

**KAW VALLEY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

LightTalk



**Kaw Valley Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**
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Holiday Office Closing



In observance of Independence Day the Kaw Valley office will be closed on Friday, July 3.

Efficiency Tip of the Month

By cleaning your air conditioner's air ducts, you can lower your energy consumption by between 5 and 15 percent.

FROM THE MANAGER

New AMI Metering Helps Us Serve You More Efficiently



Jerry Manning

Kaw Valley Electric is installing new automated meters to increase the efficiency and reliability of our electric system.

A better system means keeping down the costs for our members.

With new automated meters we will be able to read meters remotely from our office in Topeka. The ability to remotely read your meters saves us time, labor and money.

In addition to keeping costs down, these automated meters will help improve reliability and our ability to safely provide you with electricity. These upgraded meters allow us to detect problems quicker and locate outages more precisely. In some cases, we may also be able to fix a problem before members even know there has been an outage.

The meter system Kaw Valley Electric has selected for installation utilizes power line carrier communications as opposed

to the wireless radio technology. The meters provide us with detailed usage information, so we can help our members better understand how and when they are using electricity, to assist with billing inquiries of our members. There is never a continuous stream of information flowing between your meter and our meter management system.

I also want to be clear in stating that Kaw Valley Electric does not sell any member information, including meter data, to third parties. Our goals are to deliver better service; control rising operating expenses; improve system reliability through improved outage management and the ability to isolate problems so we can conduct preventative maintenance; and provide our members with the information tools they desire to make informed decisions about energy use.

However, simply upgrading to automated metering does not mean energy use will decrease. Conserva-

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Our goals are to deliver better service, control rising operating expenses, and improve system reliability.

New AMI Metering Helps Us Serve You More Efficiently

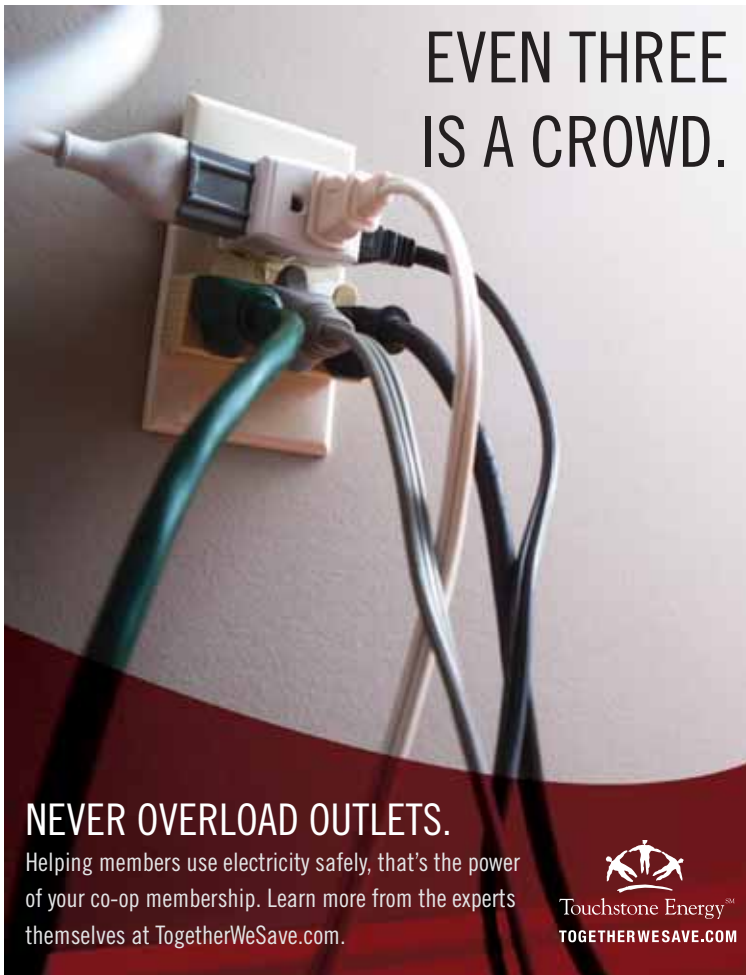
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tion and energy efficiency practices by our members are still the best ways to consciously save energy and keep costs lower. Our members always have the freedom to choose how and when they use electricity.

Let me emphasize that Kaw Valley Electric is a not-for-profit cooperative that is solely owned and operated by the members who receive electric service from our company. When our board of directors approves a policy or procedure or the use of new equipment and technologies, they do so knowing that it will also apply to their own homes. In choosing to utilize this power line carrier metering system, we have not only deemed it to be a wise and safe choice for all members and their families, but our own families as well.


You can find more information about the meters in this issue of *LightTalk*, or on our website at www.kve.coop.

Taking advantage of new technology is one more way that we provide for our members, and make them our top priority when providing a safe and reliable service.



EVEN THREE IS A CROWD.

NEVER OVERLOAD OUTLETS.
 Helping members use electricity safely, that's the power of your co-op membership. Learn more from the experts themselves at TogetherWeSave.com.


 Touchstone EnergySM
 TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

Advanced M

Technology used by utilities continues to evolve. Methods of measuring electrical usage have become more intelligent, as a result. Disappearing are the old electro-mechanical meters, making way for modern digital electronic meters and support structure and allowing for more than just reading a members' electricity usage in their homes. It helps keep the lights on, lowers energy costs, and promotes energy independence.

Kaw Valley Electric and the new ACLARA Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) system will help keep the lights on by replacing aging meters, allowing for more efficient operation of the system. That, in turn, helps decrease interruption of service.

The meters will also work in conjunction with equipment on the lines and in substations to make sure that members receive reliable and consistent power. When there are issues, Kaw Valley will be able to more readily identify, troubleshoot, and remediate the causes, restoring power more quickly.

AMI can help you lower your energy costs simply by providing you with up-to-date usage information which, in turn, can show you when it's best to operate energy-intensive appliances and tools, typically during low demand periods of the day. When you shift your usage to lower demand times of the day, it costs Kaw Valley's power provider, Westar Energy, less to produce the power you consume, resulting in savings to you. Energy usage is easily monitored by polling meter data daily, and AMI provides flexibility in monitoring practices by allowing data to be retrieved every four to eight hours. This will assist in member energy conservation efforts. The AMI system also allows Kaw Valley to remotely troubleshoot, see outages as well as locations, and allows Kaw Valley the ability to correct issues quickly, safely, and efficiently.

meter Infrastructure: Myth or Fact?

Energy technology helps us maintain wise use of domestic resources today. As with any new technology, misunderstanding of its purpose and abilities can lead to the birth of urban legends about its capabilities, good or bad. The implementation of AMI meters throughout the country is no exception. Following are some of the more common myths associated with the AMI metering system:

Myth: AMI meters are less accurate than analog (electro-mechanical) meters.

Fact: Accuracy is a priority and all meters are tested before leaving the plant. Manufacturers are required by public service commissions to supply test results. Kaw Valley receives these test results, as well as does field testing to ensure accuracy of the meters.

Myth: AMI meters will not keep your personal information secure.

Fact: The same technologies used by banks, credit card companies, and cable providers is used to protect your information, all the way from the meter to our office. Online data access is encrypted, in the same manner as a bank's, enabling you to securely access your account to view your usage and pay your bill online.

Myth: AMI meters increase the risk of fires.

Fact: Meters must meet the safety requirements and standards spelled out in the National Electric Safety Code (NESC), and public service commissions require independent certification that proves the meters are safe and resistant to heat, fire, voltage, surges and self-heating. In addition, meters are only installed, serviced

and uninstalled by qualified personnel.

Myth: AMI meters invade my privacy.

Fact: AMI meters are digital measuring tools used to measure your usage throughout the day, not how you use it. Unless you install a home energy management system, a meter cannot tell the difference between a clothes dryer or popcorn maker while it is using power; all a meter sees is how many kilowatts you are using over time. Information gathered is used to create your bill. Any personal information needed, such as address, phone number, etc., is regulated by strict state and federal policies.

Myth: AMI meters provide no benefit to consumers.

Fact: AMI meters are capable of providing the consumer with near real-time energy usage information about

how much, when, and even at what rate, it is used. This information can be used by the consumer to better utilize power in their homes to save money. Additionally, power outages are detected quickly, and more efficiently restored, with the information provided by the meters and their supporting infrastructure. Those consumers who currently read their own meters will no longer need to do so as well.

Once armed with the facts, AMI meter myths are just that—myths. AMI technology has proven to provide benefits and pay for itself rather quickly, though it is no doubt a fairly large undertaking. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call Kaw Valley at 800-794-2011, stop by our office in Topeka at 1100 SW Auburn Road, or email us at info@kve.coop.

New AMI Metering

The new AMI metering system is beneficial for our members. New meters increase reliability, efficiency, and affordability of the electricity they use.

Reliability

- *New meters help us locate and respond to outages faster
- *New meters help improve power quality and help reduce surges and blinking

Efficiency

- *Remote metering saves time and money while reducing air pollution.
- *Data about demand and uses allows more efficient distribution of power

Affordability

- *Operating more efficiently can help minimize cost increases
- *Using new data can help members address high bills

FUN FIVE

Get to Know Your Co-op Staff

Corey Calvert

Member Relations Supervisor

5 1/2 years at Kaw Valley



Corey Calvert

Q: If you could have a super power, what would it be?

A. Stop time—just for a few minutes every now and again.

Q. What is your favorite thing to do on a Sunday?

A. Read

Q. What is one thing most people don't know about you?

A. I played fiddle in my father's country band.

Q. Do you collect anything?

A. Books

Q. What is the best part of your job?

A. Building strong relationships with our members.

Alliance Question of the Month

Will my rates change due to the alliance?

The alliance is focused on limiting future rate increases. We have systematically cut costs we control in an effort to offset rising costs we don't, which are wholesale power costs from our suppliers. The costs we control amount to less than 25 percent of your bill and include electric service distribution, operations and maintenance, accounting and billing, and member services.

Without this alliance, our 10-year financial forecast shows the need for rate increases in the next one to three years. In fact, due to the cooperative alliance Kaw Valley Electric has been able to delay a future cost of service study. This means a rate increase has been delayed.

Each month we'll address a question regarding the cooperative alliance between Leavenworth Jefferson Electric Cooperative and Kaw Valley Electric. Do you have a question you'd like us to address regarding the alliance? Feel free to submit your question to info@kve.coop.

Stay Safe Exploring the Outdoors

Summer is in full swing, and that means more time for fun in the sun. As you increase your time outdoors, Kaw Valley Electric Cooperative reminds you to stay safe.

Planning a home improvement project? When working outdoors, you may be using tools, such as ladders, power tools, shovels—or even paintbrushes with extendable arms. These items help you get the job done but have the potential to be dangerous if used improperly.

Pay attention to where you place metal ladders or dig for fence posts. Before you start any project, always look up and avoid overhead power lines. Keep a minimum of 10 feet between you and overhead lines.

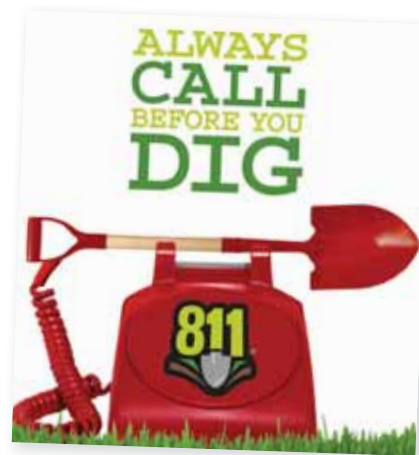
If you are planning a project that requires digging, remember to dial "811" first to determine if the area you will be working in is clear of underground power lines. Power tools should be kept away from wet surfaces, and outlets should not be overloaded.

Exploring the great outdoors is a great way to spend time with the family, but keep these safety tips in mind.

- ▶ Children should never climb trees near power lines—always assume a wire is live.

- ▶ Fly kites and remote controlled-airplanes in large open areas like a park or a field, safely away from trees and overhead power lines.
- ▶ Planning to take a dip in the pool? Electrical devices, such as stereos, should be kept at least 10 feet away from water sources, and outdoor electrical outlets should always be covered.
- ▶ If you hear a rumble of thunder, exit the pool right away.

Remember these tips when you spend time outdoors this summer with your family. Have fun out there, and always keep safety in mind!



If you are planning a project that requires digging, remember to dial "811" first to determine if the area you will be working in is clear of underground power lines.