



## Summer Energy Grid

National concern over summer energy generation and demand has been rising for several years.

Utilities across the US are closing coal and gas power plants and switching to renewable energy sources, like solar and wind power. These renewable generation sources will likely have benefits in the future. However, the transition from dependable coal and gas sources to sustainable sources is happening quicker than the grid can adjust.

Recently in the news, you may have heard about “rolling blackouts” and questions about the “energy grid” resiliency. Although we always encourage wise use of electricity, we do not expect to see any power interruptions do to heat and grid capacity issues.

Meade County RECC is locally owned and operated by the members we serve. We purchase wholesale power from Big Rivers Electric Cooperative. We work together as a community to offer safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. We have listed below some information should you be concerned.

- There are currently no warnings regarding rolling blackouts or power grid outages impacting Meade County RECC.
- *Meade County RECC* has enough power to reliably serve our region this summer. Coal and gas power plants in Kentucky generate that power.
- However, *Meade County RECC* is tied to the grid, and in rare cases, the grid can ask midwest utilities to take steps to reduce electricity usage.
- Excessive heat causes people to use more electricity, putting a strain on the midwest power grid. These high-usage days can lead to warnings of potential power shortages for some grid regions.
- While the risk is currently low, *Meade County RECC* and other utilities in the region want to stay prepared and continue to encourage consumers to conserve energy.
  
- What is the grid?
  - o *Meade County RECC* is part of “the grid” – known as MISO (Midcontinent Independent System Operator, pronounced MY-SO) in our region. MISO manages the grid for the central United States and Canada and allows utilities to buy and sell affordable and reliable energy with each other. More than 42 million people are served by utilities tied to the MISO grid.
- Electric service is instantaneous. Any electricity you are using right now is being generated at this same exact moment. As a result, the electric system has to be built large enough to meet the biggest demand at any one time.
- Fossil fuel plants, like coal and gas, are important for reliability because they produce energy on demand. Solar power and wind power are only available when the sun shines and the wind blows.
- Since utilities in the central US are connected by the MISO grid, some areas that rely heavily on wind or solar energy may not have enough power for summer heat waves and will need to pull energy from coal and gas power plants in areas like Kentucky.