe and comfortable in the event of a prolonged power outage.

Although rare, strong storms can severely damage the grid, causing outages that can last days. This is why having a plan is crucial. Here

are some ideas of what to keep in your storm kit:



Water: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends storing at least one gallon of water per person per day for drink-

ing and sanitation purposes. Store these bottles in a cool, dark place.



Food: Canned vegetables and soup, boxed cereal, peanut butter and other nonperishable foods should also be

a part of your kit. Avoid salty snacks or foods that will make you more thirsty. Store at least a three-day supply of food and replace expired items as needed.

Chargers: Having a full tank of gas in your car will enable you to recharge your cell phones and other

electronic devices in your vehicle.

A small solar-powered phone charger, or a backup battery, might be helpful.

First Aid Kit: Bandages, antibiotic ointments and other supplies are a must. If you take daily prescription medications, make sure you have enough in case the pharmacy closes.

Other Supplies: Keep a flashlight and warm blanket and/or sleeping bags for each family member. Have extra batteries to keep everything in working order.



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Youth Tour Trip Winners Announced

Midwest Energy's Board of Directors recently selected two high school juniors to attend the week-long Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. this summer. The two individuals selected: **Broady Goetz** and **Dominic Hernandez**.

Broady is from Park, Kan., and attends Wheatland High School in Grainfield, Kan.

Dominic is from Hays, Kan., and attends the Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science.

To be eligible for the trip, individuals must be juniors in high school, live in or attend school in Midwest Energy's service area, and their parents or guardians must receive electric and/or natural gas service from Midwest Energy.

Midwest Energy also awards \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors. Those scholarship recipients will be announced at a later date.

MWE Complaint Process

Midwest Energy is a self-regulated cooperative. Under Kansas law, final authority for handling member complaints rests with the Board of Directors (not the Kansas Corporation Commission.) Here are the steps to follow should you wish to file a complaint.

Step 1: Attempt to resolve the issue at the earliest opportunity with a Midwest Energy employee. Members are encouraged, but not required, to submit complaints and evidence in writing.

Step 2: If the complaint cannot be resolved by a Midwest Energy employee, members may contact Justin MacDonald, Vice President of Customer Service.

Step 3: If the Vice President of Customer Service is unable to resolve the issue, escalate the complaint to the Chief Executive Officer. The CEO will advise the member of his/her decision.

Step 4: If the CEO is unable to resolve the matter satisfactorily, the member may escalate the complaint to the Chair of the Board of Directors. At the Chair's discretion, the matter may be placed on the agenda for consideration at the Board's next meeting.

You may contact us at 1-800-222-3121 to express any concerns. To contact the Board Chair, please visit www.mwenergy.com and click About > Transparency, to find a direct email contact link.

Know What's Below! Call 811

April is National Safe Digging Month. Did you know it is illegal to begin a digging project without contacting Kansas One Call at 811? It is a free service to get your underground utility lines marked before you start any digging or construction.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

By dialing 811 at least two business days prior to digging, utility companies in the area will be notified of your intent to dig. A locator will then come and detect the approximate location of buried gas, water, sewer and electric lines that may be in your path of work. These areas will be marked with flags or paint for easy visibility.

As always, after the locator has marked the underground lines, still proceed to dig carefully around those areas. Some utility lines may be buried at a shallow depth, where post drivers and shovels can be potentially dangerous. Even small projects require a call, no matter how shallow you think the digging will be.

So call 811. It's fast, it's free, and it's Kansas Law.

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.



Atwood, KS • Colby, KS • Great Bend, KS • Hays, KS

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1-800-222-3121
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