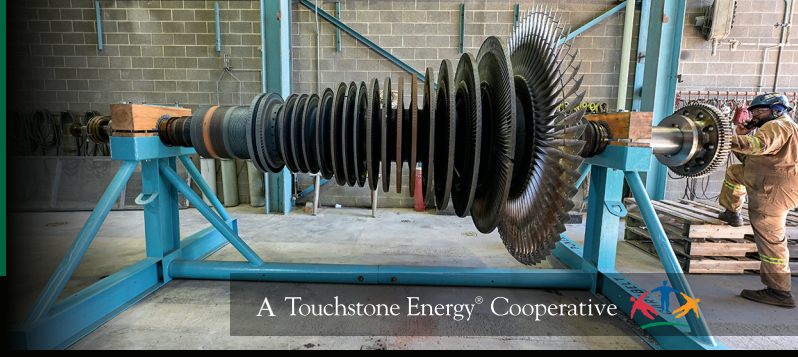
Corn Belt Power Cooperative
Watts Watt



www.cbpower.coop
November 2026 | Volume 74 | Number 11

Wisdom Unit 1 undergoes outage

A major maintenance outage is underway at Corn Belt Power Cooperative's Wisdom Unit 1, where crews are conducting inspections, repairs and equipment upgrades to keep the generating unit operating reliably for years to come.

The planned outage focuses on some of the plant's critical equipment, including the steam turbine, generator and boiler. The work is an important investment in the unit's long-term reliability and its ability to meet the future energy needs of Corn Belt Power's member-cooperatives and the region.

At the center of the outage is a major inspection of the steam turbine, along with an inspection of the generator. The turbine rotor and diaphragms, which help direct steam through the turbine, have been removed and shipped to Crown Point, Indiana, for detailed inspections and repairs.

While at the repair facility, the rotor will undergo an evaluation, including the installation of new erosion strips on its final-stage blades.

Other major components have also been shipped to specialized facilities for service. Turbine bearings were sent to Gonzales, Louisiana. The main steam throttle valve was shipped to Houston, Texas, for refurbishment. Safety valves were sent to Cannon Falls, Minnesota for recertification, and a condensate pump motor was shipped to Dakota Dunes, South Dakota for repairs.

The generator is undergoing electrical testing and inspections to evaluate its condition. Crews are also installing new vibration monitoring equipment and sensors to help protect the turbine and generator during operation.

In the boiler, crews are addressing areas where water leaks have occurred. The boiler's burner management system is also being upgraded with new hardware and updated controls.



Left | Contractors removed the Wisdom Station generating turbine October 3 and shipped it off for detailed inspection and repair. **Right |** Contractors also removed the turbine diaphragm casing for cleaning and inspection, which lay beneath the removed turbine.

Planning for the next 20 years

While the outage involves maintenance work, its not just about addressing immediate equipment needs.

A recent engineering assessment found that Wisdom Unit 1 could remain operational for another 20 years.

The current outage is an important step toward that goal. By thoroughly evaluating the unit's major components, Corn Belt Power can better understand their condition and determine which additional repairs or equipment replacements may be necessary in the years ahead.

A different kind of workday

Although Wisdom Unit 1 is temporarily offline, activity at the plant has not slowed.

Wisdom Unit 2 remains available for service, requiring the facility to maintain around-the-clock staffing. At the same time, operations and maintenance personnel are working alongside contractors to complete the list of outage projects.

Maintenance crews are involved in the vibration monitoring and burner management system upgrades, while operations personnel assist with equipment cleaning, inspections and repairs that can only be completed when the unit is offline.

Crews are also inspecting the electric fire pump, cleaning the condenser and preparing the fuel oil system for winter operations. These efforts are taking place alongside the plant's normal seasonal maintenance and winterization activities.

This work plays an essential role in maintaining the plant's long-term performance.

By inspecting critical equipment, addressing wear and upgrading aging systems today, Corn Belt Power is positioning Wisdom Unit 1 to continue serving its member-cooperatives and the region well into the future. ■

Fennelly delivers powerful mental health message

Mental illness doesn't always look like struggle. Sometimes, it hides behind success, strength and achievement.

Few people understand that reality better than former Iowa State University basketball standout Lyndsey Fennelly, who shared her personal journey with employees from Corn Belt Power Cooperative's member systems during an Oct. 12 presentation in Humboldt.

In her presentation, Hope and Healing: Winning the Battle No One Sees, Fennelly challenged attendees to rethink what it means to be strong, embrace vulnerability and recognize that asking for help is not a sign of weakness, but one of courage.

For much of her life, Fennelly's accomplishments were easy to see. Known as Lyndsey Medders during her playing days, she earned All-American honors as a point guard for the Cyclones and led the nation in assists during the 2006-07 season. ESPN recognized her as one of the top five point guards in the country, and the Indiana Fever selected her in the second round of the 2007 WNBA Draft. Her accomplishments on the court eventually earned her a place in the Iowa State Athletics Hall of Fame as part of its 2024 induction class.

But while her athletic achievements were visible to everyone, the personal challenges she faced were not.

Fennelly is now an outspoken advocate for mental health, drawing from her own experiences to help others understand that success and personal struggles can exist side by side. Her message emphasizes that even those who appear confident, accomplished and in control may be fighting battles others cannot see.



Fennelly focuses on mental health

Above | Lyndsey Fennelly, former Iowa State Cyclone All-American point guard, shares her mental health journey with Corn Belt Power member system employees at an October 12 training in Humboldt.

During her visit with Corn Belt Power and its member-cooperatives, Fennelly encouraged attendees to prioritize their mental health in much the same way they would their physical health. Through personal storytelling and a workshop, she emphasized the importance of recognizing when help is needed, supporting those around us and creating an environment where conversations about mental health are welcomed rather than avoided.

"Her message was well received," said Jacob Olberding, executive vice president and general manager, Corn Belt Power. "In the electric cooperative industry safety is a fundamental part of the workplace culture. Employees are reminded to recognize hazards, look out for one another and take precautions to ensure everyone returns home safely."

If you or someone you know needs support, call or text 988 to reach the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. Free, confidential support is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week throughout the United States. ■

The Mental Health Continuum

Where are you today? We all move along this line, and every stage deserves attention.

Thrivinging	Surviving	Struggling	Drowning
• Positive, calm	• Worried, nervous	• Anxious	• Very anxious
• Sleeping	• Irritable, sad	• Depressed	• Very low mood
• Eating well	• Trouble sleeping	• Tired, poor sleep	• Exhausted
• Performing, in flow	• Distracted	• Poor appetite	• Very poor sleep
• Joyful & energetic	• Withdrawn	• Presenteeism	• Absenteeism
• Seeking connection		• Low self-esteem	• Sickness, physical pain
			• Isolation, weight loss

(slide from Fennnelly's presentation)



Fennelly

Above | Lyndsey Fennelly, shares her mental health story with Corn Belt Power member system employees Oct. 12.

Johnson starts as new apprentice lineman


Chase Johnson

Chase Johnson started on October 15 as an apprentice lineman at the cooperative's Hampton location. Chase is a graduate of the lineman program at Marshalltown Community College. He worked for Franklin REC since August. Welcome to Corn Belt Power, Chase! ■

New backup control center strengthens reliability

When severe weather, equipment failures or other emergencies threaten normal operations, Corn Belt Power Cooperative must be prepared to keep its electric system running. A new backup control center helps ensure the cooperative can do just that.

Completed in October, the new 1,600-square-foot facility provides an alternate location for system operators to monitor and manage the electric grid if Corn Belt Power's main control center becomes unavailable.

The project replaces an aging backup control center that, while meeting basic regulatory requirements, lacked the space needed to support employees during an extended emergency.

"When North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) standards became mandatory in 2007, a designated space with a computer was sufficient to meet backup control center requirements," said Larry Brusseau, compliance director, Corn Belt Power. "Over the years, however, expectations have changed significantly as utilities have worked to improve their preparedness for natural disasters, cybersecurity threats and other potential disruptions."

Corn Belt Power's previous backup control center lacked what operators needed in times of emergency. The room was large enough for only a few employees, and noise from nearby computer equipment made it difficult for operators to communicate. The facility also lacked a restroom and kitchen area, making extended operations challenging.

The new facility addresses those issues with a dedicated control room, separate data center, mechanical room, restroom and office space that can serve as an emergency management room. Its six-sided, poured-concrete construction is designed to provide protection during severe weather and other emergencies.

The building also features fiber connectivity and the communications infrastructure needed to support power system operations. Corn Belt Power's information technology, operational technology and communications personnel helped determine the building's layout and technical requirements.

Planning for the project began in the fall of 2024, when a team was assembled to evaluate the cooperative's backup control center needs and identify a suitable location.

One of the team's main goals was the requirement to restore control center capabilities within two hours if the main control center becomes unavailable. To help meet that requirement, the group focused on potential sites within 25 miles of the main control center. *Continued to page 4...*


Randy Rohr

Rohr retires after four decades



In September, Corn Belt Power said goodbye to Randy Rohr. Rohr, a lineman on the Hampton transmission crew, began his career as a groundman in 1985. Rohr became an apprentice lineman that same year, a lineman in 1989 and journeyman in 1995.

"Forty years is a testament to Randy's dedication and commitment to our organization and the members we serve," said Jeremy Stattelman, transmission superintendent, Corn Belt Power. "After more than 40 years, Randy saw more than most. We are grateful for his decades of service."

Congratulations, Randy! ■



Corn Belt Power Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
1300 13th Street North • PO Box 508
Humboldt, IA 50548

Contractors remove the generator diaphragm on the Wisdom Unit 1 turbine deck October 6 during a planned maintenance outage. By inspecting critical equipment, addressing wear and upgrading aging systems today, Corn Belt Power is positioning Wisdom Unit 1 to continue serving its member-cooperatives well into the future.

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Humboldt, Iowa
Permit No. 32



September Touchstone Energy Volunteer Challenge winner | Christy Mason, administrative assistant, Franklin REC, won this month's Volunteer Challenge. She donated her $100 prize to the Windsor Theatre - Roof Restoration Project.

Backup control center

Continued from page 3... Six Corn Belt Power substation locations were evaluated based on available fiber connections, utilities, accessibility during winter weather, backup generation capabilities and proximity to a community.

Following an evaluation of contractor proposals, Corn Belt Power's board of directors approved the project for construction in 2025.

The new backup control center, which was completed in October, represents an important improvement in Corn Belt Power's ability to respond to emergencies. Should the main control center become unavailable, employees will have a secure location with the equipment, space and resources needed to continue managing the electric system. ■



Backup control center

Above | Adam Schulz, left, network administrator; Jon Myer, standing, manager information technology; and Eric Hankey, SCADA technician, review the new backup control center set up Oct. 19.

Corn Belt Power Cooperative
Watts Watt

Watts Watt is published monthly for employees and associates of Corn Belt Power Cooperative, 1300 13th St. North, Humboldt, Iowa 50548-0508. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Copyright 2026

- **Jacob Olberding, Executive Vice President and General Manager**
- **Ryan Cornelius, Editor; Vice President, Corporate Relations; CCC**
- **Marena V. Fritzler, Marketing Director; CCC**

facebook.com/cornbeltpower
youtube.com/cornbeltpower
www.cbpower.coop