

● JULY 2025

# iowa

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

**Summer reliability forecast**

**Energy efficiency tips  
for older homes**

**Recipes: Firecracker  
favorites**

**Win a Solo Stove tabletop fire pit ► See Page 3**

## ATTEND OUR MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENTS!

At Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC), you are the reason we do what we do. As a member-owner, your support powers our mission, and we want to thank you!

You're invited to our member appreciation evenings. Enjoy a complimentary meal, meet RVEC employees and directors, and connect with fellow co-op members. It's our way of showing appreciation for the community we're proud to serve.

**Thursday, Sept. 4, 5-6:30 p.m.**  
601 E Main St in Sac City

**Wednesday, Sept. 17, 5-6:30 p.m.**  
28725 Hwy 30 in Glidden

## MANAGEMENT SHARING AGREEMENT FORMALIZED WITH CALHOUN COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC) is pleased to announce that Keaton Hildreth has been named CEO of RVEC.

Hildreth will continue to serve as CEO of Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association (CCECA), formalizing a shared management arrangement between the two cooperatives effective July 1, 2025.

Hildreth has served as interim CEO of RVEC for the past several months, pending a long-term management decision by the RVEC board of directors. During this time, he has demonstrated strong leadership, a commitment to cooperative values and a clear focus on serving member-owners. His ability to effectively lead both organizations made him the natural choice to continue in this shared role.

The shared CEO position embodies the cooperative principle of "Cooperation Among Cooperatives" and is designed to foster collaboration and enhance efficiency across both organizations. Hildreth's leadership will help ensure that both RVEC and CCECA continue to deliver on their missions to provide safe, reliable, affordable and responsible electric service to the communities they serve.

RVEC remains committed to supporting its employees, advancing system improvements and delivering the high-quality service our member-owners expect. We look forward to the continued success and growth of the cooperative under Hildreth's leadership.

**Please join us in congratulating Keaton as he officially steps into the role of CEO of RVEC.**



### Office Address

Headquarters  
PO Box 486 /  
28725 Hwy 30  
Glidden, IA 51443



**Phone:** 712-659-3649 or 800-253-6211

**Fax:** 712-659-3716

**Hours:** 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday

**Website:** [www.rvec.coop](http://www.rvec.coop)

**Email:** [info@rvec.coop](mailto:info@rvec.coop)

Follow us on Facebook!



### Directors

David Onken, President ..... Glidden  
Jeff Cranston ..... Odebolt  
Mark Ludwig ..... Breda  
Karen Werner ..... Schaller  
Steve Schable ..... Carroll  
Adam Handlos ..... Glidden  
Dave Schroeder ..... Coon Rapids

Keaton Hildreth, CEO

RVEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTS DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

The Nominating Committee's responsibility is to select director candidates from each of the districts in which directors' terms expire. The following members of the cooperative were nominated for the office of director for the term specified to be voted on at the business-only annual meeting to be held on Sept. 17, 2025:

### DISTRICT 1

**Dave Schroeder**, incumbent

### DISTRICT 6

**Carol Raasch**, Raasch Farms



This year's Nominating Committee. Back row, from left: Keith Kenny, Dale Wernimont, Jeremiah Johnson and Dennis McCartan. Front row, from left: Kyle Oswald, Carol Raasch and Louis Tigges Jr.

## CEILING FANS: A SIMPLE WAY TO SAVE ENERGY YEAR-ROUND

When used correctly, ceiling fans can boost comfort and reduce energy costs. With proper installation and smart operation, they can support your heating and cooling systems no matter the season.

### Summer savings

In warmer months, set your ceiling fan to spin counterclockwise. This creates a wind-chill effect that makes you feel cooler, allowing you to raise your thermostat by about 4 degrees F without sacrificing comfort. Just remember, fans cool people, not rooms – so turn them off when you leave.

### Winter efficiency

During colder months, reverse the fan's direction clockwise and run it at a low speed. This gently pushes warm air trapped near the ceiling back into the living space, helping you feel warmer and potentially allowing you to lower the thermostat a few degrees.

### Use with care

A Florida Solar Energy Center study found that ceiling fans can increase summer energy use by up to 15% if homeowners don't adjust their thermostats. However, when used correctly, energy savings ranged from 10% to 65%, especially in milder climates.



## SMART TIPS FOR FAN USE

- 1 Think like a light switch:** Turn fans off when the room is empty.
- 2 Adjust the thermostat:** Raise it by 4 degrees when fans run in summer.
- 3 Install thoughtfully:** Choose rooms where fans will be used and where airflow can make a difference.
- 4 Buy energy-smart:** Look for ENERGY STAR®-certified ceiling fans. These models move air up to 20% more efficiently than standard fans.
- 5 Ceiling fans aren't just for comfort – they can be part of your energy-saving strategy.** Small changes can lead to big savings, especially with energy-conscious habits.

## WHY MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

You could be a member of a lot of different places: a gym, a 4-H club, a food-of-the-month club – the list goes on and on! But what makes being a member of a co-op different? The simple answer is that when you are a co-op member, you are also an owner.

You own a stake in our business, and just like any stakeholder, there are many benefits to your membership. As a member-owner of Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative, you have a say in the representatives who are elected to serve on the co-op's board of directors.

You get a say on policy issues your electric cooperative supports or opposes. You can even help to

determine how your profits are redistributed. Our bottom line is providing you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. While we must think about expenses, overhead and other aspects of daily business, when we have money left over, we send it back to you. And returning capital

credits/patronage is a major part of why being a co-op member matters.

As your local electric co-op, we are part of this community. When we think about membership, we think about all the ways we can give back to you, our member-owners – and that is what matters most to us.







## SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative's office hours have changed for the summer and will be in place through Labor Day. Our hours are:

**Monday-Thursday**  
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Friday**  
7:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.



### Need to report an outage or emergency after hours?

■ We're always here for you, 24/7! Call us at 712-659-3649 or 800-253-6211. Our after-hours call center will answer and dispatch crews if needed.



### Making a payment after hours? No problem.

**We've got you covered:**

- Use our drop boxes in Glidden or Sac City
- Visit our website and click "Pay My Bill"
- Log into SmartHub online or on the mobile app for quick and easy payments



### Have questions? Give us a call at 712-659-3649 or 800-253-6211; we're here to help!

Wishing you a safe, sunny and enjoyable summer!

# RELIABILITY REPORT RELEASED AHEAD OF WARM SUMMER MONTHS

In early May, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) released a report outlining its 2025 Summer Reliability Assessment.

In the report, NERC raised concerns regarding several regional transmission organizations (RTOs) and their challenges in electric generation and transmission this summer.

I want to explain what the report means and how Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC) is working with its industry partners to address these issues.

### NERC's summer reliability assessment

NERC placed the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) and Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) in an elevated risk category for electric generation/capacity shortfalls this summer. RVEC is a part of the SPP footprint.

Despite the elevated risk category, SPP anticipates a high likelihood of meeting demand for electricity this summer.

SPP conducts an assessment each year to identify and mitigate threats to energy reliability during the summer season lasting from June to September. The analysis considers factors such as historical and predicted future electricity use, weather forecasts, the variability of available wind energy, drought conditions, and generation and transmission outages.

Seasonal forecasts indicate a 40-60% chance of warmer-than-average temperatures this summer within the SPP footprint. There are similar chances for below-average rainfall for most of the area covered by SPP. Given these expected conditions, SPP's studies conclude there is high probability it will have sufficient native generation to meet the demand for electricity peak-usage hours over the summer season.

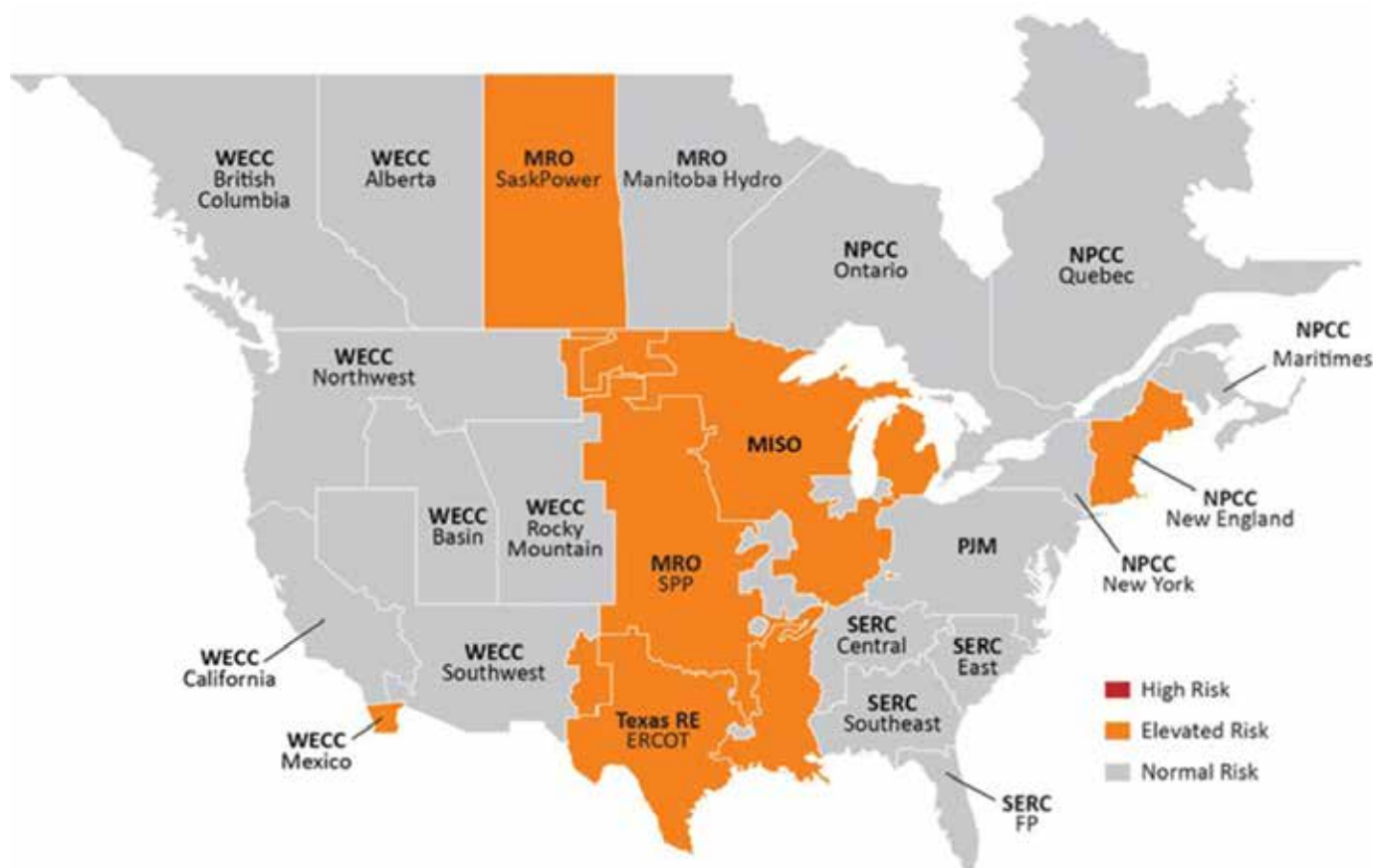
This analysis does not consider the availability of energy imports from other regions, the impact of demand response programs that can automatically reduce demand in response to real-time conditions during peak hours or the potential impact of voluntary conservation programs that incent consumers to reduce their electricity use when generating reserves are slim.

If extreme weather, unexpected outages or other circumstances affect the region, SPP has systems, tools and procedures ready to mitigate risks and maintain electric reliability. Under different scenarios, the grid operator may call on generating units to commit to running earlier or more often than usual, delay planned equipment outages, import energy from neighboring systems or tap into available reserves depending on the severity and duration of events affecting energy reliability.

### What does this mean for RVEC?

The way we generate electricity is rapidly changing. More and more, renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power are coming online, while traditional sources, including coal, nuclear and natural gas are being retired. RVEC believes and advocates for an all-of-the-above energy approach. All-of-the-above promotes the idea that the U.S. 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, natural gas, nuclear, hydropower and coal.

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



**Figure 1: Summer Reliability Risk Area Summary**

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

projections. RVEC, Corn Belt Power Cooperative and Corn Belt Power Cooperative's primary power provider, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, are well-positioned to meet this summer's peak demand. And, as we have always done, we will communicate potential issues with you as they arise.

#### Working with policymakers

We 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, which includes 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

and encourage the development and use of renewable energy, the intermittent nature of renewables means there may be times when there simply isn't enough of it to keep the lights on all the time. 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 you with 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.





IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

The magazine  
for members of  
Iowa's electric  
cooperatives

July 2025

Visit our website at [www.rvec.coop](http://www.rvec.coop)

A photograph of a family of four sitting on a lawn in front of a house. A young girl in a blue shirt stands on the left, talking to a boy in an orange shirt who is sitting in a striped lawn chair. A woman in a floral dress sits in the middle, and a man in a plaid shirt and baseball cap sits on the right, also in a striped lawn chair. They are all smiling and engaged in conversation. In front of them are two small wooden tables with drinks on them. The background shows a house with a porch and some garden plants.

# WHERE WE HAVE MEMBERS WE ACTIVELY LIVE OUR COMMITMENT

We're not just a service provider – we're active members of our community. We take pride in serving our members and going the extra mile in everything we do. Get closer to your **local cooperative** for ways we support you and strengthen our community.



Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  
*The power of human connections®*