

## Corn Belt Power wraps up compliance audit

Earlier this year, Corn Belt Power Cooperative completed its Off-site Compliance Audit conducted by the Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO). The audit is part of the North American Reliability Corporation (NERC) compliance program.

The focus of NERC's compliance program is to improve the reliability of the bulk power system in North America by fairly and consistently enforcing compliance with NERC Reliability Standards. Specifically, the program is designed to ensure that the right practices are in place so that the likelihood and severity of future system disturbances are substantially reduced, while recognizing that no standards or enforcement process can fully prevent all such disturbances from occurring.

Larry Brusseau, compliance director, Corn Belt Power, oversaw the audit.

"Corn Belt Power started preparing last summer by reviewing our current set of compliance documentation," he said. "Every month staff reviews a portion of the applicable NERC standards and requirements that Corn Belt Power is responsible for. This includes all reference documents that supports our compliance (evidence) to these standards and/or requirements."

Prior to being audited, Corn Belt Power contracted ACES Power to do an independent review and analysis of the standards and requirements the cooperative felt would be part of the audit.

"By November, we received a report and started to work on any deficiencies ACES discovered," Brusseau said. "We received official notice of our audit from MRO during the first week of November."



### MRO compliance audit

**Above** | Corn Belt Power Cooperative personnel from left, Larry Brusseau, compliance director; Eric Hankey, SCADA technician; and Kevin Bornhoft, vice president, engineering and system operations; review Midwest Reliability Organization compliance audit processes during a bi-weekly virtual meeting.

MRO audited Corn Belt Power over several weeks in late February and early March.

"Most of our audit pertained to Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) standards and requirements," Brusseau said. "Much of what the audit focused on was systems security management and patch management. We have 87 cyber assets for our control centers. So, every month we must search for updates, download these updates, test these updates on our development system, deploy these updates to the two systems in the main control center and the one system in the back-up control center and if we cannot we must track and develop a mitigation for each incident."

Brusseau says a report of this size takes time to compile.

"Corn Belt Power is waiting for the preliminary audit report, that is tentatively due out the end of March," he said. "The report will list our Potential Non-Compliance with standards and requirements. Corn Belt Power will then have five days to review and return comments to the MRO."

"Throughout this process, we have been able to identify areas where we can be better. We're constantly working to enhance security of our baseline network configuration. There's a lot that goes on behind the scenes to ensure a cyber safe network backbone." ■



CORN BELT POWER'S ANNUAL REPORT  
"FORGING FUTURE GENERATIONS"  
IS AVAILABLE TO MEMBER  
COOPERATIVES AND STAKEHOLDERS  
VIA MAIL AND ONLINE AT  
[WWW.CBPOWER.COOP](http://WWW.CBPOWER.COOP).

## In-person annual meeting

**CANCELED**

amid Coronavirus

Under the recommendation of Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds, the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Center for Disease Control, Corn Belt Power Cooperative canceled its April 8 Annual Meeting in order to reduce the spread of Coronavirus. The in-person meeting will not be rescheduled.

"This is not a decision we wanted to make; however, the health of our members, employees and industry colleagues is paramount at this time," said Ken Kuyper, executive vice president and general manager, Corn Belt Power Cooperative.

Corn Belt Power had a contingency plan prior to canceling its annual meeting.

After cancellation on Monday, March 16, Corn Belt Power communicated with its member-cooperatives and voting delegates and scheduled the annual meeting business meeting for April 3 following the cooperative's monthly board meeting.

Should the board of directors and voting delegates be unable to meet in person on April 3, the cooperative is allowed to hold its annual meeting via teleconference.

The cooperative's attorneys will oversee that meeting as normal and the election of directors will take place at that time.

Corn Belt Power will report on the results of that meeting in the May issue of the Watts Watt newsletter.

"We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused," Kuyper said. "We view the annual meeting as a critical aspect of our democratic process. This wasn't a decision we came by lightly."

For questions or more information, please contact Corn Belt Power Cooperative. ■

Corn Belt Power's annual report  
"Forging Future Generations"  
is available by mail and online at  
[www.cbpower.coop](http://www.cbpower.coop)

## Keeping employees safe during Coronavirus outbreak

With our nation's heightened awareness of impacts due to the coronavirus (COVID-19), we want to assure our members that our cooperative is taking measures to protect the health and safety of our employees, members, and the general public.

Our cooperative's business continuity plan is designed to maintain the health and safety of the people working for them and to ensure that business critical operations continue without interruption.

These measures help ensure that Corn Belt Power continues to provide reliable electricity during a business continuity event.

Here's what Corn Belt Power has done since the outbreak began:

- This year's in-person annual meeting has been cancelled. The annual meeting will be conducted following the April 3 board of directors meeting.
- The all-employee day scheduled for late-March will be rescheduled.

■ We're encouraging our employees to hold any scheduled in-person meetings should be done via teleconference if possible.

■ We've instructed employees that if they feel at risk of contracting the virus and have meetings scheduled in-person and/or out of the office, to consider having those meetings via teleconference.

■ Access to the cooperative's control center has been extremely limited. The control center is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

■ Corn Belt Power is limiting access to our front lobby and other community areas.

■ Our information technology department has made it easier for employees to work from home, if needed.

■ Corn Belt Power closed its lounge for gatherings.

■ Corn Belt Power continues to clean and sanitize community areas in the office.

Nothing is more important than the safety of our employees, members and general public. ■



### Increased cleaning

Above | Scott Greene, custodian/groundskeeper, ramps up cleaning efforts at the Corn Belt Power office to keep employees safe during the Coronavirus outbreak.



# Certifications and new employees



## Thompson now NERC certified system operator

Congratulations are in order for Mitch Thompson. On Wednesday, March 4, he passed the NERC Reliability Coordinator Test. The test is part of the System Operator Certification Program. Thompson began his new position as a system operator in the beginning of 2020. He began studying at the first of the year and his work culminated into passing the exam.



## Weber reaches thermography milestone

Congratulations to Collin Weber, energy services engineer, who recently earned his Level II Thermography Certification. Weber began his career at the cooperative in early 2019. He is responsible for energy efficiency services that include thermography.

## Albright begins as apprentice electrician



Joe Albright started on March 2 as an apprentice electrician in Humboldt. Albright is a graduate of Manson Northwest Webster High School and attended Iowa Central

Community College. He previously worked for Ag Processing in Algona for three years. Albright has a four-year-old son, Braxton.

## New electrician in Hampton



Jonathon "JC" McCaslin started on March 2 as an apprentice electrician in Hampton. McCaslin is a graduate of West Fork High School and North Iowa Area Community

College. He has managed his own business for the past five years. JC and his wife, Jill, have three children.

## New electrician in Humboldt



Peyton Vote, apprentice electrician, Humboldt, began his Corn Belt Power career on February 24. Vote has a degree in electrical technologies from Iowa Central Community College and has worked at North

Central Iowa Service for more than four years. Peyton and his wife, Megan, have a six month old son named Cash.

# Limbert selected as scholarship winner

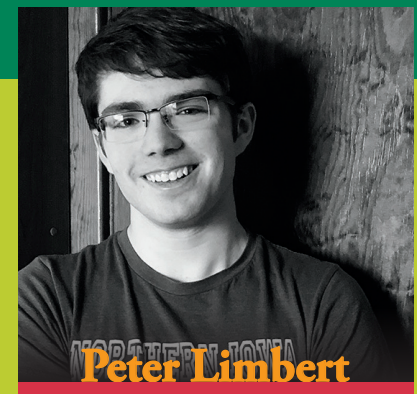
Corn Belt Power selected Peter Limbert, Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative member, as its Basin Electric Power Cooperative member-consumer scholarship winner.

Limbert, Newell-Fonda Community School, will attend the University of Northern Iowa next year. He's on his schools' honor roll, a member of student council, on Northwest

Iowa Honor Band, and a state jazz band participant the last three years. He's also involved in speech and drama.

He plans to study history and social science education while minoring in sociology, psychology or anthropology. He wants to teach at the high school or college level after graduating college.

Congratulations, Peter. ■







**March Touchstone Energy Volunteer Challenge winner | Aaron Ruschy**, vice president, operations and engineering, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, donated his \$100 prize drawing to the Estherville Lincoln Central Booster Club.



Jaylen Heinz

## The power of human connections

Jaylen Heinz, accountant II, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, demonstrates the cooperative principle of commitment to community by volunteering at his church, Oak Hill, in Humboldt.

Heinz runs the sound board for the church once a month, works as one of the financial secretaries and also assists the church's kids ministry on Wednesday night.

## Energy efficiency steps earn members rebate check

Todd Foss, manager business and community development, Prairie Energy Cooperative, presents a rebate check to Hawkeye Pride for energy efficiency upgrades. Hawkeye Pride installed 43,776 LED lights, totaling more than \$260,000 in rebates. In addition to rebates for lighting, the company also received incentives for a lighting control system that varies light intensity and color as well as the installation of 36 variable speed one-horsepower fans.

To learn more about the total project, see future editions of this newsletter.



## 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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