

# Midwest Energy, Inc. Current Comments

November 2023

Making energy work for YOU

## Midwest Energy Selected for \$97 Million Grant Funding will help with transmission system and substation upgrades

Midwest Energy has been selected for a U.S. Department of Energy (DoE) Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships grant of up to \$97 million, to provide upgrades in substations and to rebuild 150 miles of transmission lines across seven western Kansas counties.

Under the terms of the grant, Midwest Energy will address \$145 million in transmission system and substation protection upgrades, with \$97 million in grant funding from DoE. Projects must be completed within five years and will focus on several 115 kilovolt transmission lines primarily in Rush, Ness, Ellis, Graham, Sheridan, Thomas and Rawlins Counties, as well as upgrades to relay and protection equipment in substations in Hodgeman, Stafford, Ness and Ellis Counties.

"This grant will help keep rates affordable for our customers as we address projects where assets are nearing the end of their service lives," said Patrick Parke, Midwest Energy's CEO. "Our customers and our communities will benefit as our system is improved through better reliability, increased line capacity to facilitate renewable energy access, and mitigated wildfire risk."

The grant to Midwest is part of \$10.5 billion being made

available nationwide through DoE under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, to improve the resilience of the power system against growing threats of extreme weather and climate change, and to ensure American communities have access to affordable, reliable and clean electricity.

Parke noted that several organizations wrote letters of support for the grant application stating how they would be positively impacted by the project's goals. These included the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 304; the City of Hays; the Rush County Commission; Kansas State University and Fort Hays State University; High Plains Mental Health; the Citizens Utility Ratepayer Board, and ENGIE North America, a renewable energy developer.

"Having support for our application from such a broad spectrum of labor, educational, local government, community services and renewable energy groups underscores the impact these projects will have on Kansas," Parke said. "We also thank Senators Moran and Marshall for their strong support of our application, and for ensuring Kansas received consideration for these historic grants."

## Campbell Elected As New Board Member in District 2

Election results for the 2023 Board of Directors election were announced at Midwest's Annual Meeting on October 16.

Incumbents Chuck Moore of Colby representing District 1, and Ed Pratt of Hays, representing District 4, were both re-elected. In District 2, incumbent Gary Moss chose not to seek re-election, and Emily Campbell was elected as a new Board member.

Campbell is a 30-year resident of Sheridan County. A graduate of Kansas State University, she holds a Masters in Accounting with a dual major in Finance and a minor in Economics. She worked as a CPA for the City of Manhattan, and was an



Campbell

adjunct professor teaching taxation at Manhattan Area Technical College before attending culinary school in Seattle, Wash. Moving back to her hometown of Hoxie, she worked in business development for the family Case IH Dealerships. She is the Executive Chef and Owner of The Elephant Bistro and Bar in Hoxie, is actively involved in various economic development initiatives in Sheridan County, and is active in the Catholic Church and other not-for-profit organizations.

Midwest Energy's nine-member Board of Directors serve three-year terms of office. To learn more about director elections, visit [www.mwenergy.com/about/board-of-directors-elections](http://www.mwenergy.com/about/board-of-directors-elections).



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# LEDs, Light Timers Can Reduce Holiday Lighting Costs

Whether you've already decked your halls or you're just getting started, there's still time to incorporate energy savings into your holiday décor planning.

If you haven't strung your twinkle lights, be sure to use LED light strands. LEDs consume far less energy than incandescent lights and they can last 40 holiday seasons. They're also safer because they're made with epoxy lenses, not glass, making them more resistant to breaking—and they're cool to the touch, so no burnt fingers!

If you missed Santa's memo about

energy-saving LEDs and your holiday lights are already up, you can still save on lighting costs. All you need

and can be purchased at a local hardware store, through online retailers like Amazon or at big box stores

like Lowe's or Wal-Mart. With a light timer, you can easily program when you want your holiday lights turned on and off, which will save you time, money and energy. If you're using a timer for exterior lighting, make sure it's weatherproof and intended for outdoor use.

To add extra twinkle at night, you can install solar-powered spotlights. Solar spotlights can vary in price, but you should be

able to purchase a quality set of four for about \$30—and because they run on natural energy from the sun, there's no additional cost to your energy bill.

Regardless of how you decorate your home for the holidays, there are plenty of ways to save energy throughout the season.

## How to Spot a Gas Leak

Unlike Carbon Monoxide, natural gas is odorized. That distinct rotten egg smell is a telltale sign of a gas leak. Other indications of a gas leak include a hissing sound around the meter or pipes, air bubbles in standing water and dying vegetation.

If you smell, see or suspect a gas leak, please take the following steps immediately:

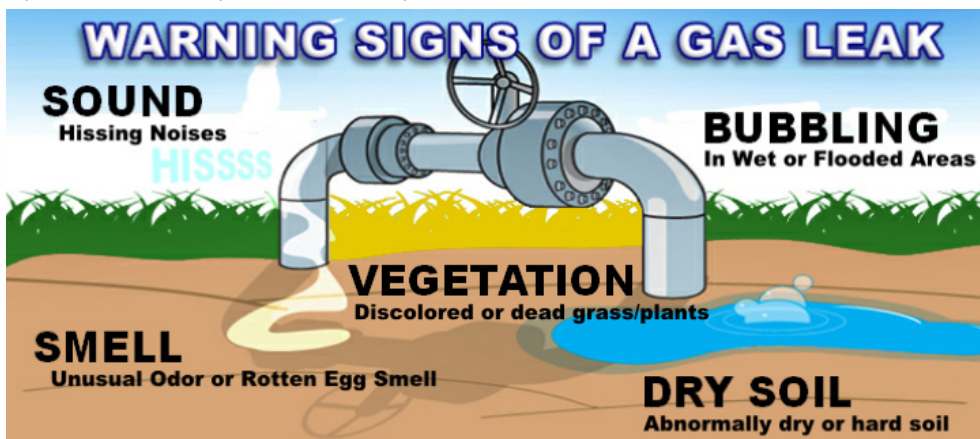
- 1) Stay calm and don't panic.
- 2) Evacuate the premises. Everyone

is a programmable light timer. Most models cost between \$10 to \$25

(pets included) should leave the building immediately and meet at a pre-chosen safe place.

3) Don't light a match, smoke, flip a switch or ring a doorbell, or touch appliances or electronics, including your phone. Doing so can produce sparks that might cause the gas to ignite.

4) Contact Midwest Energy at (800) 222-3121 anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, or call 911.

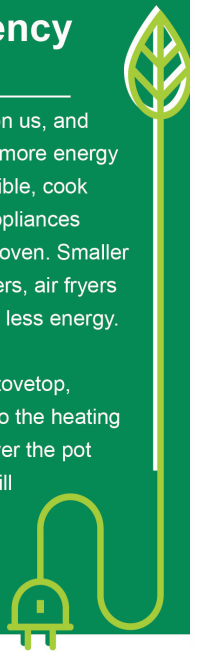


## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The holiday season is upon us, and that means we'll be using more energy in the kitchen. When possible, cook with smaller countertop appliances instead of the stovetop or oven. Smaller appliances like slow cookers, air fryers and Instant Pots consume less energy.

When using the oven or stovetop, match the size of the pot to the heating element and place a lid over the pot while cooking. The food will cook faster, and you'll use less energy.

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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