



WEST RIVERSIDE PROJECT NEARING COMPLETION



Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



**By Jay A. Porter,
Chief Executive Officer**

As the year approaches its end, I would like to update you on some of the ongoing projects we've been working on.

You've read a lot about the West Riverside Project in these pages over the last few years. Well, I'm happy to report that construction is 96 percent complete and the new generation plant is set to begin operation in 2020.

So what does this mean for our cooperative? We've been looking for ways to help offset future electric cost increases for our members. Adams-Columbia is a distribution cooperative; we do not produce our own electricity because it is extremely costly to do so. We purchase our electricity from Alliant Energy. Since Adams-Columbia is a not-for-profit cooperative, when Alliant increases its rates, we have to pass on those costs to our members.

With the West Riverside Project, Adams-Columbia will now have a 4 percent ownership in this production facility, which means we won't have to purchase quite as much energy from Alliant since we'll be producing some of our own. You will not see a rate decrease—BUT, we hope this investment will help maintain our rates for the future.

Annual Meeting The date has been set. Mark your calendar for the 2020 annual meeting on May 21 in Pardeeville.

New Meter Update To date, approximately 11,300 new meters have been installed, or about 29 percent of the meter exchanges are complete. Progress has slowed some due to rainy weather and many parts of our service territory still being flooded, but overall the project is still on schedule for completion next year. In November, Allegiant crews will be arriving at some of ACEC's most densely populated areas bordering Castle Rock and Petenwell Lakes, so solid productivity is still anticipated even as winter weather draws near. Looking forward, the exchange path for the next couple months will follow the Wisconsin River going north from central Adams County, moving towards Wood County, and passing through the Lake Arrowhead / Sherwood region about the same time as Old Saint Nick.

ACEC crews continue to build out the communications infrastructure that must be in place before meters can be installed, and that work is approximately 70 percent complete, with substantial completion expected by year's end. Also, we want to keep installers out of harm's way during the Wisconsin gun deer season, so we will have them working in subdivision areas along the lakes where hunting is not allowed.

Board Meeting Minutes From now on you will find a

summary of the monthly board meeting minutes on page 18. Because of deadlines and general timing, you will see minutes from the meeting three months earlier.

Veterans Day Happy Veterans Day to all the servicemen and women who have dedicated themselves to our country. I know I'm not alone in saying thank you.

Toys for Tots Our yearly toy donation program is underway. I know it seems a bit early to be thinking about Christmas, but to ensure the toys will get to the children in time we need to collect donations early. By the beginning of December, the organizations we partner with in each county are already sorting gifts and making sure each boy and girl gets something on their wish list. If you would like to donate a new, unwrapped toy, look for the Toys for Tots boxes at area businesses or drop toys off in our Friendship office.

Security Due to a staff retirement, our security and First Call program is now being operated by Krus Fire & Security, with whom we have partnered to provide this service for some time.

SAFETY MESSAGE



Posting Items to Utility Poles is Dangerous

Did you know attaching items to utility poles can be life-threatening to our linemen? Nails and staples can cause safety boots to become snagged and can even tear the protective clothing line workers wear, which is the first line of protection against electric shock. For the safety of all line workers, I ask you not to attach anything on our, or any other, utility poles.

**PLEASE DON'T POST
SIGNS ON POWER POLES.**

Safe
Electricity.org





Introducing our newest member benefit...

This of starting an energy efficiency project for your home or business? Then our new Rural Energy Savings Program, or RESP loan is for you!

- Interest rates as low as 3% for up to 10 years
- Member is responsible for 5% of the loan amount at the time of loan closing
- \$7,500 minimum loan



Some Qualifying Project Exmples

- Lighting Improvements
- HVAC Systems
- Water Heaters
- On or Off Grid Renewable Energy Systems
- Energy Efficient Appliance Upgrades
- Boilers, Dryers, Heaters, & process related equipment

Visit our website at www.acecwi.com/resp-loan for a network of trade allies, the application, and FAQs.

*Terms will vary by energy efficiency Equal Opportunity Provider, USDA funded program

Reliability Report:

ACEC MEMBERS ENJOY CLOSE TO 100 PERCENT RELIABILITY

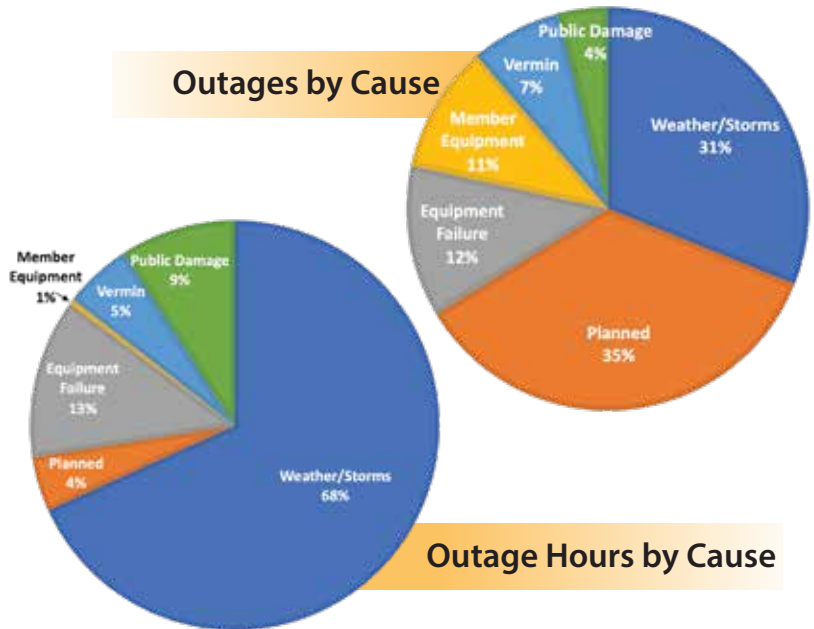
We are happy to report that once again, Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative members had power 99.98 percent of the time. This number is on trend from previous years, with 2018 at 99.98 percent and 2017 at 99.94 percent. Co-ops generally lead the charge in reliable electricity with both a lower frequency and shorter duration of outages. For this, we can thank our linemen for great storm response time, regular maintenance on our infrastructure, and right-of-way clearing.

Besides weather/storms and regular maintenance—which we call planned outages—there are four other main categories that outages fall into: equipment failure, vermin, public damage, and member-side outages. Member-side outages can be things like issues with a breaker panel or damage to the line running from the meter into your house.

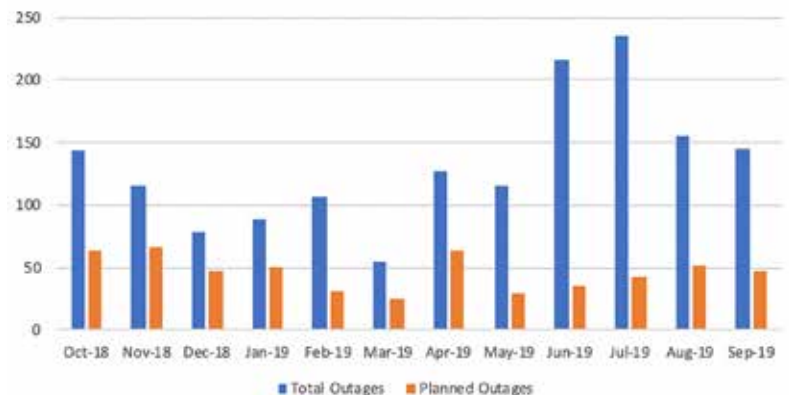
At right you can find charts detailing outages by total hours and outages by cause. You will see that the categories usually do not correspond from chart to chart. For example, a planned outage, where we essentially “turn off” a section of line to safely do maintenance work, is responsible for the highest number of outages. But if you compare this to the hours chart, you will see it accounts for the least number of hours.

We have also included a monthly comparison of the total outage hours and the planned outage hours, which can be seen on the graph at right. The data from this report was collected from October 2018 to September 2019.

Outages by Cause



Outage Comparison



Happy Veterans Day



Mark LaMore
 United States Air Force
 1991-1995
 Anchorage, Alaska
 F-15 Engines

"Cooperatives have similar principles to the military, and one of those is, our people always come first."



Josh Berger
 United States Army
 2004-2007
 Alaska, Ft Richardson
 12 months stationed in Iraq
 C84th Engineers

"Working with the linemen at ACEC reminds me a lot of the brotherhood I experienced in the military."



Brian Mattice
 United States Air Force
 2005-2011
 General Mitchell Air
 National Guard Base
 128th Air Refueling Wing

"Working together to help people, that's what the co-op and the military are all about."

This month we're celebrating Veterans Day. We want to say thank you to all veterans, but we're especially proud of our Adams-Columbia Electric Co-op veterans.

MY CO-OP



Last year there were 2,130 children in need of toys in our communities. Please help us bring a little happiness to these children by donating a new, unwrapped toy in one of the Toys for Tots boxes throughout the community.

Monetary donations: checks can be made out to Toys for Tots with a memo of Friendship, WI. Please mail to ACEC, P.O. Box 70, Friendship, WI 53934, or drop any donation at our Friendship office at 401 E Lake St.



Board Meeting Summary August 28, 2019

The regular board meeting of Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative was held at the cooperative's office in Friendship, WI on Wednesday, August 28, 2019 at 9:35 a.m.

Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by Director Link's invocation.

A Safety Message was provided by Director Olson.

All board members were in attendance. Following is a summary of the meeting activities.

The agenda, consent agenda items, board expense vouchers and the minutes of the July 31, 2019 board meeting were approved.

CEO's Report: Porter informed the board that he increased the DOM (Director, Officer and Management) insurance coverage on recommendation by our Federated Insurance agent at our annual coverage review. Porter recommended waiting a year on rejoining Cooperative Network (CN), board in agreement and will ask the CN CEO to present at a board meeting in late 2020.

Director Reports: Several board members had interactions with members re: patronage, solar system/net metering, ACEC's Facebook postings, service manual and broken irrigation pipes due to tree trimmers.

Financial Review Committee: The Financial Review was completed by Ebert, Gibeaut and Nichols. The committee felt no further review of the financials was necessary.

Board Action Items:

- Board approved to rescind board policies: #7-2 Grants for Equipotential Plane Installations in Animal Confinement Facilities and #7-3 Loans for Energy Efficient Heating Installations, as these policies are no longer applicable.
- Board approved the updated changes to policy #8-3 Signing of Checks.
- Board approved the Declaration of Forfeiture of Unclaimed Patronage Capital and General Fund Checks issued prior to December 2015 for the authorization to publish and forfeit the funds to the Federated Youth Foundation (FYF) sixty days after publication.
- Vedder's proposed bylaw changes were discussed. Board approved to change the title of and references within the ACEC Bylaws Article VI, Section 11, from "Executive Committee" to "Special Committees" and use the suggested verbiage (pending attorney review) and propose to the membership at the next annual meeting.
- Lengthy discussion on voting by absentee or electronic ballot regarding suggested bylaw changes or resolutions. Vedder suggested mailing of paper ballots as reaching a quorum at the annual meeting is a concern; M. Kerska (manager of member services) noted this is cost prohibitive. More discussion on this topic for the October meeting agenda.
- Directors discussed the Energy Issues Summit and Badger Power Cooperative's Annual Meeting. Education on current events/topics is the major takeaway from director attendance. Hoernke suggested fewer attendees, and directors should bring an idea back to implement at the cooperative.
- Board approved Porter to speak with the other cooperatives' CEOs and request they ask their board chairs of their involvement in Badger Power Cooperative and perhaps ACEC withdraws from this group.

Governance Overview: The board viewed the NRECA governance video on "Setting Director Compensation" during the lunch break.

Departmental Reports: Monthly financial statements and departmental reports were reviewed.

- Manager of Support Services B. Roberts updated the board on the progress of the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project.
- Kerska confirmed ACEC's 2020 Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday evening, May 21, 2020, at Pardeeville High School, as a business meeting only.
- In review of the financials provided by CFO West, Nichols noted the margins are still strong at \$4.2 million year to date.
- Members installing solar can utilize the new RESP (Rural Energy Savings Program) loans.
- A discussion/education session regarding high-capacity wells including rate structure will be scheduled after the harvest season for interested members.

Vedder will chair September's board meeting in Gibeaut's absence. Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Board approved the August meeting minutes on September 25, 2019. Please note any confidential or sensitive information has been edited for this summary.



**Adams-Columbia
Electric Cooperative**

Friendship Service Center

401 East Lake Street • P.O. Box 70
Friendship, WI 53934-0070
Office Hours: Monday – Friday,
7:30 – 4:00

www.acecwi.com

Customer Service & Billing
800-831-8629

Power Outage Reporting
888-928-2232

Diggers Hotline
800-242-8511

**To make a payment anytime 24/7,
please call 1-844-219-1223.**

Jay A. Porter, PE—CEO
Ashley Miller—Editor

ACEC Board of Directors

District 1

Gene Alexander
Term Expires 2021

District 2

Karen Fahey, Secretary
At-Large
Term Expires 2020

District 2

Ethan Olson
Term Expires 2022

District 3

Aaron Hoernke
Term Expires 2022

District 4

Jon Ebert
Term Expires 2022

District 5

Kendal Nichols
Term Expires 2020

District 6

Cheri Gibeaut, Chair
Term Expires 2021

District 7

Dietrich Vedder, Vice Chair
At-Large
Term Expires 2021

District 7

Scott Link, Treasurer
Term Expires 2020