



DSO
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

**DSO ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

HEADLINER

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Mike Olberding
Operations Manager

Derrick Rutherford
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Office Hours

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday
Open over the lunch hour

Payment Locations

**CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK IN
WALMART SUPERCENTER**
521 E. Chestnut St., Junction City, KS 66441
FARMERS STATE BANK
447 Harrison, Lindsborg, KS 67456

Outage Information

**IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE, CALL
800-376-3533.** After-hours calls will be
answered by dispatch and forwarded to
standby personnel.

Find Out More

 facebook.com/DSOElectricCooperative
 @DSOElectricCoop

On the Line

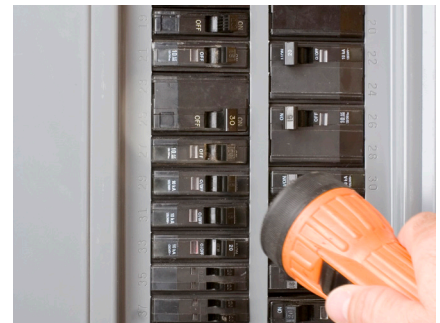
BY MICHAEL OLBERDING, OPERATIONS MANAGER

Earlier this year, I wrote an article about drought and high wind. I hope that is all behind us now. With summer thunderstorms rolling in almost every night, we need to talk about some of the nuisance outages.

When the lights go out, there are a few things you should check before calling to report an outage. First, check the main circuit breaker in the breaker box in the house. If that is not the problem, then check and make sure the outbuildings (if you have any) are also out of power. If everything is out of power, then there is one more place to check, outside at the meter.

The location of your meter can vary; it may be on a meter pole, transformer pole, meter pedestal, or even on the side of the house. Make sure you are familiar with your meter location in the daylight hours because it may be dark when the power goes out and you need to find it. Even if you are renting or house sitting, this is a must. Check the main disconnect box under the meter can. This box has a lot of names, such as fuse box, load center, breaker box, and main disconnect box. If the disconnect is OK and the meter display is blank, then call DSO to report the outage.

Once you have checked everything on your side of the meter, finding the source of trouble will be that much easier for DSO; we will know a lot sooner



if this is an individual or line outage. If the problem is a tripped breaker that will not reset, or anything else between the electric meter and the house, you'll need to contact your electrician to make the necessary repairs.

DSO's policy is that every new service has a disconnect below the meter; this way, everything downstream of the disconnect is protected. If your service does not have a main disconnect below the meter and you would like to have one, please contact the office and we will get someone out to see what it would take to get one on your service.

While there are several reasons to have a main disconnect below the meter, probably the main reason would be so power could easily be shut off any time there is an emergency.

These are just a few things to keep in mind regarding outages and main disconnects. We want you to be safe and want you to call us with any questions concerning your electric service.

Lightning Facts

- 1** Flashes of lightning between a thunderstorm and the earth are called cloud to ground.
- 2** There is roughly 5 to 10 times more intra-cloud lightning than cloud-to-ground lightning.
- 3** The vertical extent of cloud-to-ground lightning averages 3 to 4 miles.
- 4** Lightning often strikes up to 10 miles away from rainfall.
- 5** Lightning can occur in winter during heavy snowfalls.
- 6** Lightning can strike in the same place twice.
- 7** Lightning has 100 million to 1 billion volts and contains billions of watts.

SOURCES: NATIONAL LIGHTNING SAFETY INSTITUTE, NOAA NATIONAL SEVERE STORMS LABORATORY



As temperatures begin to spike, there are steps you can take to save money on energy bills this summer.

According to the Department of Energy, a typical home uses a whopping 48% of energy expenditures just on the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system (HVAC) system. Although a majority of that figure is spent on heating, Americans still spend \$29 billion every year to power their air conditioners.

Aside from replacing your central air conditioner with a newer, high-efficiency model, there are some things you can do to increase efficiency and reduce your energy bills.

Besides weather stripping and caulking around windows and doors in your home (always a good idea regardless of the time of year), consider the following:

- ▶ Close curtains, blinds and shades during the hottest part of the day. Not only is about one-third of a home's energy lost around windows, but about 76% of sunlight that falls on standard double-pane windows enters the home to become heat, according to energy.gov.
- ▶ If you don't already have one, install a programmable or smart thermostat. You can save up to 10% a year on heating and cooling by adjusting your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting for 8 hours a day, according to energy.gov.
- ▶ Clean the filter and get your unit inspected by a HVAC professional.

- ▶ Consider changes to your landscaping. Greenery that includes shade trees and plants that insulate the foundation can reduce energy costs.
 - ▶ Ventilate the attic and check insulation. Adequately sized vents and an attic fan can help prevent hot air from building up. If your attic has less than 6 to 8 inches of insulation, consider adding more. By addressing air leaks around your home and adding insulation, homeowners can save around 10% annually on energy bills, according to energystar.gov.
 - ▶ Get a pre-season checkup by a professional HVAC technician, which could help your air conditioner run more efficiently.
 - ▶ Make sure your outdoor condenser unit is clean and free from debris. Ideally, the unit should be in the shade.
 - ▶ Use your clothes dryer and oven during the cooler parts of the day.
 - ▶ Consider a professional energy audit to reveal where your home is inefficient, including air leaks and exposed duct work.
- Increased summer electric demand not only affects the monthly budget, but it can also seriously strain your home's electrical system, which can create dangerous shock and fire hazards. Flickering or dimming lights or frequent circuit breaker trips are signs of an overloaded electrical system or faulty wiring that should be checked immediately by a qualified electrician.



Pay YOUR Way

Looking for a different way to pay your bill? DSO has several options. Go to dsoelectric.com and click on “My Home,” then click on “Payment Options.”

- ▶ **PAY ONLINE** with a SmartHub account.
- ▶ **PAY ONLINE** with “Pay Now,” which allows you to pay without having to store your information or remember a password. You need your account number, name, credit card or checking account number, and payment amount.
- ▶ **AUTO-PAY** – use SmartHub to schedule your bill to be paid automatically on the due date or to schedule multiple automatic payments.
- ▶ **PAY BY PHONE** – 844-843-6838. You can pay anytime 24/7 with your card (VISA or MasterCard) or bank account.
- ▶ **PAY IN PERSON** – DSO is open to the public Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- ▶ **PAY VIA TRADITIONAL MAIL.**

Unsure about SmartHub? Yes, it’s another online account (or app) with yet another password, but it has a myriad of features (which needs a whole other newsletter article!). Payment-wise, it’s a workhorse! With SmartHub, you can sign-up for auto-pay, whereby your account is automatically paid on the due date or you can schedule multiple automatic payments. For example, let’s say you are paid on a weekly basis, and you want \$75 or so to go towards your energy bill before you spend it on something else. You can do that! A super-smart way to go for those of you on pre-pay!

Give us a holler if you have any questions on the various payment options we offer!





HAPPY

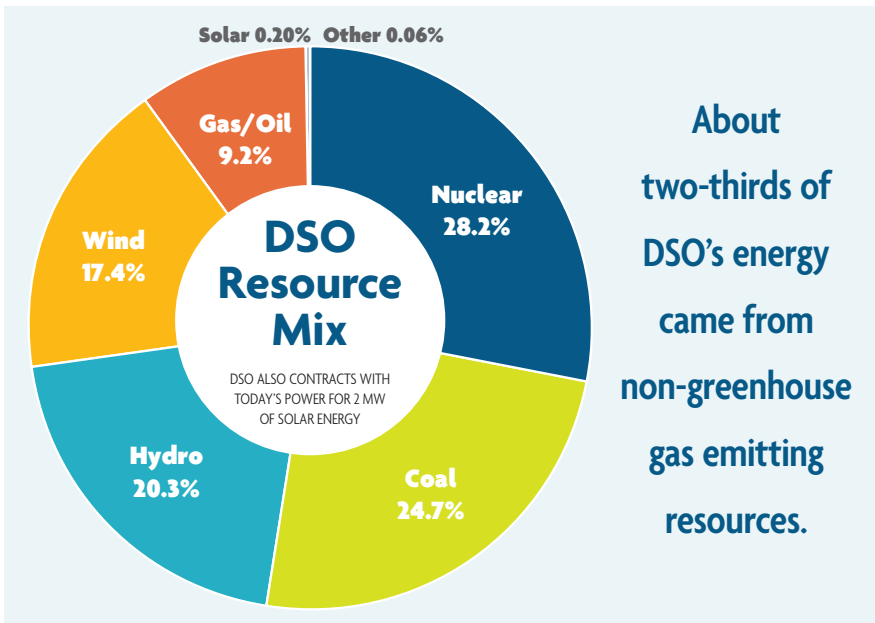
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4TH OF JULY

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INDEPENDENCE DAY

Our office will be closed on Monday, July 4, for the holiday.



About two-thirds of DSO’s energy came from non-greenhouse gas emitting resources.

Demand Information Returning to Your Bill

Current Service Detail		
Power Cost Adjustment	558 kWh @ 0.022836	\$12.74
KWH Charge-Off Peak	558 kWh @ 0.095000	\$53.01
Demand	224 kW	\$0.00
Availability Charge		\$41.75
Dickinson County Tax		\$1.61
Total Current Charges for this Location		\$109.11

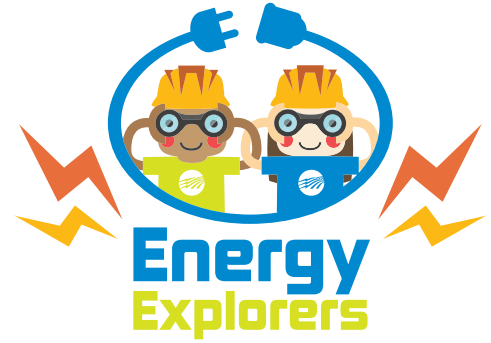
Our bill processor was not able to show demand on residential bills, as we had planned for June. Look for the demand information to show up on your bill in early July.

COOPERATIVE FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

As a member of an electric cooperative (also known as a co-op), you're part of something special!

Read the facts about co-ops below and use the word bank to fill in the blanks.

Check your work in the answer key.



Co-ops don't have customers. Instead, they have _____.

Co-ops are local organizations and businesses, so they understand the local _____ they serve.

All co-ops are guided by the same set of cooperative _____.

_____ are led by the members they serve.

You're a member of an _____ co-op, but there are also housing, grocery and other types of co-ops.

Word Bank:

Electric
Principles
Members
Communities
Co-ops

Answer Key: 1) members 2) communities 3) principles 4) co-ops 5) electric