

RURAL MISSOURI

BCEC Ground Source

the official newsletter of Barton County Electric Cooperative

December 2016



CEO/GM NEWS

CEO/General Manager Russell McCorkle

Rate Structures Choices... Research has begun

Rate Structure Research

Your BCEC board of directors always look at the way we charge members for electricity vs. how BCEC pays for the same electricity. Currently our residential rate structure consists of service availability and kWh charges. There are other rate structures such as time of use and a three part rates (service availability, kWh and demand). As your board of directors research the possibility of a different rate structure they will take into consideration what is right for the membership and the result may include any or all types of these rates structures. If and when your board chooses a rate structure that includes something new such as demand or time of use, our responsibility as employees and staff would be to educate each member on the difference in the new rate and how it would affect you. As we continue this journey, I plan to communicate each month what different rate structures are and what they mean to our members. I will begin this month with demand.

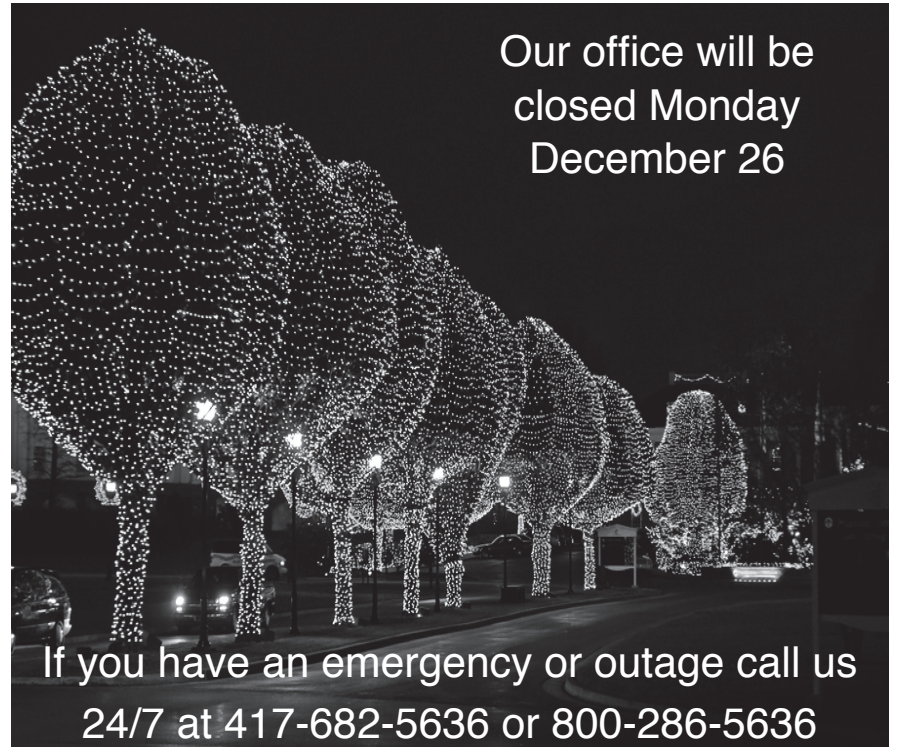
What is Demand?

Electric demand refers to the maximum amount of electrical power that is being consumed at a given time, opposed to energy, which is the amount of power used over a period of time. For example, if you use a clothes washing machine that requires, or demands 1,000 watts of energy for 2-hours you have consumed 2,000 watt-hours or 2 kilowatt-hours of energy. Using multiple appliances at the same time increases your demand. Let's say you are using your dishwasher at the same time as your clothes washer and your dishwasher requires, or demands an additional 1,000 watts of energy. This would double your demand requirement in that same period of time. You can choose to lower your demand by choosing when you use certain appliances, thus giving you control of your demand charge.

How Could I Lower My Bill with a Demand Charge?

In many cases where demand is part of an electric bill, members can lower their peak demand by not running multiple appliances at the same time. For example, your peak demand in the summer could be when your air conditioner has to work the hardest, from 3-6 p.m. Choosing another time to operate other appliances such as your dishwasher, clothes washer and dryer would help lower your demand charge on your bill.

Again, your board of directors have not made any decisions about future rate structures, but I want to be sure members are informed of trends in the industry. Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year!



Our office will be
closed Monday
December 26

If you have an emergency or outage call us
24/7 at 417-682-5636 or 800-286-5636



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Merry Christmas from our families to yours

Brennon Bass

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Rusty Endicott

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Sharla Wilkerson

Dave Engelage

Kenny Morris

Travis Willhite

Larry Fanning

Darwin Norem

Brent Willhite

Dennis Gariss

Bobby Pulliam

Andy Wolf

Jeff Hull

Shawna Phipps

Chuck Wolfe

Charlie Lathrop

Cheryl Rawlings

Tara Littlejohn

Christy Rice

Cole Lollar

Tim Riley

Patrick Marriott

Eric Snodgrass

Andy Marti

Todd Suschnick

**Why Does The Power Blink?**

At one time or another, we've all returned home or woken up late for work to see a blinking "12:00" on our digital alarm clock. You then have to reset every digital clock in your household that doesn't have a battery backup, from the microwave oven to the answering machine. Usually, this state of "eternal midnight" was caused by a "blink" in the electrical system.

While blinks can be annoying, they show that an electrical system is working exactly as designed. And while Barton County Electric has taken steps to reduce the number of blinks across its power system, there are measures you can take as well. Let's look at blinks. These momentary power interruptions can occur anywhere along a power system—from the time electrons are generated at a power plant to being shipped across transmission line to substations, or during distribution from a substation to your home.

Why Blinks?

Blinks are created when a breaker, or switch, opens along any portion of the power system. The breaker usually opens because of a large, quick rise of electrical current. This large rise, called a fault condition, can occur when a tree branch touches a line, lightning strikes, or a wire breaks.

When this happens, a relay senses the fault and tells the breaker to open, preventing the flow of power to the problem site. After opening, the breaker quickly closes. The brief delay, which allows the fault to clear, usually lasts less than two seconds.

If the fault clears, every home or business that receives electricity off that power line has just experienced a blink. This could include thousands of accounts if the breaker protects a transmission line or a substation.

Reducing the Blink's Effects

Your co-op employs methods to reduce blink frequency. Tree trimming is probably the easiest and most common way, and one area where you can help. Make sure your co-op knows of any trees or limbs located close to a power line. Call us to report trees or limbs in or near our power lines.

Meanwhile, you can reduce the frustration of blinks by purchasing an alarm clock equipped with a battery backup. This type of digital clock offers "ride through" ability for momentary outages.

It will also keep the correct time and sound an alarm in case of a long-duration outage, provided a charged battery is in place. As an added benefit, these devices only use the battery in the event of a power interruption.

Blinks affect all electrical equipment, not just digital clocks. If there is a blink while you are operating a computer, your computer may crash and you will have to reboot, hoping all the while that there will be few corrupted files.

An uninterruptible power supply (UPS) on your computer can help prevent information loss. The UPS incorporates surge suppression technology with a battery backup and provides you some time to save whatever you were working on and exit your computer properly.

The Future of Blinks

Barton County Electric operates an active system maintenance program and works hard to identify and fix sources of service interruptions. Even though blinks will never disappear from our electrical energy delivery system, by working together with members, we can minimize effects of the interruptions and the frequency with which they occur.

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

Call 417.682.5636 or 800.286.5636

24 hours a day

Before you call:

- Check breaker(s) in your home and below your meter
- Check with your neighbors to verify they have power
- To better serve you when you do call please have the following information ready:
 - Name on the account you are reporting
 - Your six-digit BCEC location number

Bill Payment Options**1. The Office**

You are always welcome to stop by the office located 1 mile west of Lamar at 91 West 160 Highway
Office Hours: Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

2. Drive-up Drop Box

located at our office
available 24 hours a day

3. On-Line Bill Pay

available 24 hours a day at
www.bartonelectric.com

4. By Mailing To:

Barton County Electric Cooperative
91 West Highway 160
Lamar, MO 64759

5. Auto Pay

from your checking or savings account
or with your debit/credit card

6. By Phone

Using your debit or credit card
Monday thru Friday 8am to 5pm
417-682-5636 / 800-286-5636

7. Prepay

Call or stop by to learn more
about how you can prepay
for your electricity

Your Directors

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Karl Morey
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David Stump
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Max Walters

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