



Corn Belt Power hits all-time peak on Halloween

Fear wasn't the only thing rising high on Halloween 2019. So was Corn Belt Power's system demand. So high, in fact, it set a new record.

A new system peak of 327.86 mega-watts occurred at 8 a.m. on October 31. The previous system peak in November 2009 was 327.09 mega-watts.

"Corn Belt system load started increasing the last week in October due to increased grain drying activity across our service territory," said Jacob Olberding, vice president, power supply. "On the peak day we also had low temperatures in the upper-teens which led to higher demand."

Brian Gibson, chief system operator, said the system worked as it was designed to.

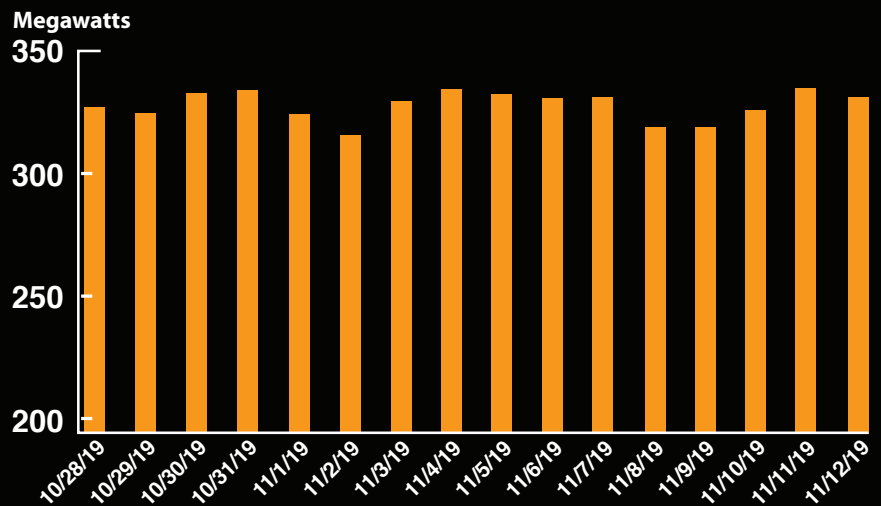
"When we see these higher loads, we also tend to see lower voltage," he said. "That's caused by more resistance on the line because everything from grain dryers to electric heating systems are using power at the same time. We're able to use our SCADA system to close capacitor banks to help maintain system voltage. This was a record for us and our system held up just fine."

Olberding and Gibson both report system load remains steady.

"System load continues to be quite high through the first two weeks in November," Olberding said. "It's possible November's peak will be a couple mega-watts higher than October's peak. We're seeing record low temperatures and continued grain drying."

Olberding noted the late October, early November time frame generally sees high load. However, this year was at an all-time high.

Power in High Demand



Above | Demand was at an all-time high in late October and early November with record low temperatures. Corn Belt Power hit a record peak of 327.86 megawatts on the morning of October 31.

Corn Belt Power controlled load on October 31, during the peak, to save thousands of dollars.

"The membership was able to save more than \$80,000 in avoided demand cost," Olberding said. "This was due to direct load control and voluntary load reduction at the time of the system peak."

Olberding says he appreciates the support he receives from member-cooperatives and large loads.

"System load can be a challenge to predict in the fall. Member-cooperatives and commercial and industrial accounts received a lot of peak notifications and

alerts in late October and early November," he said. "I know the high volume of alerts is inconvenient for everyone. We appreciate their patience and efforts to try and reduce demand costs. Between their mindfulness and our load control efforts, the membership was able to save a lot of money. It just goes to show that when we work together, we can make great things happen. It was a great example of the cooperative way."

A detailed look at Corn Belt Power's yearly load profile will be available in the 2019 annual report to be released April 2020. ■



Above | Corn Belt Power Cooperative's new employee engagement committee meets for the first time on Friday, Oct. 11. The new committee will gather feedback from current employees and find ways to enhance Corn Belt Power's core values of integrity, accountability, commitment and teamwork.

Employee engagement committee meets for first time

Corn Belt Power Cooperative's newly formed employee engagement committee met for the first time October 11. The committee, a byproduct of Brittany Dickey's, development finance director, final LEAD project, will meet

regularly and make recommendations to Corn Belt Power's management on ways to enhance communication among employees and culture at the co-op.

The members of this committee were recommended by their supervisors and cover

a variety of departments and all locations of the company.

The committee seeks to:

- Gather feedback from Corn Belt Power employees
 - Plan cooperative-wide activities
 - Make recommendations on training opportunities
 - Find ways to enhance Corn Belt Power's core values of integrity, accountability, commitment and teamwork
- "This initiative really starts with all employees," Dickey said. "We want to hear from employees on ways we can come together and continue to make Corn Belt Power a great place to work."

Dickey further explained the new employee engagement committee will work on things like bringing employees together, engaging them to improve communication across Corn Belt Power, networking, offering training opportunities for employees, enhancing safety and living out our Corn Belt Power values." ■

Momentum is Building adds realtors, appraisers to focus

Momentum is Building, Feb. 6-7, is an annual conference to promote energy efficiency, gain building skills and tips of the trade, network with exhibitors and attendees, learn new ways to improve your business, and earn up to six CEUs for electricians and HVAC pros. New this year is realtor and home appraiser programming.

MIB values what realtors and home appraisers bring to cooperative service territories and that's why the conference is adding education and training for realtors and appraisers to this year's conference.

Keynote speaker, Sandra Adomatis, is the owner of Adomatis Appraisal Service and a national speaker on valuing high performance features. Sandra literally wrote the book on high performance appraisals currently used by builders, appraisers, and energy organizations around the country. In her keynote address, she will share strategies to help earn higher valuations for your projects.

Ryan Meres, Program Director for the Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET), will also present at this year's

conference. Meres uses his 13 years of experience in energy and water efficiency, energy policy and building energy codes to provide the motivation and steps for contractors to deliver what builders need; and builders to deliver a home that buyers want.

This year's final keynote speaker is Iowa Nice Guy Scott Siepker. Siepker is best known for his work as the "Iowa Nice Guy," as seen on ESPN's College Football Daily, uses humor to deliver an

unforgettable closer. Learn why Scott decided to stay in Iowa and why you can have a successful career in Iowa, too.

In other MIB news, the group staffed a booth at the annual Iowa Association for Energy Efficiency conference in early November. Attendees could sign up for MIB and learn more about the program.

You can register for the event here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/momentum-is-building-2020-tickets-73129132203>. ■



Energy efficiency is coming

Above | Momentum is Building hosted a booth at the Iowa Association for Energy Efficiency annual summit on Nov. 6-7. Iowa's G&T's are busy promoting the conference that will be held on Feb 6-7, 2020 at the Sheraton West Des Moines.

New employees take part in orientation

One of the seven cooperative principles is training, education and information. New employees at Corn Belt Power Cooperative aren't exempt from that principle and that's why cooperative hosted a new employee orientation on Tuesday, November 5.

Kathy Peterson, PeopleWorks, Inc., took the group through a six-hour orientation that included training on communications, cooperative education and how to work with different generations in the workplace.

Peterson says understanding how others communicate can go a long way.

"Even though our job descriptions may be different, great communication is really a requirement of everyone who works at Corn Belt Power," she said. "Communication is at the core of getting our jobs done safely, efficiently, and effectively. The problem is that not everyone communicates or understands in exactly the same way. It's important to learn about our own communication preferences, and also other people's preferences."

As the workplace demographic evolves, Peterson says it's also important to understand generational differences.

"In the 1900's the average life expectancy was 47," she said. "Today, the average life expectancy is 78. People are staying in the workforce longer than ever before, which has created more of a need for us to understand the expectations and perspectives and strengths of people from different generations."

People are shaped, in part, by what happens around them. Understanding what someone lived through can help aid in better communication and connection.

"People of the same generation share certain important historical things in common," Peterson said. "For example, national events, music, technology, values accepted, relationships, heroes, icons/influencers in: cars, books, symbols, slogans, commercials... Not everyone from the same generation is exactly the same, but someone's generation provides us with powerful clues on how we may better connect with them."

To learn more about Kathy Peterson and PeopleWorks, Inc. visit: <https://www.peopleworksinc.com/>.



Effective communication and team building

Above | Corn Belt Power's newest employees took part in an orientation on Tuesday, Nov. 5. Employees learned about effective communication strategies and the cooperative business model.



Energy efficiency study complete, rebate program changes approved

After a month's long energy efficiency study, conducted by CH Guernsey and Associates, Corn Belt Power Cooperative's Board of Directors voted to approve several rebate program changes in November.

The study is a statistical look at how each component of the energy efficiency program impacts not only the co-op but also its members.

- Corn Belt Power will continue to rebate Energy Star clothes dryers at a rate of \$50.
- Electric vehicle charging stations will be eligible for up to a \$500 rebate.
- Residential, agriculture, commercial and industrial LED lighting retrofit will still be eligible for rebates, but based on a lumen output.
- Central air conditioners will be eligible for up to a \$100 rebate per unit.
- Corn Belt Power's air source heat pump rebate will remain.

"We have a robust energy efficiency program to offer cooperative member-owners in our service territory," said Ross Welterlen, energy services engineering director, Corn Belt Power. "Our program is based on data and each rebate component helps the member and the cooperative. It's a win-win for everyone."

The energy efficiency study suggested several eliminations. The programs eliminated that either reached their end of life or were seldom used include:

- C&I LED exit sign retrofits
- Light bulb give-aways
- Non-LED lighting
- LED lighting in NEW construction
- Ag heat lamps
- Solar water heaters
- Pipe and tank insulation
- Flow restrictors
- Recycling programs

Feel free to contact Ross Welterlen at ross.welterlen@cbpower.coop for Corn Belt Power rebate program questions. ■

Jennifer Arndorfer, human resource specialist, educates Humboldt High School sophomores about industry jobs at Corn Belt Power Cooperative that relate to the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math programs.

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November Touchstone Energy Volunteer Challenge winner | Kerri Mertz, executive administrative assistant, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, donated her \$100 drawing prize to the Two Rivers Jr. Pistol Club.



Craig Deim

The power of human connections

Concern for Community is one of our founding principles. Iowa Lakes recently lived that principles as they helped clean up after a wind storm. On Sept. 24, Swea City was hit with a storm with wind gusts up to 95 mph. There was major tree damage throughout the town and minor building damage. After the storm, Kossuth County Emergency Management requested manpower to run chainsaws and perform manual labor. ILEC's Swea City line crew and board vice chairman, Craig Deim, assisted with the clean up efforts.

Weber becomes an EMIT

Congratulations to Collin Weber, energy services engineer, for becoming an Energy Manager in Training (EMIT). Weber recently passed his exam to reach EMIT status. After three years of work in the field, Weber will become a Certified Energy Manager. ■



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.

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