

# InTouch

WITH MEMBERS OF  FRANKLIN RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

July 2022

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



## Summer Reliability Assessment released

NERC's early May report details their assessment of all RTO's in North America. The following is their summary of our RTO, SPP:

“Scenario Summary: Expected resources meet operating reserve requirements under normal peak-demand scenarios. Above-normal summer peak load and outage conditions could result in the need to employ operating mitigations (i.e., demand response and transfers) and Energy Emergency Alerts (EEA). Load shedding may be needed under extreme peak demand and outage scenarios studied.” (Source: 2022 Summer Reliability Assessment; [https://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/ra/Reliability%20Assessments%20DL/NERC\\_SRA\\_2022.pdf](https://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/ra/Reliability%20Assessments%20DL/NERC_SRA_2022.pdf))

### What does this mean for Franklin REC?

The way we generate electricity is rapidly changing. More and more, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power are coming online, while traditional sources like coal, nuclear, and natural gas are being retired. Franklin REC believes and advocates for an all-of-the-above energy approach. All-of-the-above promotes the idea that the United States 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.

In May, SPP reported that they project enough generation to meet summer peak demand. However, that doesn't eliminate the risk of an isolated EEA that could be prompted by a weather event, as we encountered in February 2021. Winter Storm Uri produced prolonged arctic cold that negatively impacted generation resources in the SPP footprint. SPP mandated our power supplier, Corn Belt Power, to curtail load in

our service territory.

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

### What is Franklin REC doing about it?

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 like 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

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A WORD FROM



**Garrett Thompson**  
Chief Executive Officer

In early May, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) released a report outlining their 2022 Summer Reliability Assessment.

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

I wanted to take some time to touch on what this means to our membership and how Franklin REC is working with its industry partners to address these issues.

### The Interconnected Grid and the Role of NERC and RTO's

NERC is a not-for-profit international regulatory authority whose mission is to assure the effective and efficient reduction of risks to the reliability and security of the grid. They work with and are in communication with the RTO's that cover the United States. I tend to think of it as a big pyramid, with NERC at the top; then the RTO's; then the generation cooperative (aka Basin Electric Power Cooperative/Corn Belt Power Cooperative); and last, the distribution Cooperative (Franklin REC). Our service territory falls under the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) RTO, and they cover 14 states, stretching from North Dakota all the way down to the panhandle of Texas. This territory is home to 18 million consumers.

# Enjoy picnic food, but not for too long

Summer is a great time for all things outdoors, including picnics. However, food left out too long can mean foodborne illnesses. Keeping cold food cold and hot food hot, indoors and out, is critical for preventing bacterial growth in food, according to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Do not let your picnic food remain in the “danger zone” — between 40- and 140-degrees Fahrenheit (F) — for more than two hours, or one hour if outdoor temperatures are 90 degrees or above. This is when bacteria in food can multiply rapidly and lead to foodborne illness, according to the FDA.

## FDA cold food tips

Cold perishable food should be kept in the cooler at 40-degrees F or below until serving time.

- Once you have served it, it should not sit out for longer than 2 hours or 1 hour if the outdoor temperature is above 90-degrees F. If it does sit out that long, discard it.
- Foods such as chicken salad and desserts in individual serving dishes can be placed directly on ice or in a shallow container set in a deep pan filled with ice. Drain off water as ice melts and replace ice frequently.

## FDA hot food tips

Hot food should be kept hot at 140-degrees F or above.

- Wrap it well and place it in an insulated container until serving.
- Just as with cold food, hot food should not sit out for more than 2 hours or 1 hour at temperatures above 90-degrees F. If food is left out longer, throw it away.

## FDA safe-food handling tips

- **CLEAN** hands and surfaces often.
- **SEPARATE** raw meat from other food.
- **COOK** food to the right temperature; color and texture are unreliable indicators.
- **CHILL** food promptly.



## Did You Know?

Electric cooperatives have retired \$19 billion to members since 1988 – \$1.5 billion in 2020 alone.

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues (called margins) are allocated and retired to members in the form of capital credits.

Source: National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation

**\$19**  
BILLION  
SINCE 1988

**\$1.5**  
BILLION  
IN 2020

## Keep patio *cool* on hot summer days

Nothing brings people together better in the summer than a cookout. But on the hottest days, it's tempting to move the party indoors.

Instead, consider cooling your patio down. Here are four suggestions:

**Add a roof.** Consider building a metal roof over your patio or installing a retractable awning or a pergola. A pergola adds shade and makes the outdoor room look extra stylish.

**Install fans.** If your patio is covered, a ceiling fan can create a soft breeze that will cool off everyone sitting or standing nearby. Portable, high-velocity fans placed on the patio floor also will help guests feel cooler. Plus, they'll keep bugs away.

**Try a mister.** This outdoor cooling system sprays a fine mist that evaporates in the air without hitting the ground or getting the patio—or the people using it—wet. The heat in the air makes the mist evaporate—leaving less heat in the immediate area. A tip: Get a good system, as the ones you connect to your garden hose could leave the party all wet.

**Paint the floor.** Painting the floor a light color will keep it from absorbing so much heat. Or, throw a sturdy outdoor rug on the floor.

# Your energy-efficient summer

When the heat soars this summer, so can your cooling costs. Being more energy efficient can help you cut back on those energy expenses.

The Energy Education Council provides tips on efficient ways to keep cool in hot weather:

- Trim back foliage at least two feet around the air conditioner, and remove debris from nearby the unit to ensure that airflow to the unit is not blocked.
- While your air conditioner is in use, replace your filter each month.
- While the air conditioner is running, always close windows and doors to increase efficiency.
- Use ceiling fans to make use of the wind chill effect while you are home. Set them to spin counterclockwise during warmer months so that they



push air down and make you feel cooler.

- Use the outside air to your advantage. Open your windows at night to let cooler air in. Avoid unnecessary trips outside that would let in midday heat.
- Close curtains and blinds to keep sunlight out on hot days.
- Dress in loose, lightweight clothing.
- Check for cracks and gaps around windows and doors and seal them with caulk and weather stripping.

## Find Your Fun at the Iowa State Fair!

Join us Aug. 11-21, at the Iowa State Fair! The Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa are once again sponsoring the Rastetter 4-H Building on the south side of the fairgrounds.

Be sure to read your August newsletter and check Facebook for more information on what you can expect when you visit us at our booth.



We look forward to seeing you!

## Stay fresh: Five tips for better indoor air quality By Abby Berry

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates the average person spends 90 percent of their life indoors.

Additionally, our homes are becoming more energy efficient, which is great for our energy bills but not so much for our indoor air quality.

Indoor air pollution is common and unavoidable. However, you can easily improve the air quality of your home.

Here are five tips to help you breathe a little easier:

*Change your air filter often.* When a filter becomes clogged, the excess dirt and dust are sent through your air ducts, adding unnecessary allergens and other unwanted particles into your home. During the summer months, the Department of Energy recommends replacing your air filter every month or two.

*Regularly vacuum carpet and rugs—* especially if you have furry friends. The cleaner the home, the healthier the home.

*Use vents to remove cooking fumes.* Fans help remove fumes emitted while cooking and eliminate unwanted moisture and odors.

*Get a handle on humidity.* Moisture in the air can carry bacteria and other unwanted particles that you eventually breathe in. Dehumidifiers work to remove that moisture from the air, reducing bacteria, mold, and other allergens.

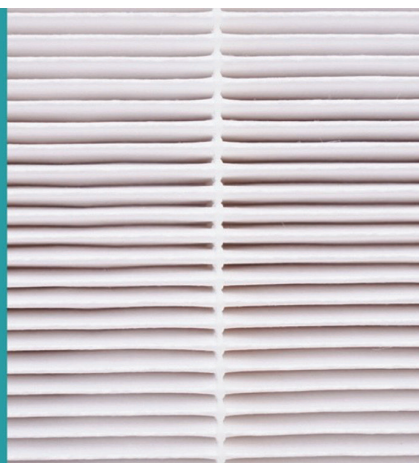
*Incorporate air-purifying plants into your living space.* A few low-maintenance, air-purifying plants to consider are snake plants, aloe vera plants, and pothos plants (also known as Devil's Ivy).

Taking simple steps to purify indoor air can improve health and overall quality of life. With a little effort, you can improve the indoor air quality of your home and breathe a bit easier.

### Breathe Easier.

Regularly changing your cooling system's air filter provides multiple benefits.

- Improved indoor air quality
- Cleaner home
- Fewer indoor allergens
- Improved system efficiency



# UNCLAIMED PROPERTY – IT COULD BE YOURS!

Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative (FREC), located at 1560 Highway 65, PO Box 437, Hampton, Iowa, 50441, is holding unclaimed property resulting from a refund payable to the person(s) listed below. The owner may claim this property by contacting FREC at the address above, by emailing [kringleb@franklinrec.coop](mailto:kringleb@franklinrec.coop), or by calling 641-456-2557. If the cooperative is not contacted by the owner within six (6) months, FREC is allowed to retain this property in accordance with Iowa law or deliver this property to the State Treasurer's Office for disposition as abandoned property.

Some of the names listed below have had checks mailed that were never cashed or returned to the office. If you are holding a check, please contact the Franklin REC office.

Below is the list of names (L-Z) of former members. Names beginning with A-K appeared in the June issue of *InTouch*. You can see the full list of names on our website at [www.franklinrec.coop](http://www.franklinrec.coop).

LINDSTROM, CINDY – KAMRAR IA  
LOOMIS FARMS INC –  
NEW BRAUNFELS TX  
MARSH, DALE (MRS) – MASON CITY IA  
MCCRIGHT, SCOTT A OR DEBBIE –  
COLORADO SPRINGS CO  
MCGRANE, RAY – HAMPTON IA  
MCMANUS LTD – NEW BRAUNFELS TX  
MCPHERSON, TRACEY - ALDEN IA  
MERICOM CORPORATION –  
LAKE FOREST CA  
MILLER, DONALD R – BELLA VISTA AR  
MOORE, JEFF – RADCLIFFE IA  
MUELLER, MARGARET L – IOWA FALLS IA  
MULFORD, JEREMY –  
WEST DES MOINES IA  
MULFORD, STEPHANIE – LATIMER IA  
NACHAZEL, GOLDIE –  
OVERLAND PARK KS  
NEWELL, CORY – ACKLEY IA  
NIX, TIMOTHY – WATERLOO IA

NUEHRING, LESTER – MASON CITY IA  
OLSON, EFFIE – ALEXANDER IA  
OLTHOFF, JEFF – ACKLEY IA  
PETERSEN, RALPH R – FALKVILLE AL  
POINT BUILDERS INC –  
CHARLES CITY IA  
POPE, JODIE – MASON CITY IA  
RAMAEKERS, THOMAS – MASON CITY IA  
RANKIN, JACK L (MR/MRS) –  
IOWA FALLS IA  
RASMUS, LONNIE D – MARBLE ROCK IA  
RIEKS, TERRY & JULIE – SURPRISE AZ  
RODRIGUEZ, MARTIN – HAMPTON IA  
RYKEN, JAMES D – WEST DES MOINES IA  
SANDERS, J B – HAMPTON IA  
SBA INC – IA04381 – BOCA RATON FL  
SCHULTE, DERRICK – DOWS IA  
SCHULTE, ENGELINA – SAINT PAUL MN  
SCHUMACHER, DENNIS JR AND JUDI –  
OMAHA NE  
SHIPP, CHRIS A & EMILY – WAVERLY IA

SHRECKENGOST, JENNIFER –  
MESERVEY IA  
SMITH, PENNIE – IOWA FALLS IA  
STORR, SHENNA R & JAMES –  
ALEXANDER IA  
THIES, FRANKLIN – IOWA FALLS IA  
TOILLION, MARK – RUTHVEN IA  
UHLENHOPP, JASON &  
JONES, CHRISTINA – DUMONT IA  
UNGER, CHRIS – DOWS IA  
VAUGHN, SHARALENE AND L H –  
CLARION IA  
WALSH, JOHN L – KATY TX  
WEIDEMAN, HAROLD E – IOWA FALLS IA  
WEISS, DAN – VICTORIA BC, CANADA  
WERSTEIN, GLENN OR PATRICIA –  
LOS ANGELES CA  
WHITE, SUSAN M – BROWNSDALE MN  
WIEDEMAN, ELIZABETH & BRANDON –  
LANSING MN  
WILLIAMSON, ROBERT J – JEWELL IA

If you recognize any of the listed names, please contact the office at 641-456-2557 and ask for Karen.

**Franklin REC Office and Line  
Crew Summer Hours Effective  
Through Monday, Sept. 5:  
6:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
PHONES ANSWERED 24/7.**

## SPARKS of news

### Board room highlights

At the May meeting, Franklin REC directors:

- Approved the Special Equipment capitalization
- Approved the renewal of NRECA membership

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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.

After the February 2021 event, we worked with our power provider and regional transmission organization to refine communication processes and emergency operations procedures. We are better equipped to respond to and communicate potential EEA events impacting our service area, should they arise in the future.

Our mission remains the same. We are a rural community-focused organization that works to efficiently deliver reliable and safe energy to our members. We will continue to advocate on your behalf and do everything we can to continue to live up to that mission.

**Intouch®** is published monthly for members of Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative  
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