



# Reliability report released

## ahead of warm summer months

In early May, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation released a report outlining their 2025 Summer Reliability Assessment.

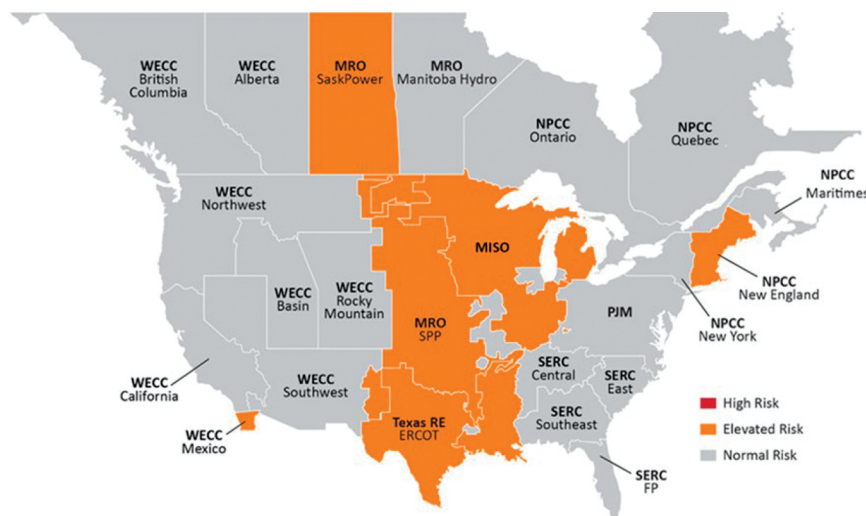
In the report, NERC raised concerns regarding several regional transmission organizations and their electric generation and transmission challenges this summer.

NERC placed Southwest Power Pool and Midcontinent Independent System Operator in an "elevated risk" category for electric generation/capacity shortfalls this summer. Corn Belt Power is a part of the SPP footprint.

Despite the elevated risk category, SPP, Corn Belt Power and Basin Electric Cooperative anticipates a high likelihood of meeting demand for electricity this summer.

SPP conducts an assessment each year to identify and mitigate threats to energy reliability during the summer season lasting from June to September. The analysis considers factors such as historical and predicted future electricity use, weather forecasts, the variability of available wind energy, drought conditions and generation and transmission outages.

Seasonal forecasts indicate a 40-60% chance of warmer-than-average temperatures this summer within the SPP footprint. There are similar chances for below-average rainfall for most of the area covered by SPP. Given these expected conditions, SPP's studies conclude there is high probability it will have sufficient native generation to meet the demand for electricity peak-usage hours over the summer season. This analysis does not consider the availability of energy imports from other



**Figure 1: Summer 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
Normal	Sufficient operating reserves expected

regions, the impact of demand response programs that can automatically reduce demand in response to real-time conditions during peak hours, or the potential impact of voluntary conservation programs that incent consumers to reduce their electricity use when generating reserves are slim.

If extreme weather, unexpected outages or other circumstances affect the region, SPP has systems, tools and procedures ready to mitigate risks and maintain electric reliability. Under different scenarios, the grid operator may call on generating units to commit to run earlier or more often than usual, delay planned equipment outages, import energy from neighboring systems or tap into available reserves depending on

the severity and duration of events affecting energy reliability.

The ongoing energy transition must recognize the need for time and technology development, while including all energy sources to maintain reliability and affordability. A resilient and reliable electric grid that affordably keeps the lights on is the cornerstone of our rural economy.

Corn Belt Power's mission remains the same. We are here to provide you with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity that is also environmentally responsible. We will continue to advocate on behalf of cooperative members for a reliable and affordable power supply. ■

# Graduate Spotlight!



## Olivia Arndorfer

**School:** Briar Cliff University  
**Degree:** Bachelor of Arts,  
 Elementary Education **Academic**  
**Awards:** Dean's List, Outstanding  
 and Scholarly Achievement  
 Award in Elementary Education,  
 Service Hour Cord **School**  
**activities:** Non-Athlete Real  
 Person Club, Education Club  
 Co-President **Future plans:**  
 Complete student teaching in  
 the fall at Bryant Elementary  
 in Sioux City and then substitute

until finding a full-time position. **Parents:** Mike and  
 Jennifer Arndorfer, human resources specialist



## Colin Bird

**School:** Hampton-Dumon-  
 CAL **Scholarships:** Kiwanis  
 Club of Hampton Scholarship,  
 Mike Dombrowski Memorial  
 Scholarship, The Heilskov  
 Family Scholarship, Mort's  
 Water Company Scholarship,  
 Foster & Evelyn Barkema  
 Charitable Trust Scholarship,  
 Pro Wall Construction/Master  
 of Trades Program Scholarship,  
 H-D-CAL Quarterback Club  
 Scholarship, H-D-CAL Wrestling Booster Club Scholarship,  
 NIACC Link Scholarship **School Activities:** Football, Wrestling,  
 Track, FFA, Cool to be Kind **Community Activities:** RCYF at  
 Zion Reformed Church **Future plans:** Attend NCC in Sheldon  
 for Power Lineman program this May 2025 **Parents:** Molly and  
 Adam Bird, journeyman lineman



## Jena Blackett

**Safety and Environmental**  
**Coordinator - Corn Belt**  
**Power Cooperative**  
**School:** Waldorf University  
**Degree and subject:** Bachelor  
 of Arts, Occupational Safety  
 and Health **Academic awards:**  
 Graduated Summa Cum Laude  
 (with highest honors) **Family**  
**Members:** Kids, Laycee, 14,  
 Kaycee, 13 and Bradlee, 8 and  
 fiance, Collin Weber, energy  
 services engineer



## Cyler Cirks

**School:** Humboldt High School  
**Academic Awards and**  
**Scholarships:** IAHSAA Excellence  
 in Academic Achievement, IWCOA  
 Academic All State, Award for  
 Highest GPA on Humboldt Wildcat  
 wrestling team,  
 Pheasants Forever Scholarship,  
 Friend of David law Scholarship,  
 Isaak Walton Oakdale  
 Scholarship, Frank Gotch  
 Scholarship, Michelle Jensen  
 Scholarship **School activities:**  
 Wrestling, Football, Baseball, Golf  
**Civic activities:** Church youth group and helping with  
 Humboldt Wildcat Youth Wrestling Club **Future plans:** Attend  
 Iowa State University and major in Finance **Parents:**  
 Mark and Stacy Cirks, development finance director



## Marcus Cowell

**School:** Sioux Central High  
 School **School Activities:** Band  
 and debate **Future**  
**plans:** Attend  
 Northwest Iowa  
 Community  
 College in Sheldon  
 for welding  
**Parents:** Judy  
 and Mike  
 Cowell, shift  
 operator



## Elias Naber

**School:** Iowa Lakes Community College **Degree and**  
**subject:** Associates of Science **School Activities:**  
 Choir, Bell Choir **Community Activities:** Member  
 of the Ruthven Methodist Church, Backpack Food  
 Program, Methodist Community Garden, Audio visual  
 tech for services at the Ruthven Methodist Church  
**Future Plans:** Attend the University of South Dakota  
**Parents:** Judy and John Naber, electrical and control





## Issac Naber

**School:** Emmetsburg High School

**School activities:** Band, E-sports

**Community Activities:** Member of the Ruthven Methodist Church, Backpack Food Program, Methodist Community Garden, Audio visual tech for services at the Ruthven Methodist Church

**Future Plans:** Attend Iowa Lakes Community College for two years, then transfer to the University of South Dakota

**Parents:** Judy and John Naber, electrical and control



## Levi Naber

**School:** Emmetsburg High School

**School activities:** Band, E-sports **Community Activities:** Member of the Ruthven Methodist Church, Backpack Food Program, Methodist Community Garden, Audio visual tech for services at the Ruthven Methodist Church

**Future Plans:** Attend Iowa Lakes Community College for two years, then transfer to the University of South Dakota **Parents:** Judy and John Naber, electrical and control



## Kaycee Rubel

**School:** Iowa Central Community College **Degree:** Associates in Arts and Coaching License

**Academic Awards:** Deans List **School activities:** ICCC Dance Team

**Future plans:** Attend North Iowa Area Community College in the fall to pursue a degree as a physical therapy assistant

**Parents:** Troy and Kari Rubel, accountant III



## Sam Naber

**School:** Iowa Lakes Community College

**Degree and subject:** Associates of Science

**School Activities:** Choir, Bell Choir

**Community Activities:** Member of the Ruthven Methodist Church, Backpack Food Program, Methodist Community Garden, Audio visual tech for services at the Ruthven Methodist Church

**Future Plans:** Attend the University of South Dakota **Parents:** Judy and John Naber, electrical and control



## Hailey Stalzer

**School:** West Bend-Mallard

**Scholarships:** Becky K. McGee Memorial Scholarship, Helen Perkins Thompson Scholarship

**School Activities:** Basketball, Volleyball, Track, Drama, Diner, National Honor Society, Future Farmers of America

**Community Activities:** Disciples Class (Church Group), 4-H **Future plans:** Pursue a degree as a

physical therapist assistant at North Iowa Area Community College **Parents:** Cathy and Andy Stalzer, system electrical superintendent



## Hannah Stalzer

**School:** West Bend-Mallard

**Academic Awards and Scholarships:** Honor Roll,

Forty Men and Eight Horses Scholarship, Bustin' out Blue Scholarship, and the Humboldt Credit Union Scholarship **School Activities:** Volleyball, Basketball, Track & Field, National Honor Society, Drama, Future Farmers of America, and Diner

**Community Activities:** Disciples Class (Church Group), 4-H **Future Plans:** Attend North Iowa Area Community College in the fall to pursue a degree in nursing **Parents:** Cathy and Andy Stalzer, system electrical superintendent



Katie LaBree, business development manager, Butler County REC, sits in a kitchen-scene mock-up at a member's home during location scouting with Harvest Creative Services May 7 in preparation for filming the next Touchstone Energy commercial. Filming for the new national ad is set for June in the Butler County REC and Grundy County REC territory.

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**May Touchstone Energy Volunteer Challenge winner | Madison Alert**, communications specialist/key accounts rep., Franklin REC, won this month's Volunteer Challenge. Alert donated her \$100 prize to Revitalize Dumont.

## Myer promoted to manager of information technology

Jon Myer has accepted the position of Manager of Information Technology effective June 1.

In the coming weeks, Jon will work closely with Mike Finnegan to ensure a smooth and effective transition. In this new role, Jon will oversee the Information Technology (IT), Operational Technology/SCADA (OT/SCADA), and Communications teams. He will report to Jacob Olberding.

This leadership structure is designed to strengthen the cooperative's ability to align technology initiatives with organizational goals.

Key objectives for this newly integrated department include:

- Better coordination, planning, and budgeting
- Better response time through coordinated efforts



- Improved cybersecurity and resilience

- Better cross training and coverage for backups

Myer began working in the IT department at Corn Belt in 2017. He holds an associates degree from Iowa Central Community College and a bachelors degree from Excelsior College. He is currently pursuing his masters degree from Western Governors University. ■

## **Corn Belt Power Cooperative** **WattsWatt**

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