



NERC reliability assessment warns of potential energy shortages

More than half of the United States is at risk of electricity shortages this winter due to regional generation shortfalls, increased demand for power and potential fuel delivery challenges during sustained cold weather events, the North American Electric Reliability Corp. (NERC) says.

NERC’s Winter Reliability Assessment, released Nov. 8, “again shows that our nation faces looming grid reliability challenges while demand for electricity continues to soar,” said NRECA CEO Jim Matheson. “That’s unacceptable and should be cause for concern for all Americans.”

NERC noted the following for Southwest Power Pool (SPP), Corn Belt Power’s regional transmission organization: The Anticipated Reserve Margin (ARM) of 38.8 percent is over 30 percentage points lower than last winter; this is driven by higher forecasted peak demand and less resource capacity. While the reserve margin is adequate for normal forecasted peak demand and expected generator outages, higher demand levels and outages that have occurred during extreme cold weather result in shortfalls that can trigger energy emergencies. The vast wind resources in the area can alleviate firm capacity shortages under the right conditions; however, energy risks emerge during periods of low wind or forecast uncertainty and high electricity demand.

SPP and MISO, our neighboring RTO, continue to experience energy emergency alerts (EEAs) and resource advisories. These alerts further display what we already know: the energy transition must consider all forms of generation.

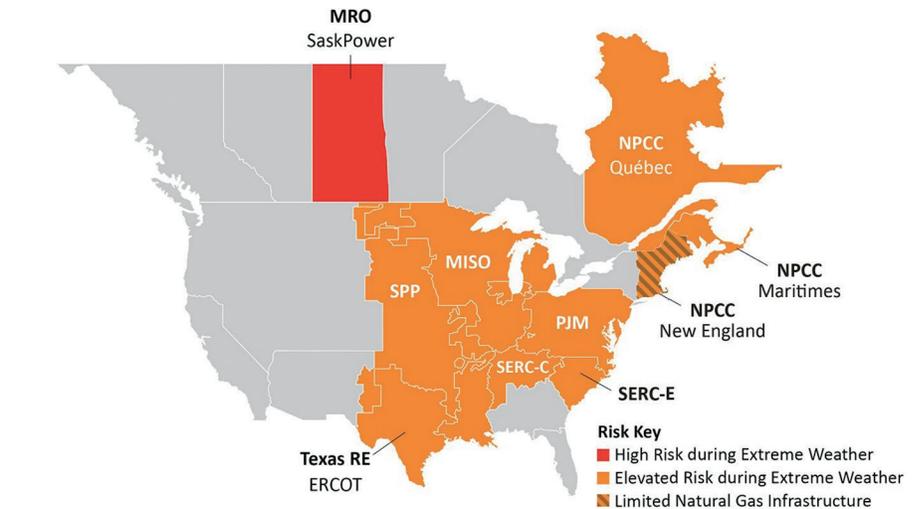


Figure 1: Winter Reliability Risk Area Summary

Seasonal Risk Assessment Summary	
High	Potential for insufficient operating reserves in normal peak conditions
Elevated	Potential for insufficient operating reserves in above-normal conditions
Low	Sufficient operating reserves expected

More renewable energy sources like wind and solar power are coming online, while traditional sources like coal, nuclear and natural gas are retiring. While there are clear benefits to renewable energy, Corn Belt Power believes and advocates for an all-of-the-above energy approach. All-of-the-above promotes the idea that the United States depends on a reliable and sustainable fuel supply that includes developing and incorporating domestically produced renewable energy resources to supplement baseload generation that includes biofuels, natural gas, nuclear, hydropower and coal.

“While we haven’t seen EEAs as severe as what we saw in 2021, we continue to

keep a close eye on the situation,” said Ken Kuyper, executive vice president and general manager, Corn Belt Power. “We have a plan in place should the situation ever escalate. We drill on the plan multiple times a year.”

We continue to demonstrate the value of our abundant baseload generation sources in an All-of-the-Above energy mix. If not for reliable baseload generation, predominately made up of fossil fuels, many of us would be in the dark during times of peak electric demand. Our goal is to provide our members with safe, affordable, reliable, and sustainable forms of energy in a way that moves us toward a cleaner energy future. ■

Clear Lake Legislative Breakfast a success

Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative, Prairie Energy Cooperative, Butler County REC and Heartland Power hosted legislators at the Best Western Holiday Lodge in Clear Lake Nov. 15.

Senators Dennis Guth, Waylon Brown and Representatives Mark Thompson, Charley Thompson and Jane Bloomingdale attended.

Electric cooperative representatives spoke to legislators on the following topics:

- Iowa Utilities Board Regulatory Structure
- Deregulation of Electric Service Territory
- Overhead Line Clearance
- Promoting a Reliable Energy Future
- Transmission Infrastructure
- Integrated Resource Planning

All topics were discussed with safe, reliable and affordable power at the top of mind.

“Anytime we meet with elected officials or other policymakers, we want to make sure they understand that cooperatives are here to serve rural Iowans,” said Ryan Cornelius, vice president, corporate relations, Corn Belt Power Cooperative. “Our main goal is to

provide power – at cost – in the safest and most reliable way possible.”

Legislative roundtables are taking place across the state ahead of the opening of the

2024 legislative session. Corn Belt Power looks forward to speaking with Fort Dodge area legislators at its area breakfast on December 20. ■



Co-ops connect with legislative officials

Above | Tim Marienau, chief executive officer, Prairie Energy Cooperative, speaks to legislative officials and cooperative representatives about issues facing rural electric cooperatives in Iowa at the Clear Lake Best Western Nov. 15. Legislative roundtables continue across the state ahead of the opening of the 2024 legislative session.

Corn Belt Power hosts school children

One of a cooperative’s founding principles is Concern for Community. This means we work for the sustainable development of our communities. That’s why we were happy to host a homeschool cooperative on Oct. 18 for a day of learning and fun at Corn Belt Power’s headquarters.

Homeschool children and their parents from Humboldt and the surrounding communities learned about what a cooperative is, how electricity gets to their homes and electrical safety.

The group toured Corn Belt Power’s Humboldt headquarters, which included its new transmission facility and control center.

“We are grateful for your time, teaching and generosity,” the homeschool parents remarked. “We will have great memories of this experience.”

If you’re interested in a tour for your school group or organization, please contact our office at 515-332-2571. ■



Homeschool co-op tours headquarters

Above | Jeff Lindaman, system operator, talks to a group of school children Oct. 18 about his job and what happens inside the cooperative’s control center.

Iowa-based electric cooperatives announce details for 2024 Momentum is Building Conference for contractors and builders

Iowa-based builders and contractors are invited to learn about energy efficiency technologies at the 2024 Momentum is Building Conference, scheduled for Feb. 8 and 9, 2024, at The Meadows Events and Conference Center in Altoona, IA.

A major draw for electricians, plumbers and HVAC professionals is the opportunity to earn CEU credits at the conference. Momentum is Building attendees can also network with industry professionals, hear from recognized energy efficiency and building trades experts, and gain insight on energy-efficiency regulations and incentives.

Sponsored and organized by the Iowa Cooperatives for Energy Efficiency (ICEE), the annual Momentum is Building Conference also connects Iowa's construction industry with electric cooperatives' local services and resources, which serve nearly 650,000 Iowans across 99 counties.

"Electric cooperatives have long supported energy efficiency efforts, and one of our goals is to help member-consumers use energy wisely," states Angela Catton, manager of member relations and development at Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative. "We invest in this conference to build relationships between cooperatives and the contractors who provide services to the members we mutually serve."

"Informing contractors about cutting-edge energy efficiency and ensuring our building trades partners are up on the latest codes is important to Iowa-based electric cooperatives," said Ryan Cornelius, vice president, corporate relations at Corn Belt

Power Cooperative. "For over thirty years, the Momentum is Building Conference has provided both electric cooperatives and contractors an opportunity to come together to provide rural Iowans with safe, efficient

Drawing on his deep understanding of what motivates and drives people, Dr. Charlie has uncovered the essential elements that pave the way for unlocking human potential.

The Momentum is Building 2024



Momentum Is Building breakout

Above | Momentum is Building 2024 is scheduled for Feb. 8 and 9 at the Meadows Events and Conference Center in Altoona. Registration is open at www.momentumisbuilding.com

and cost-effective home comfort solutions."

Jay Gubrud, a catalyst for performance improvement who has provided insight on working together as a team, will kick off the conference by illustrating his powerful approach to improving personal and professional productivity while connecting with colleagues and clientele alike.

The conference will close with inspirational speaker, Dr. Charlie Cartwright.

Conference will be held at The Meadows Events and Conference Center from 8:30 AM on Thursday, Feb. 8, running through noon on Friday, Feb. 9, 2024. Registration is available online at www.MomentumIsBuilding.com. Early Bird registration is open until Jan. 17, 2024.

For more information about the conference, visit www.momentumisbuilding.com or call your electric cooperative. ■



Iowa Builders and Contractors:
REGISTRATION IS OPEN!
February 8-9
The Meadows Events and
Conference Center - Altoona
www.MomentumIsBuilding.com



Josie Ubben, engineering and operations assistant, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, third from left, directs the Dakota City Switching Station steel tower installation with transmission employees three miles east of Humboldt on Highway 3 Nov. 8.

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Left | Connor Almond, journeyman lineman, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, applies dish soap to a steel tower base in preparation to secure the two halves.

Right | Corn Belt Power Cooperative crews raise the top half of a steel tower into place at the Dakota City Switching Station, three miles east of Humboldt on Highway 3 Nov. 8.



November Touchstone Energy Volunteer Challenge winner | Jen Sievert, vice president, customer and corporate relations, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, donated her \$100 prize to Estherville Lincoln Central School's Care Closet.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
 AND
 HAPPY NEW YEAR

*Corn Belt Power offices will be closed
 Dec. 22, 25 and Jan. 1.*

Corn Belt Power Cooperative
Watts Watt

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