



The Energy Insider

A BIMONTHLY PUBLICATION OF MIDLAND POWER COOPERATIVE

WWW.MIDLANDPOWER.COOP | MARCH/APRIL 2021

Outage reporting transformed - faster reporting, more information!

When will the power be back on? That's what we all want to know, from the moment the lights go out. Midland Power members will now have multiple ways to stay informed during power outages! Outage reporting by phone call will be faster than ever before and you will receive an estimated time for power restoration over the phone. Members that use SmartHub will now receive e-mails about power outages, be able to enroll in text messaging about outages, and be able to view estimated times for power restoration in the SmartHub mobile app or online platforms.

What is changing when I call the co-op?

You will be quickly routed to one of three places:

- to personalized outage reporting and information
- to Midland Power's automated payment system
- to speak with a team member

"Our goal with the new phone process is to efficiently share the most requested outage information with a high volume of callers, while continuing the tradition of being able to quickly speak to a Midland Power employee for routine business," said Midland Power CEO Bill McKim. "We're also happy to offer e-mail and text outage notifications. Those can save members from having to report an outage or can inform them of a power outage at their service location, while they're away from that location."

What should I expect when calling?

Calling about an outage? Press 1.

If you're calling from any, of up to three, phone numbers that Midland Power has on file and we are aware of a power outage on your account, the system will let you know!

"Our records indicate your location is currently experiencing an outage. We are working to restore power as soon as possible. We estimate that your service will be restored by..."

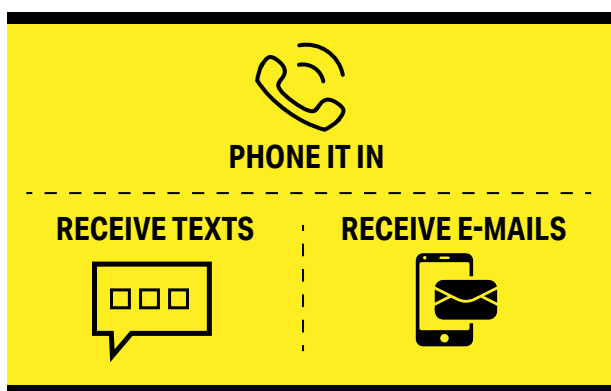
It will also let you know the co-op's estimated time for power restoration. Most of the time, outage reporting will be this simple!

Two less common scenarios:

- If you call from a phone number that the co-op doesn't have on file, you will want to enter the phone number or account number associated with the service location for which you're calling to report an outage. The system will then let you know if the co-op is aware of the outage or accept an outage report.
- If calling from a recognized phone number, but the co-op isn't aware of the power outage, the system will ask you to confirm the service address (if you have more than 2 service addresses, it will ask you to enter the house number for which you're calling) and then complete the outage report.

Calling to make a payment? Press 2.

Many members enjoy the ease of the co-op's 24/7 automated pay-by-phone system. The phone number is listed on monthly billing statements, but now you can utilize the system by pressing 2 when calling the co-op's main phone number.



Calling to speak to someone? Press 0.

Rest assured that you will still have quick access to speak to someone by simply pressing 0 at any time during the phone greeting or during the outage reporting process. You will continue to be served by Midland Power team members in Humboldt, Jefferson and Boone, during office hours. They will be happy to assist you. Outside of business hours, Midland Power's after-hours service will assist you.

Do I really need to report a power outage?

For many years, co-ops relied on members reporting power outages. With today's technologies, Midland Power is now able to notify members about their power outages by e-mail or text message. Members interested in enrolling in these notifications will need to set up SmartHub account access

See OUTAGES, Page 4

Moratorium ending April 1, 2021

If you've fallen behind on your electric bills, contact Midland Power by April 1 to work out payment options.

Iowa's winter home heating moratorium protects customers certified for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), from electric or natural gas service disconnection from Nov 1 - April 1. Beginning Thurs, April 1, 2021, energy assistance customers could be subject to service disconnection for unpaid bills, with proper notice. To avoid service disconnection, contact Midland Power at (800) 833-8876 if you have unpaid electric bills.

Celebrating 135 years!

Midland Power Cooperative recently recognized six employees that are celebrating a combined 135 years of service with the co-op!

Each celebrating 35 years with the co-op are Line Foreman Barry Munson and Staking Technician Todd Leemkuil, Journeyman Lineman Duane Delp is celebrating 30 years with the co-op, First Class Lineman Rudy Halvorson is celebrating 20 years with the co-op, First Class Lineman Tanner Dreier is celebrating 10 years with the co-op and Member Service Representative Dan Olson is celebrating five years with the co-op!

Thank you to these, and all Midland Power team members, for their unwavering dedication and commitment to the cooperative difference!



Barry Munson



Todd Leemkuil



Duane Delp



Rudy Halvorson



Tanner Dreier



Dan Olson

Why is my electric bill higher than I expected?

Keeping an eye on your monthly electric bill

While extremely cold (or hot) outdoor temperatures can increase your power bill, there are ways to manage the billing bump.

During times of extreme weather, such as the body-numbing cold we've experienced in Iowa this past month, using more power to stay warm is a necessity. You may be startled by an uptick in kilowatt hours (kWh) totaled on your monthly electric bill. You may also wonder why your bill may be higher (or lower) than that of a neighbor or friend, or how your usage can jump in one month.

Factors that affect your energy use

Your bill reflects the amount of electricity you've used in the previous month. While the extreme cold may bring a sharp focus to your bill this month, there are several factors that determine how much energy you use

each month. Your bill is impacted by your habits and behaviors, as well as the choices you make to stay comfortable. Some of these habits are:

- Space heating and cooling. Your HVAC system and hot water heater are usually the largest energy expenses, especially so in periods of extreme cold or heat. In addition, dehumidifiers, portable space heaters and fans all add (kWh) to electric bills.
- The number of appliances and devices in your home and how often you use them. There is a wide range in energy use between various appliances and the



- models of the appliances you choose.
- Your family size and number of visitors in your home. More people in the home lead to more laundry, more cooking and cleaning up, as well as more electronics charging, more lights on and higher

ENERGY USE, Page 2



What is Beneficial Electrification?

Learn more...
Page 2

Get to know Midland Power

Director Joel Skow
Page 2

Extreme weather leads to unprecedented measures

A message from CEO Bill McKim, Page 3

"Lost member list"

Do you know any of the former members that the co-op can't locate? Page 4

Get to know Director Joel Skow

Skow grew up on a family farm near Wesley, Iowa. In 2006, he served on the Nominating Committee for Humboldt County REC and in 2009 he ran to become a director at the co-op. In 2011 and 2012, he was a part of the Humboldt County REC Board that went through a diligent decision process to stabilize rates and increase reliability for members. Ultimately, it was decided to merge with Midland Power Cooperative, should members of both cooperatives approve of the merger. Following votes of the memberships, the co-ops merged on Jan. 1, 2013, and Skow has been reelected to serve on the Midland Power Cooperative Board since 2013.

Growing up, Skow was active in 4-H and County Fair projects. He is a graduate of Iowa State University College of Agriculture. He worked for Land O'Lakes Swine Production Division as a Service Manager for a few years but returned home to farm and raise livestock with his father.

Although changes in the agricultural industry and fluctuating grain and livestock prices bring their challenges, Skow believes rural Iowa provides an excellent lifestyle to raise a family. One that influences independence and common sense. Skow said his father was very social and served as a director on several boards, over the years. He credits his parents with being excellent



role models. "Ones that taught honesty and integrity," said Skow.

Joel and Carla have been married for 22 years. Their daughter and son are both active in basketball and other school activities. Their family always looks forward to summer and family vacations. In addition to serving on the Midland Power Cooperative Board of Directors, Skow serves on his Church Board of Trustees and the Wesley Cemetery Board. He enjoys hunting, fishing and golfing. He



also noted the interesting fact that his great-grandfather served as a director on the original Humboldt County REC Board.

When it comes to the future, Skow said, "I plan to continue to make diligent, educated decisions to positively impact our communities and co-op members."

What is Beneficial Electrification?



By Roger Hammen
Member Service Representative,
Midland Power Cooperative

If you're like most Americans, you're interested in saving money on energy costs and in doing your part to help the environment. But wouldn't it be great if you could do both? Well, you can! It's through a concept called "beneficial electrification." This utility industry term means the innovations in energy technologies are creating new ways to use electricity instead of on-site fossil fuels, such as propane, natural gas and fuel oil, in a way that reduces overall emissions and energy costs.

In essence, by virtue of being plugged into the grid, the environmental performance of electric devices improves over time. As Midland Power Cooperative and other utilities shift to more options that include renewable energy sources to make existing generation technologies cleaner, electricity will require less fossil fuel per kilowatt-hour of energy produced.

So, here's how this concept impacts you. It means that electric appliances such as your water heater, clothes dryer, oven and even your lawn care equipment have the potential to become greener. When Midland Power takes advantage of advances in technology and the market at the generation point (how the electricity is produced), it means those efficiencies are inherently passed along to you, the member-consumer.

Electricity is getting cleaner.

Because large appliances have a typical lifespan of about 10 years, it means that you are able to benefit from the flexibility

of the grid in addition to the increased efficiency of the particular appliance. In other words, the high efficiency electric oven you have today could be powered by renewable sources in the near future. This would not be the case with gas appliances where you are essentially locked into the technology of that gas appliance for the 10-year lifespan.

As Midland Power is able to tap into more renewable options in the future, your electric appliance has the potential to become greener and more energy efficient. The only way you would be able to benefit from this trend is through an electric appliance.

Small steps to help the environment

For consumers and homeowners looking for more environmentally-friendly options, choosing electric appliances, tools and cars over those powered by fossil fuels is an easy solution. Whether through electric lawn mowers, blowers and weed whackers (plug-in or rechargeable) or through electric water heaters and heat pumps, beneficial electrification is a means to reducing greenhouse gases and helping our environment. It can also translate into a better quality of life. For example, when you can trade the loud rumble of a gas-powered mower or blower for the quiet efficiency of electric versions, you eliminate the exhaust emissions and the unpleasant noise.

How we're doing our part to help the environment

As the overall energy sector continues to evolve, Midland Power is striving to take advantage of the advances in technology and the opportunities of the market as they become available. This means Midland

See B.E., Page 3

ENERGY USE Continued from page 1

usage of other appliances, too.

- Your home's features. The size and age of your home, and how well-sealed it is and how many windows it has all affect the amount of energy used for heating and cooling.
- Your personal preferences and choices are important factors. Some people require (or desire) a warmer temperature in the winter and a cooler temp in hot weather, while others don't mind bundling up in the winter and sweating a little in the summer. Note that recommended comfort levels are 68 degrees F in the winter and 78 degrees F in the summer.

Extra winter challenges

If you experienced a jump in your bill this past month, you may have altered your electric use in these ways; each of these habits can cause your bill to tick upward:

- Did you turn on portable electric heaters in drafty rooms?
- Did you use heat tape to keep your pipes from freezing?
- Did you turn on engine heaters to ensure your vehicles and equipment started in the morning?
- Did you turn up your heat a few degrees to ward off the chill caused by frequently opening the door to the outdoors (perhaps you had to check on livestock frequently or shovel out the driveway several times a day)?
- Did you have lights turned on more hours each day because it's darker in the morning and in the evening during the winter (and often gloomy throughout the day, too)?
- Could the furnace filter have been dirty, causing it to run less efficiently?
- Were more family members home more hours, due to school closures?
- Were you able to snuggle into an electric blanket for a while, but use it longer than usual or forget to turn it off as soon as you walked away?

Maximize energy-efficiency efforts:

- Research how much energy each of your appliances uses. To see first-hand how your appliances draw energy, use a Kill-A-Watt monitor. Let us know if you would like a copy of the Use Energy Wisely brochure to help you calculate your daily and monthly electric use.
- Become diligent in turning off appliances, lights, game consoles, computers/printers and TVs when you aren't using them, and also turning off power strips utilized by standby devices that are always on. Some power strips make this easier with a feature that stops delivery of electricity to peripheral devices when the power is turned off to a main device, such as printers and scanners when a computer is shut down or gaming systems and movie players when a TV is switched off.
- Maintain all appliances to be sure they are at maximum efficiency (replace filters, clean coils, follow manufacturers' maintenance schedules).
- Research before purchasing any new appliance and bring home the most energy-efficient model available to ensure savings for years thereafter.
- Do all you can to make your home more energy efficient. For example, check insulation and replace where needed, and seal windows and doors and any other openings into the home.

We're here to help

- Ask us about rebates if you are planning to update your HVAC system to a more energy-efficient electric model or if you need a new energy-efficient electric water heater.
- Check in for additional energy-saving tips from our energy experts (check our website, too!) for more details.
- Enroll in budget billing so you can spread the higher cost of winter heating and summer cooling costs out over the entire year: you'll have no surprises using this process!

Kids' Prize Drawing!

THANK A LINEWORKER!



Think about all the ways you use electricity every day. Do you use a phone, watch TV, play video games or turn on lights? You're able to do all of these things because of lineworkers. Write a short thank you note to your local lineworkers, then ask an adult to help you send it back to us so we can share it with our crews.



Student's Name _____ Grade _____

Member's Name _____

Member's Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Mail to Midland Power, PO Box 368, Boone, IA 50036 or e-mail to mpc@midlandpower.coop by April 30, 2021, to be included in a drawing for kid's activities and goodies.

WE ♥ OUR LINEWORKERS

Extreme weather leads to unprecedented measures



By Bill McKim
CEO,
Midland Power
Cooperative

I thought we'd get to shelve the word "unprecedented" for a while, but there really is no other word to describe what happened at electric utilities across the Midwest in February.

Record-low temperatures which led to escalating demand for electricity, combined with disruptions to natural gas, coal and renewable generation resources, resulted in unparalleled stress on the Midwest power grid. As a result of this pressure on the grid, on Feb. 15 and 16, electric cooperatives in western and north-central Iowa, along with utilities across the Midwest were called upon to curtail electric load. In my nearly twenty years in the electric co-op industry, this was the first time I've experienced an order to curtail load because of tightening generation resources. Electric demand across a 14-state region (from Canada to northern Texas) reached historic highs due to long-lasting, vast heating demands across the country, and the electric load curtailment measures were necessary to prevent a multi-day, system-wide blackout. To put it simply, there was not enough electric generation available, at points during those days, to meet the extent of the amount of electricity that consumers were demanding.

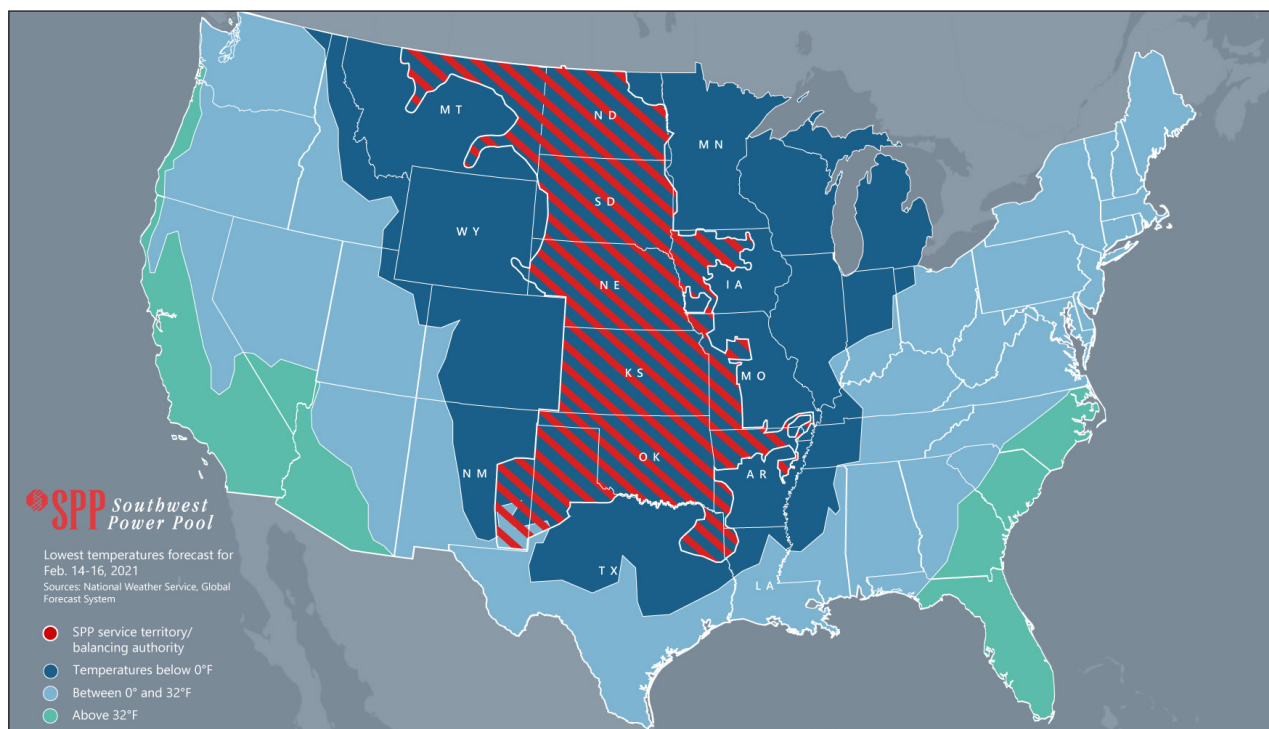
The grid's "air-traffic controllers"

Many electric utilities across the country are members of regional transmission organizations (RTOs)

and independent system operators (ISOs), also referred to as power pools. These federally regulated entities work on a regional scale to coordinate, control, and monitor supply and demand on the electric grid. RTOs do not own the power grid, but they work as "air-traffic controllers" of the grid to ensure reliable supplies of power, adequate transmission infrastructure and competitive wholesale electricity prices on behalf of their member utilities.

RTO Southwest Power Pool (SPP) issued unprecedented Energy Emergency Alert (EEA) Level 2 and Level 3 orders to its member utilities across several states on Feb. 15 and 16, calling for high levels of electric demand reduction/curtailment to match available supply.

Some of you may recall the 2014 polar vortex. Since that time there have been significant changes in electricity markets, particularly in the ERCOT, SPP, and MISO RTO markets. In the years since 2014, the nationwide coal share of generation has decreased from 38.5% to 23.3%, while natural gas has increased from 27.4% to 38.3%, and non-hydro renewables have increased from 6.8% to 10.6%. Nuclear energy and hydro generation have remained relatively flat.



Dark blue area depicts temperatures forecast below 0 degrees F on Feb. 14 - 16, while red shows SPP service area/balancing authority.

Communication is important

As soon as your co-op learned that electric load curtailment may become a possibility, we shared the information available to us on the fastest media platform accessible – social media. The announcement went out on the co-op's Facebook and Twitter pages on Monday and many members helped us share the information. We asked for voluntary electric conservation and announced that load curtailment may be forthcoming. While it left members with some questions – Where will it happen? When will it happen? How many times will it happen? – We shared what we knew as soon as we knew it. Ultimately, SPP controlled the timing and amount of curtailment needed by utilities across its 14-state region.

The impact at your co-op

SPP issued the EEA orders to prevent a damaging regional blackout which could have taken days to restore. EEA Level 3 orders are extremely rare and are only implemented when absolutely necessary. In fact, these are the first Level 2 and Level 3 orders issued in SPP's 80-year history.

To comply with the Level 3 orders, some local electric co-op substations were taken offline for about an hour at a time on average. Unfortunately, these outages occurred with almost no advanced warning as SPP manages electric supply and demand minute-by-minute in real time. Local electric co-ops had just minutes to initiate substation outages.

Power outages in north-central Iowa included:

- Monday, Feb. 15, 5 megawatts of load was curtailed by powering down substations for approximately 45 minutes around the noon hour. Approximately 1,500 accounts were without power. None of these were Midland Power members.
- Tuesday, Feb. 16, 24 megawatts of load was curtailed by powering down substations between 6:45 – 10:15 a.m. Approximately 12,500 accounts across multiple electric co-ops were without power at some point during the event, including about 1,600 Midland Power accounts.

Thank you to our members

The extent of these load control measures was unprecedented in our region, and I would like to thank the membership for their patience and understanding while we dealt with its challenges in real time. As always, we will continue to seek the best practices and solutions to maintain our mission to safely provide reliable, affordable, and responsible electric service while enhancing the communities we serve.

ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS

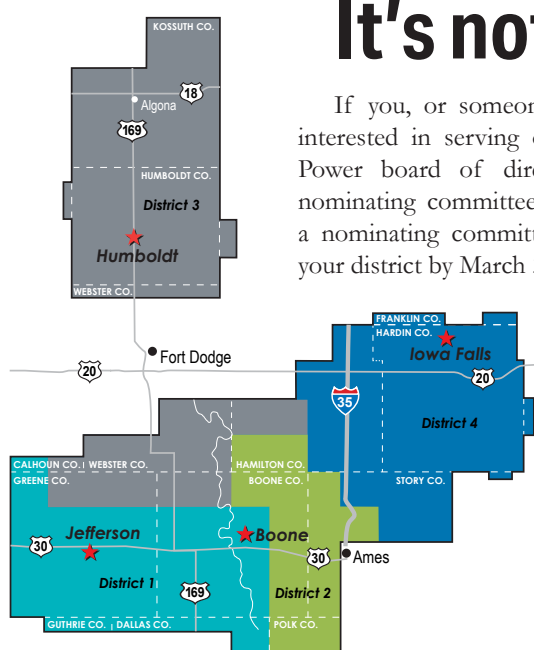
RHEEM® MARATHON®

Midland Power Member Pricing:

50 gal. tall	\$400
50 gal. short	\$450
85 gal.	\$490
105 gal.	\$625

It's not too late to nominate

If you, or someone you know, is interested in serving on the Midland Power board of directors or 2022 nominating committee, please contact a nominating committee member for your district by March 30.



2021 Nominating Committee Members

- District 1**
 Rich Larson, Ogden, 515-275-3139
 Tanner Lawton, Jefferson, 515-777-5814
 Richard Schneider, Madrid, 515-681-3986
- District 2**
 Christopher Paulson, Boone, 913-484-4076
 Donald Uthe, Ames, 515-290-0886
 Jamie Weydert, Ames, 319-325-5940
- District 3**
 Brody Bertram, Humboldt, 319-239-8860
 Charles Bormann, Lu Verne, 605-695-1430
 Allen Mains, Wesley, 515-341-1332
- District 4**
 Royle Duncan, Alden, 515-373-6903
 Larry Engelson, Hubbard, 515-460-1677
 Duane Kruckenberg, Iowa Falls, 641-751-1450

B.E. Continued from page 2

Power can leverage the flexibility of the grid to offer a wider range of renewable power selections as we continue to bring safe, reliable and affordable power to our community.

We also promote energy efficiency through rebate programs. In addition, members have the convenience and ability to manage and monitor their energy use through SmartHub and the SmartHub app. To save you money, we also offer incentive rates for electric heating and member discounted pricing on electric water heaters.

We care about our community because we live here too. I hope you'll reach out to Midland Power Cooperative, your trusted energy partner, to discuss available renewable energy options and to learn about more ways to reduce your energy use. Because when you participate in the energy efficiency programs and incentives we offer, you're doing your part to save energy and better our environment. While each member's reduction might be small, together, they can lead to significant savings of money and emissions. And that means a brighter future for all of us.

OUTAGES

Continued from page 1

and manage preferred contact information. Learn how at www.MidlandPower.Coop. If you don't receive an outage notification from the co-op during a power outage, it is a best practice to report it via phone call or SmartHub.

"Long gone are the days of a country member sending a post card to town to request a line crew to restore a power outage 'when they get a chance.' Today's world is one of 24/7 information and communication, and we look forward to meeting that member expectation," said McKim.

Can you help us locate these "Lost Members"?

We mailed patronage dividend checks to the following individuals and businesses at the addresses we had on file for the cities and states listed below, but they were returned undeliverable. If you are still in contact with any of these former "lost members," please have them call us at (800) 833-8876 to provide a current address. Thank you!

- AMUNDSON, PAUL Roland, IA
- ANDERSON, MARY Pilot Mound, IA
- ANDERSON, PAUL Fredericksburg, TX
- BASINGER, JEAN Des Moines, IA
- BJUSTROM, JEAN Boone, IA
- BROADBENT, ROGER, Clear Lake, IA
- COPPER, GILBERT Fort Dodge, IA
- DOWNING, KENNETH Ogden, IA
- EGGERICH, KURT Gildmore City, IA
- FERGUSON, RACHEL Pilot Mound, IA
- FINCEL, TRAVIS Ogden, IA
- FIRST PRESTON Denver, CO

- GORMLEY, NANCY Minneapolis, MN
- GORSH, TERRY Venice, FL
- GREER, MARK Rapid City, SD
- HECK, D L Osceola, IA
- HONOLD, ROGER Waukee, IA
- HOYT, DAVID Eldora, IA
- ITES, AARON Iowa Falls, IA
- KIRTLEY, GREG Yale, IA
- LYNCH, ASHLEY Perry, IA
- MAAHS AUCTION SERVICE Algona, IA
- MAGNESS, JOSEPH Everly, IA
- MILIUS, ROD Pardeeville, WI
- MOORMAN, JESSICA Boone, IA
- MORRIS, DAVID Newton, IA
- MOSS, BARBARA Ankeny, IA
- MURPHY, MERLIN Ackley, IA
- OSTHEIMER, ROBERT Iowa Falls, IA
- PEARCE, KELLY Iowa Falls, IA

- PETERSON, JOLENE Boxholm, IA
- POMEROY, DAVE Iowa Falls, IA
- PURDY, TRUST FARMS #925 Humboldt, IA
- RANDALL, CLIFTON Sedona, AZ
- REED, MARCIA Boone, IA
- SELL, JERRY Ames, IA
- SPEICH, EDWIN West Bend, IA
- SPELL, DEWAYNE Longview, TX
- SPRECHER, LARRY Pilot Mound, IA
- STEWART, CHARLES Arnolds Park, IA
- SWANGER, SARAH Bagley, IA
- SWETT, MICHAEL Ames, IA
- TOMASEK, SCOTT Mc Kinney, TX
- TRIGENIX BOAR STUD Algona, IA
- TWEDT, JIM Ames, IA
- WILLIAMS, MARLENE Williams, IA
- WYCOFF, JEFFREY Nevada, IA

Extend a helping hand with RECare

Would you like to help those in need to weatherize their homes and pay winter heating bills? If you are interested, please complete and return this form to Midland Power's office.

Funds from this program are distributed to those in need through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in Iowa. Any amount you give will be greatly appreciated!

RECARE CONSUMER AUTHORIZATION FORM

- Yes, I want to contribute to RECare.

- I will make a one-time contribution to RECare. My check is enclosed.
- I will contribute \$ _____ per month for _____ months to RECare. I understand this amount will be automatically added to my monthly electric bill.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please mail to: RECare, Midland Power, PO Box 420, Jefferson, IA 50129

Please contact us when you start to plan for a new grain bin

The electric cooperative will provide assistance in planning for a safe environment for everyone working and living around grain bins. The State of Iowa requires specific clearances for electric lines around grain bins, with different standards for those filled by portable and permanent augers, conveyors and elevators.

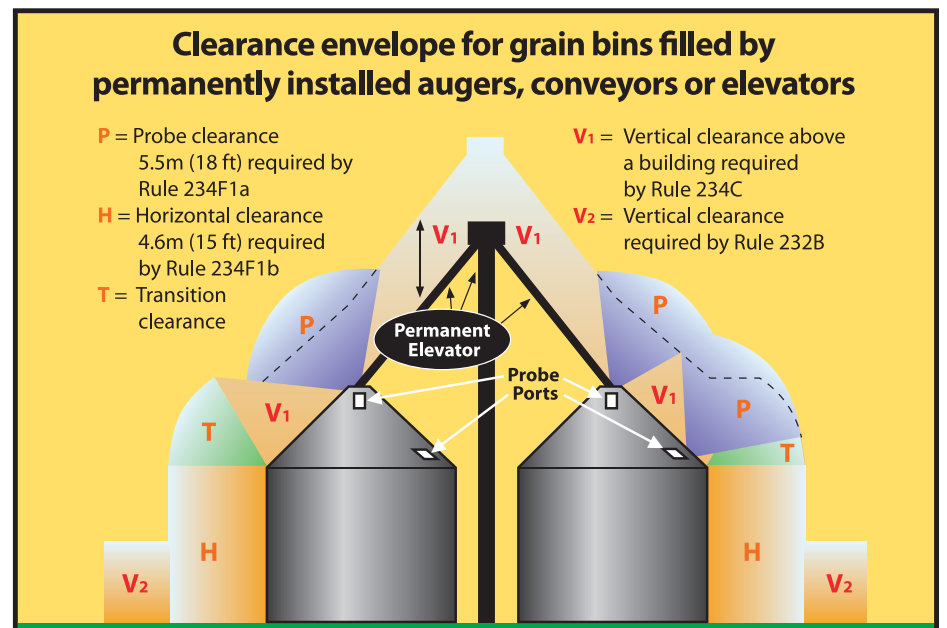
The images on this page include a drawing of the specific clearances required for both scenarios. If you have any questions concerning the drawings, please contact your electric cooperative.

According to the Iowa Electric Safety Code found in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 199--25.2(3)b. An electric utility may refuse to provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing electric line which does not provide the clearances required by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) C2-2012 "National Electrical Safety Code," Rule 234F. This paragraph "b" shall apply only to grain bins loaded by portable augers, conveyors or elevators and built after September 9, 1992, or to grain bins loaded by permanently installed augers, conveyors, or elevator systems installed after December 24, 1997. (As adopted by the Iowa Utilities

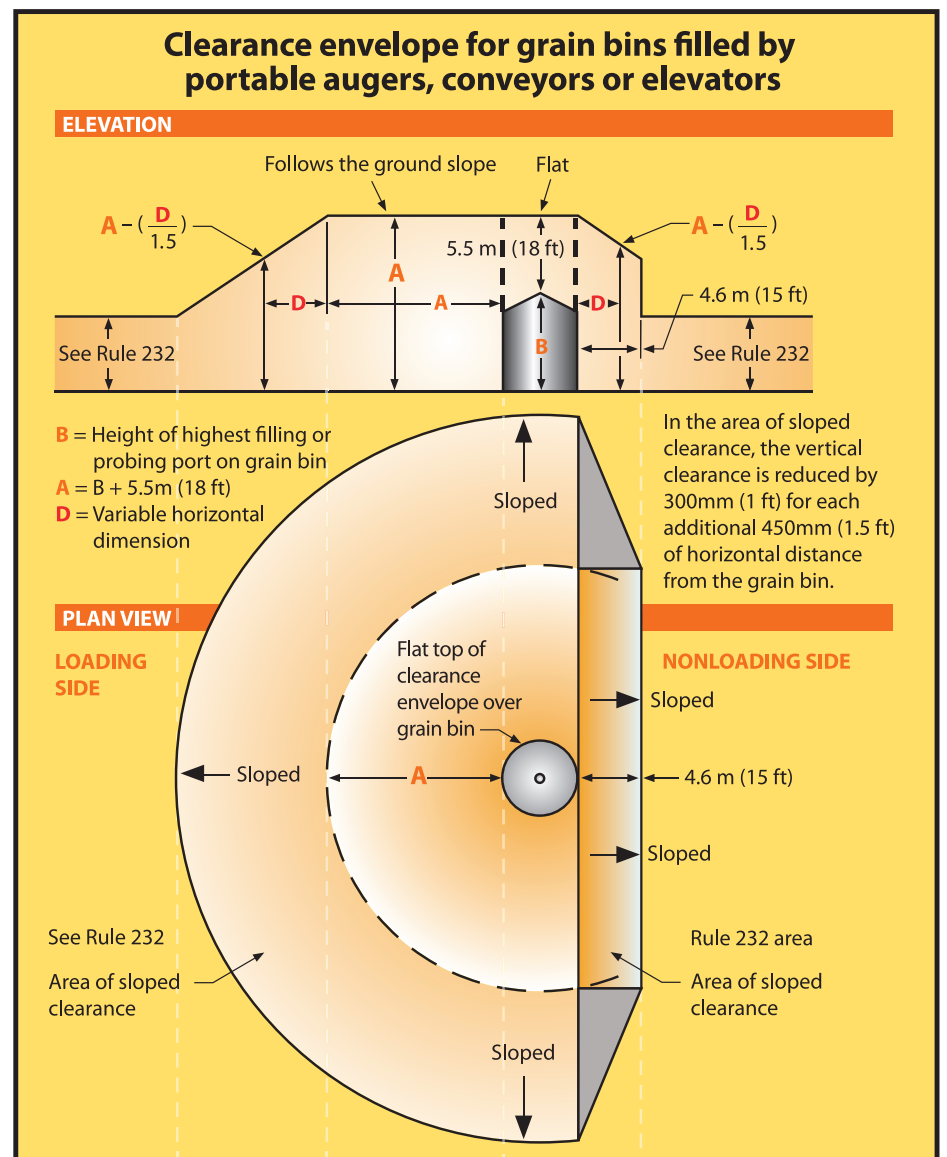
Board) The cooperative is required by the Iowa Utilities Board to provide this annual notice to farmers, farm lenders, grain bin merchants, and city and county zoning officials.

If you have any questions concerning clearance regulations, please call Midland Power Cooperative at (515) 386-4111 or (800) 833-8876, Corn Belt Power Cooperative at (515) 332-2571 or Central Iowa Power Cooperative at (319) 366-8011.

Disclaimer: These drawings are provided as part of Iowa electric cooperatives' annual public information campaign and are based on the 2017 Edition of the National Electrical Safety Code. To view the actual drawings, refer to that publication. Every care has been taken for the correctness of the contents for these drawings. However, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and its member cooperatives accept no liability whatsoever for omissions or errors, technical inaccuracies, typographical mistakes or damages of any kind arising from the use of the contents of these drawings, whether textual or graphical.



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 1005 E. Lincoln Way, Jefferson, Iowa

Calls Answered 24/7/365
 Toll Free: (800) 833-8876
 Automated Pay-By-Phone:
 (888) 470-4623

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twitter.com/midland_power

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