



What does it mean? “Two-thirds of North America faces reliability challenges in the event of wide-spread heatwaves”

In May, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation released a report outlining their 2023 Summer Reliability Assessment.

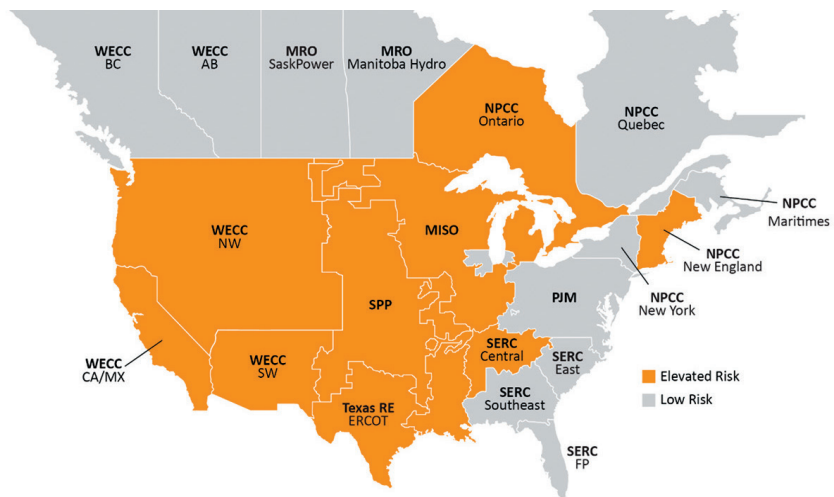
In the report, NERC warns that two-thirds of North America is at risk of energy shortfalls this summer during periods of extreme demand. While there are no high-risk areas in this year’s assessment, the number of areas identified as being at elevated risk has increased. The assessment finds that, while resources are adequate for normal summer peak demand, if summer temperatures spike, seven areas — the U.S. West, SPP and MISO, ERCOT, SERC Central, New England and Ontario — may face supply shortages during higher demand levels. Corn Belt Power is a member of SPP.

The report found the following:

- Areas in the U.S. West are at elevated risk due to wide-area heat events that can drive above-normal demand and strain resources and the transmission network.
- In SPP and MISO, wind energy output will be key to meeting normal summer peak and extreme demand levels due to little excess firm capacity.

What does this mean for Corn Belt Power Cooperative and its member-cooperatives?

The way we generate electricity is rapidly changing. More and more, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power are coming online, while traditional sources like coal, nuclear and natural gas are being retired. Corn Belt Power Cooperative believes and advocates for an all-of-the-above energy approach. All-of-the-above promotes the idea that the United States depends on a reliable and sustainable fuel supply that includes developing and incorporating domestically produced renewable energy resources to supplement baseload generation that includes biofuels,



Seasonal Risk Assessment Summary	
High	Potential for insufficient operating reserves in normal peak conditions
Elevated	Potential for insufficient operating reserves in above-normal conditions
Low	Sufficient operating reserves expected

natural gas, nuclear, hydropower and coal.

In May, SPP, Corn Belt Power’s regional transmission operator, reported that it projects enough generation to meet summer peak demand. However, if extreme hot temperatures, higher than normal outages or a high amount of uncertainty occurs, SPP may issue notifications of heightened grid conditions.

It’s important to remember that the electric grid is made up of thousands of generating stations and millions of miles of line. A power plant outage or natural disaster could have an impact on SPP’s projections. Corn Belt Power and our primary power provider, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, are well-positioned to meet this summer’s peak demand.

What is Corn Belt Power doing?

We will continue to work with policymakers and regulators on a state and federal level for a sensible all-of-the-above

generation approach.

The ongoing energy transition must recognize the need for time and technology development, while including all energy sources to maintain reliability and affordability. A resilient and reliable electric grid that affordably keeps the lights on is the cornerstone of our rural economy.

Electric cooperative families and businesses rightfully expect the lights to stay on at a price they can afford. To maintain the reliability of your power supply, we must adopt an all-of-the-above strategy that includes renewable energy as well as dependable resources we have come to rely on like coal, natural gas, nuclear, and hydropower. This diverse energy mix is essential to meeting those expectations day in and day out.

We are keenly aware that the sun doesn’t always shine, and the wind doesn’t always blow. While we support *Continued on page 4...*



Executive director presents Fritzler with award

Above | Jana Adams, left, executive director, Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives presents Marena Fritzler, marketing director, Corn Belt Power Cooperative with the 2023 Touchstone Energy Brand Champion Award at the NRECA Connect Conference in Jacksonville, FL May 5. The annual Touchstone Energy® Brand Champion Award pays tribute to those who bring exceptional contributions to building the national brand and unifying the network while strengthening their co-op's relationship with its members.

Fritzler named Touchstone Energy® Brand Champion

Marena Fritzler, marketing director, Corn Belt Power Cooperative has been named the 2023 Touchstone Energy® Cooperative Brand Champion Award recipient. Touchstone

Energy Executive Director Jana Adams presented Fritzler as this year's winner before a national audience at the Connect Conference. Connect is the annual event for co-op communicators, marketing and

member services professionals at which Touchstone Energy collaborates with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association to provide strategy, content, speakers and more.

Announcing and introducing Fritzler as the winner at Touchstone Energy's Connect General Session, Adams said, "Marena is a true champion for her co-op, member systems and Touchstone Energy. Her passion and commitment to service and communicating the cooperative difference is inspiring and provides an amazing example to our network."

In nominating Fritzler, Ryan Cornelius, vice president, corporate relations, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, wrote that Fritzler had long been integral in promoting the brand across Corn Belt Power Cooperative's regional service area.

"She ensures our member-cooperative communicators are always up-to-date on the latest Touchstone Energy products and services," said Cornelius. "She is a champion of Touchstone Energy's Cooperative Web Builder co-op website program as well as the organization's print and digital assets across our service territory."

The annual Touchstone Energy® Brand Champion Award pays tribute to those who bring exceptional contributions to building the national brand and unifying the network while strengthening their co-op's relationship with its members.

Congratulations, Marena! ■

Humboldt electricians Albright, Nostrom and Vote complete Substation Technician Program

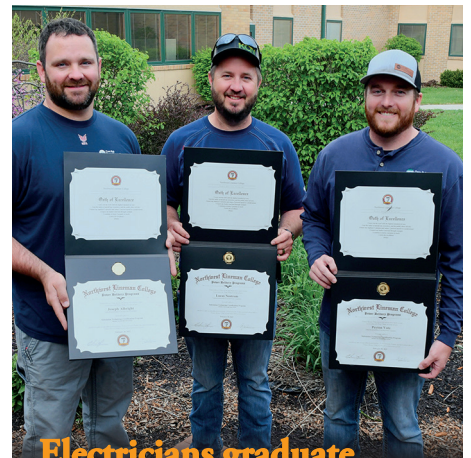
Training, information and education is one of our founding principles. Several Corn Belt Power Cooperative employees have put that principle to work. Congratulations are in order for electricians Joe Albright, Luke Nostrom and Peyton Vote on completing the Substation Technician Certification apprenticeship program through Northwest Lineman College.

These customizable programs are used for an apprentice-leading-to-journeyman or employee certification through digital or paper manuals, study guide activities, and

training videos. The curriculum is modern, up-to-date, and makes difficult concepts easy to understand, thus maximizing student learning and retention.

"These three gentlemen are dedicated employees," said Mike Finnegan, electrical system superintendent, Corn Belt Power Cooperative. "The distance learning program takes a lot of work, it's not something that's just completed in a couple of days. I'm proud of them for taking the time and sticking with it."

Congratulations, Joe, Luke and Peyton! ■



Electricians graduate

Above | From left, Joe Albright, Luke Nostrom and Peyton Vote display their certificates of completion from the Northwest Lineman College Substation Technician Program. In addition to the certification, each will complete on-the-job training to become journeyman electricians.

News in brief

Third LEAD class underway

Corn Belt Power brought back its LEAD program this year. LEAD is a program to help develop leadership skills in existing employees. It stands for Leadership Exploration and Development. The program was created in conjunction with Kathy Peterson of PeopleWorks, Inc. Throughout the year, participants will learn about topics such as setting goals, leading change, managing stress and dealing with difficult conversations. Those in the program will attend sessions about cooperative financials, generating sources, electric rates and the cooperative business model.

This year's LEAD class includes: Andrew Hansen, accountant III; Justin Hesnard, journeyman electrician; Kari Rubel, accountant II; Tyler Baxter, engineer III; Jon Behounek, chief system operator; Collin Weber, energy services engineer; and Travis Kampen, communications technician.

"We want to make sure that we continue to develop the next generation of Corn Belt Power leaders," said Ken Kuyper, executive vice president and general manager. "The LEAD program has proven successful in doing that. It allows employees the ability to learn more about Corn Belt Power's operation and the electric utility industry as a whole."

In May, the LEAD class held its session at the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives where they heard from the organizations executive director, Dave Holm. Holm discussed issues cooperatives across the state are facing and went into detail about the different kinds of cooperatives that serve rural Iowans.

Humboldt transmission crew moves to new facility

Corn Belt Power's new vehicle storage facility is now in use. The 14,000 square-foot building features eight overhead doors and a truck wash bay. It also has offices for the Humboldt transmission crew, a breakroom, locker room and shower room. A concrete parking lot connects the new facility and Corn Belt Power's existing headquarters building. Among other critical materials, the building will house the Humboldt transmission crew's 19 vehicles, trailers and line tensioners.

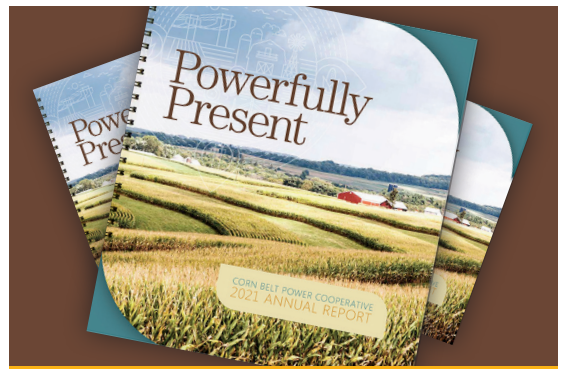
Construction on the new facility, just north of the cooperative's Humboldt headquarters began late last year.

"Our existing vehicle storage and warehouse facilities were built in the 1950s," said Ken Kuyper, executive vice president and general manager, Corn Belt Power. "At the time, line trucks were much smaller and digger derrick trucks weren't very common. In the past 70 years, equipment has become much larger. Our Humboldt transmission crew will be more efficient with the increased space provided by this building."



Inventory moved to new facility

Above | Reed Dreyer, journeyman lineman, begins transferring transmission inventory from the old warehouse to the new vehicle and storage facility north of G&T headquarters.



Corn Belt Power wins silver award

Corn Belt Power Cooperative received recognition in the national 2022 Spotlight on Excellence Awards program, sponsored by the Council of Rural Electric Communicators (CREC) and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Corn Belt Power received a Silver Award in the Best Annual Report category for 2021's annual report "Powerfully Present."

"Printed news publications, social media and videos are all more important than ever to keep members updated on issues affecting the electric cooperatives and their members," said Scott Peterson, Senior Vice President Communications for NRECA.

Winners were recognized in May during the Jacksonville, FL Connect Conference, a national conference for communications and marketing professionals. As with years past, winning entries are available for all electric cooperative communicators to view online at www.cooperative.com.

The annual Spotlight on Excellence Awards program recognizes the best communication and marketing efforts by electric cooperatives and related organizations. Entrants competed with electric cooperatives of similar size in 18 categories. Electric cooperative communicators and marketing professionals submitted more than 600 entries in the Spotlight on Excellence program. Faculty members from the University of Missouri – Columbia and University of South Carolina, as well as noted professionals in the fields of marketing, web design and digital communications, and newspapers judged the event, which uses a finite scoring system to determine the winners. ■

Corn Belt Power Cooperative electricians lower a new, larger capacity transformer into place at the Neal Substation in Butler County May 24.



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May Touchstone Energy Volunteer Challenge winner | Dave Keninger, director, Franklin REC, donated his \$100 prize drawing to the Ackley-Geneva-Wellsburg-Steamboat-Rock High School.



The power of human connections

Darwin Johnson, shift operator, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, demonstrates the Touchstone Energy value of commitment to community volunteering at the Iowa Great Lakes Fishing Club's Kid's Fishing Days. The Iowa Great Lakes Fishing Club is a non-profit organization and the largest fishing club in Iowa with an annual membership around 275 individuals & families. With a focus on introducing youth to fishing, the club has also built its reputation on the encouragement of catch and release fishing. The club recently held its first of many Kids Fishing Days.

Reliability challenges

Continued from page 1 and encourage the development and use of renewable energy, the intermittent nature of renewables means there may be times when supply isn't enough to keep the lights on. Its place is to supplement a reliable and affordable baseload generation mix. That's why we must continue to recognize the value of and operate baseload generation plants now and into the future.

Our mission remains the same. We are here to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electricity that is also environmentally responsible. We will continue to advocate on your behalf and do everything we can to continue to live up to that mission. ■

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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 - Marena V. Fritzler, Marketing Director; CCC

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