

# Midwest Energy, Inc. Current Comments

February 2026

Making energy work for YOU

## Transmission Upgrade Projects Begin in Ness County

*Project is one of several partially funded by \$97 Million Dept. of Energy grant*

The first of several Midwest Energy transmission line projects partially funded by a major federal grant broke ground Jan. 5 in Ness County.

Contract crews from Ward Electric of Longmont, Colo., began removing old structures and conductors on a 25-mile stretch of 115-kilovolt transmission line, which runs through parts of Ness and Rush Counties. Four crews started work a few miles north of Ness City, and soon a total of six Ward crews will be working east towards Nekoma, replacing 247 H-frame structures and upgrading conductor.

The Ness to Nekoma line is scheduled for completion by May 2026, weather permitting. The next transmission line project to start will be a 27-mile stretch of line between Colby and Atwood, scheduled to begin in fall 2026.

Transmission line construction outages must be scheduled far in advance with the Southwest Power Pool, which operates the transmission network in a 14-state region, to ensure reliability of the transmission system during construction.

"Because of the high demand for electricity in the summer, non-emergency line construction work has to happen outside of the summer months," said Nathan McNeil, Midwest Energy's Vice President of Engineering.

The grant, from the Department of Energy's (DOE) Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership Program (GRIP), applies to \$145 million in transmission line and substation protection upgrades, with \$48 million in funding from Midwest Energy customers and \$97 million in grant funding from DOE. Midwest Energy will replace 150 miles of 115-kilovolt transmission lines across seven western Kansas counties (Rush, Ness, Ellis, Graham, Sheridan, Thomas and Rawlins), where the existing lines have been in service for more than



*(Clockwise from Left) Linemen from Ward Electric cut through a pole with a chainsaw; (Above) An H-frame structure, dating to the late 1950s, is removed; (Below) A Ward Electric crew frames up one of 247 new H-frame structures along a 25-mile stretch of transmission line between Nekoma and Ness City.*



50 years.

Replacing these lines with new poles and conductor will improve the reliability and resiliency of Midwest Energy's transmission system, while mitigating wildfire risk and increasing capacity to allow them to carry

*Continued*



MIDWEST  
ENERGY, INC.

30764-I-0288

# MWE Pays \$9 Million in Property Taxes for 2025

Midwest Energy is a 501(c)(12) cooperative exempt from federal income tax. However, the co-op still pays local sales and property taxes, meaning some of the money you're billed each month returns to your home county. Last year, Midwest Energy paid more than \$9 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 2025:

Barton	\$942,132.12	Greeley	\$11,970.94	Osborne	\$5,287.82
Cheyenne	\$62,812.72	Hamilton	\$6.48	Pawnee	\$417,575.44
Decatur	\$52,984.70	Haskell	\$6,088.60	Phillips	\$80,221.83
Edwards	\$351,016.79	Hodgeman	\$144,735.72	Pratt	\$25,492.44
Ellis	\$2,474,290.30	Kearny	\$55,480.29	Rawlins	\$172,836.73
Ellsworth	\$66,132.37	Lane	\$15,871.25	Republic	\$1,310.10
Finney	\$25,121.42	Lincoln	\$32,314.60	Reno	\$132,660.22
Gove	\$181,090.72	Logan	\$288,666.86	Rice	\$850,975.54
Graham	\$125,785.92	McPherson	\$3,683.78	Rooks	\$68,396.95
Grant (KS)	\$12,161.52	Morton	\$432.06	Rush	\$240,354.09
Grant (OK)	\$184.00	Ness	\$94,949.46	Russell	\$237,063.68
Gray	\$9,345.99	Norton	\$68,936.78	Scott	\$70,573.81

## Cold Weather Rule Expires April 1

Midwest Energy observes the Kansas Corporation Commission's winter non-disconnect period, which ends April 1. If your account is past due, your payment must reach us before April 1 to avoid disconnection of service and additional charges.

Financial assistance may be available through the Kansas Department of Children and Family's Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) by calling 1-888-369-4777. Applications for assistance are now being accepted through late March.

The Midwest Customers Care program can also provide help. This

program is funded by donations from Midwest Energy customers and employees. Recipients must have a household income less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level and can receive up to \$200 per season. Assistance is available Jan. 1 to Aug. 31, or when the funding is exhausted, whichever comes first. To apply for Midwest Customers Care, please call the Salvation Army at 1-816-756-5392, Ext. 3.

To make a payment, call 1-800-222-3121 or go to [www.mwenergy.com](http://www.mwenergy.com). If you have additional questions, please call us at 1-800-222-3121.

## Transmission Upgrades Begin

more power, which reduces congestion and supports further expansion of generation resources.

Midwest Energy was announced as a GRIP grant recipient in October 2023, and the co-op spent more than a year refining details with the DOE. Engineering work and procurement for multiple projects began in June 2024,

with physical work on the first substation protection project completed in November 2025.

The grant to Midwest Energy is part of \$10.5 billion being made available through DOE under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021, to improve the resilience of the power system.

Osborne	\$5,287.82
Pawnee	\$417,575.44
Phillips	\$80,221.83
Pratt	\$25,492.44
Rawlins	\$172,836.73
Republic	\$1,310.10
Reno	\$132,660.22
Rice	\$850,975.54
Rooks	\$68,396.95
Rush	\$240,354.09
Russell	\$237,063.68
Scott	\$70,573.81
Sheridan	\$226,382.41
Sherman	\$153,873.94
Smith	\$4,792.30
Stafford	\$332,650.98
Thomas	\$667,685.87
Trego	\$218,803.10
Wallace	\$115,621.27
Wichita	\$38,559.66
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$9,087,313.57</b>

### Electric Rate Changes Effective Feb. 1

More information available at: [www.mwenergy.com](http://www.mwenergy.com)

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Mid-winter is a great time to ensure you're making the most of your home heating system. Replace or clean filters to keep your furnace or heat pump running efficiently. Listen for strange noises and check for uneven heating—these signs indicate that the system may need servicing. Ensure vents and radiators aren't blocked by furniture or rugs as proper airflow helps your system work less and saves energy. A little maintenance along the way can prevent costly repairs and keep your home cozy through winter.



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

**1-800-222-3121**  
[www.mwenergy.com](http://www.mwenergy.com)

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