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WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC NEWS

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Sunflower Prepares for Summer Peak Conditions

Summer did not officially arrive until June 21, but Mother Nature doesn't adhere to the calendar in Kansas. We have already seen a wide range of temperatures, with some areas of the state reaching or nearing 100 degrees as early as May.

High temperatures increase electric demand when electric consumers crank up air conditioners to stay cool. In recent reports, the North American Electric Reliability Corp. (NERC) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) said these high temperatures, combined with other conditions, could lead to an unstable electric supply during peak summer conditions. Other conditions include widespread droughts, which increase electricity demand for irrigation; the growing possibilities of extreme weather events; naturally diminished wind energy output during hot days; and rail shipping interruptions and export issues for coal deliveries to power plants.

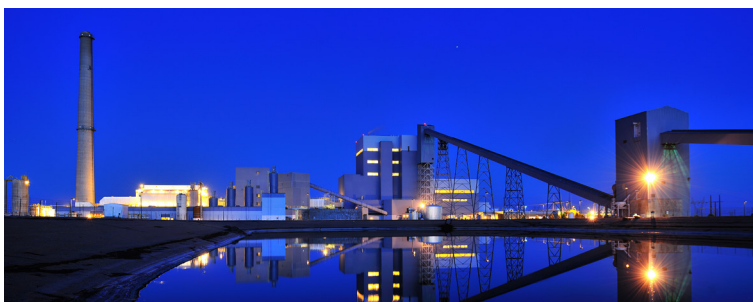
The reports by NERC and FERC indicate that the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), the regional grid operator that manages the transmission grid in 14 states including Kansas, is included in

the areas of elevated risk for summer reliability issues.

While the recent reports by NERC and FERC were not optimistic news for electric utilities — like Western Cooperative and our wholesale power and transmission supplier Sunflower Electric Power Corp. — meeting electricity demand is always at the forefront of operational and financial strategies. Sunflower continually evaluates anticipated electric demand and takes strategic steps to meet the typical energy demand of electricity consumers served by its six-member distribution cooperatives and the energy demand in energy-peaking situations, such as very hot summer days.

The recent reports underscore the importance of Sunflower's balanced generation resource portfolio and

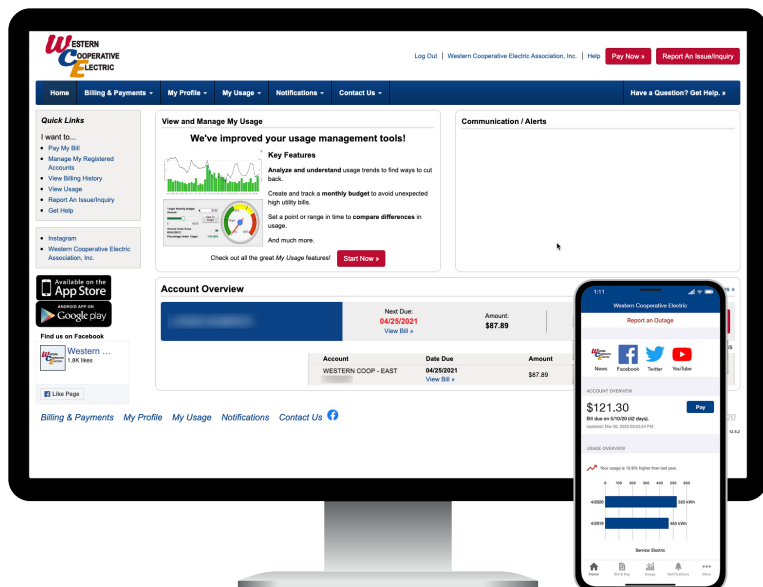
Continued on page 12D ►



Sunflower Electric's Holcomb Station is a coal-fired power plant that provides essential baseload generation.

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Reporting an issue is a snap with the SmartHub mobile app. Just let us know about the issue with your fingertips. You can also contact us with any questions you may have. You can now contact us at any time from anywhere.

Locating Your Account Number

You can find your account number on the top right of your bill. You will need this to log in to Smarthub the first time. Still having problems locating your account number? No problem. Call Western's office 800-456-6720, and our member services representatives will assist you.

How Will You Register for Smarthub?

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- ▶ Use your account number to register online for SmartHub.
- ▶ After you have successfully registered with SmartHub, you'll be emailed a temporary password to login for the first time.
- ▶ The first time you log in, you'll be asked to create your new password.
- ▶ At the end of the registration process, we encourage you to select our

paperless billing option so you can receive your new bill immediately, no matter where you are at.

Where You Can Get Your Questions Answered?

If you have any questions or issues with the registration process, you may contact us by sending an email to western@westerncoop.com or calling 800-456-6720. We will also have answers to frequently asked questions at westerncoop.com/smarthub.



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Sunflower Prepares for Summer Peak Conditions

Continued from page 12A ▶

calculated operating strategies. Sunflower's fuel-diverse generation fleet — which includes coal and natural gas units, as well as energy contracts for wind, solar and hydro — serves as a hedge

against rising prices of a particular fuel resource. For example, the price of coal is very stable compared to the volatility of natural gas pricing and is an effective hedge against the price of market energy, which is usually correlated to the price of natural gas. The coal-based Holcomb Station remained a reliable and cost-effective generation source during Winter Storm Uri in 2021.

Coal deliveries have been impacted by railroad staffing issues and Sunflower is re-evaluating how to deploy Holcomb Station to capitalize on its benefits during summer peak conditions. Sunflower proactively purchased more market energy products to guard against possible exceptionally high prices this summer and continue its mission of providing reliable energy to its member-owners at the lowest possible price.

"There are a lot of variables intrinsic to supplying reliable energy as economically as possible, but we are analyzing future scenarios to best prepare for possible unusual summer conditions," said Corey Linville, Sunflower's vice president of power supply and delivery, "We believe we have a strong operating and financial hedging plan in place to help guard against electric interruptions and high cost spikes."

The SPP is also modifying its strategies to fortify the electric grid during extreme conditions. The SPP



Railroads are struggling with labor shortages hindering their ability to fulfill coal deliveries to Holcomb Station.

CINDY HERTEL, SUNFLOWER ELECTRIC

requires its member utilities to have fuel resources that equate to 12% more than their annual peak load requirements, but Winter Storm Uri revealed potential issues with available capacity during such events. Some of these issues are associated with forced outages, as well as electric generating resources that have fuel supply issues, such as natural gas, during these times. The lack of availability of energy from renewable resources is also an issue. The summer of 2021 experienced several periods when the reliability margin (difference between available capacity and load plus contingency reserve requirements) in SPP dropped below 20%.

It will take several years to fully implement SPP's new supply adequacy rules and for load serving entities to firm up existing capacity and procure any needed new capacity to comply with the new rules. In the meantime, SPP will, at times, continue to operate with a relatively low-reliability margin.

"The electric industry is ever evolving," said Stuart Lowry, Sunflower's president and CEO. "The regional energy market brings many benefits but also many new challenges, including the risk of generation resource and operational decisions made by other utilities. Our members and those they serve can have confidence that we will analyze and respond to these risks with their best interests in mind."

Western Welcomes Devin Brown

DEVIN BROWN has joined our Plainville crew as a fourth-year lineman apprentice. Originally from the Rooks County area, Brown attended Rocky Mountain Line School in Colorado Springs after high school. Brown started his career working for a contracting service, and for the past two years, has worked as a lineman for Sunflower Electric.



Devin Brown

Brown likes to do anything outdoors when he isn't working, including riding motorcycles.

"I am happy to be back in the Plainville area and part of Western Co-op," said Brown.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Tip of the Month



The combined use of large appliances like dishwashers, clothes dryers and washing machines account for the largest percentage of electricity use in the average U.S. home. Take small steps to save energy. Only run full loads in the dishwasher, and thoroughly scrape food from dishes before loading. Dry towels and heavier cottons separate from lighter-weight clothing, and clean the lint screen after every use. Wash clothing in cold water to save energy used to heat water.

SOURCE: ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION AND DEPT. OF ENERGY