

The CIRCUIT

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative



*** Proudly Serving Rural Kansas for Over 83 Years

August 2022

Holiday Office Closing



Our office will be closed on Monday, September 5th, in observance of Labor Day. If you experience an outage please call 888-297-9212.

Drawing Winner

TRAVIS BEACHY is the winner of our \$25.00 readership drawing.

Travis, to claim your prize, please contact Ark Valley by August 31, 2022 & give us the account number from your electric bill.

Standards for Installing a Generator

If you are planning on installing a generator, please make sure your electrician follows our service standards for construction. These standards



can be found by going to <https://arkvalley.com/aboutus> and clicking on Service Standards.

Members are only allowed to install one box per meter on our poles. If your installation requires more than one box, your electrician will need to refer to our service standards and build a secondary rack to suit your needs that is 3 to 10 feet away from our poles.

First AVEC Solar Project Installed

The construction of Ark Valley's first 1-megawatt solar farm has been completed and was fully-operational at the beginning of June, in time for the start of the peak demand season. The system was designed to maximize output during the cooperative's peak demand hours, when power cost is the most expensive. This will help control power costs and stabilize electric rates for Ark Valley's member owners.

The solar installation is a partnership between Ark Valley and Today's Power, Inc., North Little Rock, Arkansas. Today's Power owns and operates the solar farm, while Ark Valley has contracted to purchase all the electricity generated by the array over the 25-year-or-more agreement term with a low, fixed rate.



Participation in the Kansas Cooperative Sun Power Program allowed Ark Valley and 12 other participating Kansas electric cooperatives to ensure low-cost renewable energy. Through this partnership, the cooperatives were able to receive lower rates due to economies of scale that would not have been possible individually.

Summer Reliability and Resource Adequacy

A few months ago, North American Electric Reliability Corp. (NERC) published its 2022 Summer Reliability Assessment. NERC's annual assessment provides an evaluation of generation resource and transmission system adequacy and energy sufficiency to meet projected summer peak demands and operating reserves.

The projection for some of the regions have elevated risk or high risk for capacity shortfalls during peak summer conditions based on their assessment of generation resources and transmission system. However, for the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) footprint, where Ark Valley is located, NERC expects resources to meet operating reserve requirements under normal peak demand scenarios. Above-normal summer peak load and generation outage conditions could result in the need to employ operating mitigations.

In addition to NERC's assessment, SPP also prepares its own annual resource adequacy report. The purpose of the report is to ensure that sufficient capacity is maintained to meet the Resource Adequacy Requirement to serve peak demand obligations. Consistent with NERC's report, SPP indicated there are adequate resources to meet anticipated peak load while also meeting operating reserve requirements under normal peak-demand scenarios in 2022.

As you have probably heard in the news, other regions of the country are not expected to fare as well as the SPP, where load shedding is more likely needed under extreme peak demand and generation outage scenarios as studied. Using current operational processes and procedures, SPP will continue to assess the needs for the 2022 summer season and will adjust as needed to ensure that real time reliability is maintained throughout the summer.



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Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Trustees for the Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association held its regular meeting for the month of June on June 27, 2022.

The Board reviewed a summary of the strategic planning goals it established at its May 25, 2022 special meeting. The summary contained five such goals and brief descriptions as to how those goals would be met. The goals included: 1) Completing a cost-of-service study to identify if changes to existing rates should be change and whether peak demand costs could be mitigated; 2) Educate members on solar generation and electric vehicles; 3) Study the possibility of constructing and maintaining a member owned solar farm; 4) Develop a safety program to educate linemen and protect members from contact and property loss; and 5) Develop a succession plan for temporary and unforeseen absences. Over the next couple years, the Board will direct and support Cooperative personnel as these goals are met.

To assist in lowering the Cooperative's overall peak demand costs and to help farmers mitigate the cost of providing irrigation, a special load control rate was established a few years ago. When the Cooperative receives a signal from its power supplier that it expects to be running on peak, Ark Valley will notify irrigators of the alert. The irrigator would then have the option of running the irrigation through peak or turning their irrigation off during peak hours, which can be accomplished remotely with the appropriate equipment. A test was conducted of the load control system by Cooperative personnel prior to the peak season, and the results showed the execution of the load control system was successful and the system was ready for the Kansas summer.

The Board was updated on supply chain issues. Machinery and equipment used throughout the electric industry are in short supply. The time delays for receiving necessary supplies can be from a few weeks to over two years. Ark Valley has taken a proactive approach by trying to keep a surplus of necessary equipment in stock and working with other electric cooperatives to share supplies back and forth when necessary.

Slow Down:

Back to School Means Sharing the Road

If you're driving behind a bus, allow a greater following distance than if you were driving behind a car. It will give you more time to stop once the yellow lights start flashing. It is illegal in all 50 states to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children.



- Never pass a bus from behind – or from either direction if you're on an undivided road – if it is stopped to load or unload children
- If the yellow or red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended, traffic must stop

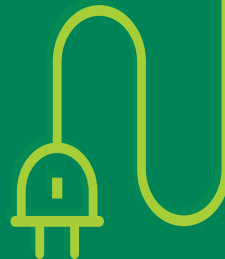


- The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children; stop far enough back to allow them space to safely enter and exit the bus
- Be alert; children often are unpredictable, and at times tend to not recognize hazards or are unaware of risks.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know 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 when using these appliances.

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

Although seemingly innocent enough, putting signs or other items on utility poles creates serious safety hazards. Staples, nails and tacks used to hang signs—as well as the signs themselves—pose dangers to line crews who must climb poles.



The Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.