

The CIRCUIT

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative



*** Proudly Serving Rural Kansas for Over 84 Years

September 2023

Drawing Winner

FREEMAN YODER is the winner of our \$25.00 readership drawing.

Freeman, to claim your prize, please contact Ark Valley by September 29, 2023 & provide your account number.

Planned Outages

Ark Valley aims to make your electric serve as reliable as possible. On occasion, planned power outages help us achieve that goal.

There are times when it is necessary to shut off power provided to members in order to perform maintenance or to shift the load from one substation to another in order to avoid a prolonged outage due to maintenance performed by our power supplier.

As a courtesy to our members, it is a common practice for Ark Valley to utilize an automated phone notification system to inform members about when the planned outage will occur and approximately how long it may be expected to last. This is the same notification system we use for relaying other important messages such as, irrigation load control and tree spraying, because it allows us to reach multiple members quickly. However, we feel it is important to mention that the message is generated with an electronic voice so that you won't automatically

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You Can Help Us Keep the Lights On

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative has joined other electric cooperatives across the U.S. in firmly opposing the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed Greenhouse Gas (GHG) rulemaking. The new proposal that targets the nation's power plants would impose unworkable regulations and could undermine the ability for electric cooperatives to provide safe, affordable, and reliable power to the communities and consumers we serve. It would challenge decades of hard work and investment to reliably keep the lights on across the country and could lead to life-threatening blackouts.

Ark Valley is one of 16 member-owners of a generation and transmission cooperative, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (KEPCo), that supplies power and energy to the member-owners through all-requirements power supply contracts. KEPCo has a diverse generation resource portfolio, whereby 65% of KEPCo's member-owners' annual energy needs are supplied from non-GHG emitting resources. However, an important component of KEPCo's power supply is its co-ownership of a coal-fired generating plant, Iatan 2, which is one of the country's newest, most efficient coal units. The rules, as proposed, would dramatically reduce Iatan 2's useful life, threaten regional reliability and would create a stranded asset for Ark Valley and KEPCo's other member-owners, the costs of which will be borne by the rural Kansans we collectively serve.

Additionally, this proposal would require the use of carbon capture and hydrogen technologies that are not yet commercially viable, forcing the premature closure of existing baseload power plants while also making it harder to build new critical power plants. And all of this will occur at the same time the demand for electricity skyrockets as we electrify more and more of the American economy.

As you know, electric cooperatives are owned by, and belong to, their members and the communities they serve. The individuals, families, and businesses served by Ark Valley are the sole owners of our not-for-profit electric cooperative and have a fundamental expectation that the lights will stay on at a cost they can afford. However, America's ability to "keep the lights on" is already in jeopardy due to current grid conditions. According to the North American Electric Reliability Corporation Summer 2023 Reliability Assessment, the "disorderly" retirement of existing generating assets across the country, and insufficient replacement of that power capacity, is directly impacting reliability and increasing the risk of blackouts. The EPA's proposed GHG rulemaking will further strain the electric grid.

In fact, nine states saw rolling blackouts last December as the demand for electricity exceeded the available supply. Those situations will become even more frequent if EPA continues to promote policies without consideration of impacts on electric reliability. You can join us and other electric cooperative members across the country by urging the EPA to reconsider these regulations and prioritize policies that ensure a reliable and affordable supply for the future. Voices for Cooperative Power has been established to help rural cooperative members participate in this effort and to stay informed of policy decisions that will shape our access to affordable, reliable local energy for decades to come. To find out more about it, go to voicesforcooperativepower.com.



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Exercise Your Civic Duty

America's electric cooperatives, including Ark Valley, understand the value of building relationships with elected officials at all levels of government. There are many important policy issues that directly impact electric utilities and ultimately, you, the consumer-members we proudly serve. Strengthening our relationships with elected leaders positions us to advocate for our local community.

While Ark Valley is a locally-owned cooperative, we're part of a larger network of electric co-ops. Through our non-partisan grassroots program known as "Co-ops Vote," we're working to enhance the political strength of electric co-ops and boost voter turnout. There's power in numbers, and when we all show up at the polls, we can voice the issues that matter most to our community.

National Voter Registration Day is September 19th, and midterm elections are right around the corner. Don't assume your voter registration status is up to date.

Visit www.vote.coop, then click "Election Resources" to verify your status.

Get informed. In addition to ensuring your registration is up to date, learning about local policy issues and candidates is one of the best ways you can prepare to vote.

Vote! We encourage everyone to vote, stand up for our local community and make a collective impact. It's the easiest—and most important—way you can exercise your civic duty. It gives you the opportunity to voice your opinion on the issues that matter most to you.



Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Trustees for the Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association held its regular meeting for the month of July on July 31, 2023.

The Board reviewed the June performance of the Cooperative's distributed generation units at the Arlington and Medora substations, the Cooperative's irrigation load control system, and Huntsville solar farm production. By utilizing a one (1) mega-watt diesel generator at the Arlington substation and another one (1) mega-watt diesel generator at the Medora substation, the Cooperative saved nearly \$29,000.00 for June by using the generators to lower peak demand costs. However, once the fuel and other operating costs are considered, the net savings of the diesel generators amounted to approximately \$25,500.

The solar farm at Huntsville produced an approximate \$14,570.00 June savings for Ark Valley members. The irrigation load control saved members an estimated \$40,144.32. The total savings from all sources of distributed generation and from the irrigation load control equaled \$80,234.49 for the month of June, which was approximately \$18,400.00 more than last year.

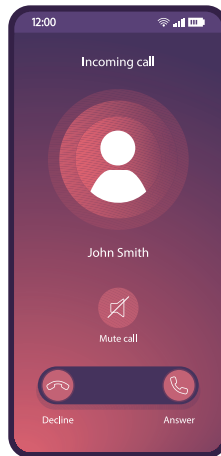
Planned Outages

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assume it is a scam if you happen to receive one of our courtesy calls.

If you are unavailable to answer an automated call from Ark Valley, please check your voicemail so you can be well informed of the details as timely as possible. Keeping your contact information updated and making sure your voicemail can receive messages will help us with our efforts to provide you with important information.

As your cooperative, we will try to schedule these outages at the most convenient times. It is also our goal to give members plenty of notice to allow them to prepare and mitigate any inconveniences the outage might cause.



Scholarship Applications

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative has officially opened scholarship applications for 2024.

Essay, quiz and application is on our website:

www.arkvalley.com

Scholarship packet must be received by Ark Valley Electric no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 30th.

Applicants may direct their questions to dalexander@arkvalley.com

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.