

Midwest Energy, Inc. Current Comments

February 2022

Making energy work for YOU

Windstorm Recovery Continues

The afternoon of Wednesday, Dec. 15, Midwest Energy's entire service area was pounded by a fierce wind event that saw gusts of up to 104 mph, toppling trees and poles and disrupting electric service to nearly 26,500 customers. Worse, wind-fueled wildfires occurred simultaneously, burning 122,000 acres of farm and rangeland in Ellis, Rooks, Russell and Osborne Counties.

"We do not recall an event where more than half of our electric customers lost service on the same day," said Patrick Parke, Midwest Energy's Chief Executive Officer. "We're accustomed to severe wind and storm events, but not where outages occur in all of the 26 counties where we provide electric service," Parke said.



Hays-based linemen replace a pole to get power back on to customers in NE Ellis County on Dec. 18.

The entire Midwest Energy team mobilized; linemen, servicemen, field service representatives, warehouse personnel, system operators and other support staff restored service to all but 4,900 within 24 hours. Within 48 hours of the event, power was restored to all but 2,000 customers.

As the number without power decreased, the number of identified downed or burned poles grew to more than 800, and additional help was called in. Southern Pioneer Electric Co., 4 Rivers Electric Co-op, Heartland Rural Electric Co-op, and Sedgwick County Electric Co-op all sent one or more crews under a mutual aid agreement, while Ward Electric and PAR Electric Contractors sent multiple crews to assist in the recovery effort. *Continued*

Take Control of Your Energy Usage With Usage Alerts

CustomerConnect is a portal that provides customers with detailed energy usage reports. This program also allows customers to configure usage alerts, letting you know when usage targets you define are reached. To set up alerts:

- 1) Go to www.mwenergy.com and log in to your Midwest Energy account. If logging in for the first time, have your last bill handy and follow the sign-up instructions.
- 2) Click the CustomerConnect Icon.
- 3) Select "User Profile" under Setting.
- 4) Click "Add Email" and enter your email address.
- 5) Click "Add Notification."
- 6) Select the commodity you would like to be alerted for (either Electric or Gas), select your

notification period and your target electric usage in KWH, or gas in Therms, and click "Save."

If you have any problems along the way, please call us at 1-800-222-3121 and we'll happily walk you through it.



\$9.3 Million Paid to Counties for 2021 Property Tax

While Midwest Energy is a 501(c)(12) cooperative exempt from federal income tax, the co-op still pays sales and property taxes. Some of the money you're billed each month comes back to your home county.

Last year, Midwest Energy paid \$9.33 million in local property taxes on facilities and land owned by the cooperative. Below is a county-by-county breakdown of the property taxes paid in 2021:

Barton	\$1,149,197.00	Hodgeman	\$150,403.80	Reno	\$154,006.72
Cheyenne	\$81,039.22	Kearny	\$58,424.90	Rice	\$796,322.86
Decatur	\$61,471.87	Lane	\$18,307.00	Rooks	\$77,838.36
Edwards	\$326,507.69	Lincoln	\$35,753.30	Rush	\$244,444.83
Ellis	\$2,303,886.50	Logan	\$306,101.68	Russell	\$232,772.86
Ellsworth	\$79,280.57	McPherson	\$4,439.50	Saline	\$5.90
Finney	\$29,114.60	Morton	\$310.49	Scott	\$86,123.75
Gove	\$188,665.54	Ness	\$114,974.66	Sheridan	\$217,933.66
Graham	\$222,614.84	Norton	\$72,382.74	Smith	\$5,032.70
Grant (KS)	\$14,254.84	Osborne	\$5,938.03	Stafford	\$332,905.68
Grant (OK)	\$564.00	Pawnee	\$471,211.81	Thomas	\$657,177.41
Gray	\$14,503.94	Phillips	\$78,968.51	Trego	\$223,804.88
Greeley	\$15,757.79	Pratt	\$20,911.18	Wallace	\$116,433.86
Hamilton	\$10.38	Rawlins	\$135,544.04	Wichita	\$41,305.78
Haskell	\$8,604.73	Republic	\$772.44	Total:	\$9,332,910.14

Safely Evacuate & Report Gas Leaks

If you smell, see or suspect a gas leak, take the following steps: 1) Stay calm and don't panic. 2) Evacuate the premises. Everyone (pets included) should leave the building immediately and meet at a pre-chosen safe place. 3) Don't light a match, smoke, flip light switches, ring the doorbell, or touch any appliances or electronics, including your phone. Doing so can produce sparks that might cause the gas to explode. 4) Contact Midwest Energy at (800)222-3121 anytime, 24 hours a day 7 days a week, or call 911.

Windstorm Recovery Ongoing

Parke said damage estimates to the electric system from this event "will likely be in excess of \$2.3 million," far less than the \$102 million in damages caused by massive ice storms that hit much of the service area in 2005. It is likely this event will be declared a FEMA disaster, making grants available to cover some costs.

"This was an unprecedented event," Parke said. "We are very proud of the way our line crews, customer service representatives and the entire support team performed. We are also grateful for the assistance from other co-ops, contractors and local emergency responders," Parke

added. "We appreciate everyone's understanding and grace as we were safely restoring power."

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

About 30% of a home's heating energy is lost through inefficient windows. Caulk and weatherstrip all windows to seal air leaks.

When running your home heating system, lock all operable windows to ensure the tightest seal possible.

Source: Dept. of Energy

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

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1-800-222-3121
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