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4 RIVERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

# CURRENTS

# 4 RIVERS

Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## 4 RIVERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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**4 Rivers Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer and provider.**

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## FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

# Upcoming Rate Hearing on Parallel Generation and Net Metering Riders



Dennis Svanes

In conjunction with the August board meeting, we are holding a rate hearing concerning our Parallel Generation Rider and Net Metering Rider tariffs.

You might be wondering “wasn’t this just addressed?” and the answer, in part, is yes.

During its last session, the State of Kansas modified the statute regarding parallel generation and net metering for utilities that have a net metering tariff. While 4 Rivers isn’t mandated to offer

net metering, our regulatory body, the 4 Rivers Board of Trustees, has chosen to implement a Net Metering Rider.

**IT’S IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THE PROPOSED CHANGES DON’T AFFECT MEMBERS CURRENTLY ON THE NET METERING RIDER TARIFF.** The proposed adjustments apply only to new services opting for net metering or parallel generation. Although we currently have no customers on the Parallel Generation Rider, we are required to ensure our tariff complies with the law.

## UNDERSTANDING NET METERING AND PARALLEL GENERATION

Let’s clarify the distinction between net metering and parallel generation. Both

*Continued on page 12B ►*

## NOTICE OF RATE HEARING

### CHANGES IN NET METERING AND PARALLEL GENERATION RIDERS

The 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees will hold an open hearing on modifications to be discussed and voted on relating to two tariffs: (1) Parallel Generation Rider and (2) Net Metering Rider. This hearing is at 6 p.m., Aug. 18, 2025, in conjunction with the regularly scheduled board of trustees meeting at 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative, Inc., 9346 Jewell Road in Fredonia, Kansas.

In alignment with Kansas House Bill 2149, the proposed changes to both the Parallel Generation and Net Metering riders include an adjustment to the formula for appropriately sizing a system and a graduated adjustment to the allowed generation based on the cooperative’s historic peak demand. For parallel generation, the rider includes an adjustment to compensation for overgeneration in accordance with the state statute.

Members have the right under K.S.A. 66-104d(g) to request Kansas Corporation Commission review of any rate change. The proposed rates can be found at [www.4riverselectric.com](http://www.4riverselectric.com).

PHOTO ABOVE SHOWCASES A PASTORAL BARNYARD IN WILSON COUNTY, PHOTOGRAPHED BY CO-OP MEMBER KIRA FRANKENBERY OF RURAL FREDONIA.



## Quarter Quest UPDATE

We're proud to continue our partnership with Kansas Food Bank to provide week-end food packets to children in our service area who face food insecurity. Each Friday during the school year, "open and eat" meals are discreetly placed in students' backpacks, often the only food they receive until Monday. These small bundles make a big impact, helping students return to class ready to learn and succeed. During the 2024-2025 school year, an average of 843 kids were served in our schools. Overall, Kansas Food Bank served just over 6,500 kids each week last year.

Both national and Kansas data show a clear upward trend in child hunger since 2021, driven by rising food costs and the expiration of programs like universal free school meals. Nationally, child hunger rates have increased, and we're seeing that same troubling pattern here in Kansas. Just a short time ago, child hunger affected 1 in 7 Kansas children. Today, that number has grown to 1 in 5.

Kansas Food Bank's backpack program, now in its 20th year, has shown remarkable results: better grades, improved behavior, fewer developmental delays and stronger school attendance.

In 2024, your donations to Quarter Quest totaled \$1,879.55. Thank you to all who said "YES" to supporting our community's most vulnerable kids. If every member gave just 25 cents a month, we could help ensure that no child goes hungry over the weekend.

4 Rivers offers several ways to authorize a Quarter Quest donation. Enroll on the SmartHub app or simply check "YES" on your payment stub if you would like to make a monthly recurring donation, round up to the next dollar or make a one-time donation. You can also call us at 620-364-2116 and ask to add a donation to your next statement.

Remember — the most essential school supply — is food.

## Upcoming Rate Hearing ... *Continued from page 12A*

involve similar system setups, but their billing mechanisms differ significantly.

With net metering, our system essentially acts as a virtual bank. We track the energy you push onto our grid and then deduct it from your usage each month. However, the energy is often generated when our costs are lowest and then consumed when costs increase.

In contrast, with parallel generation, we purchase the energy you feed into our system and sell energy to you as you use it. While not a perfect system, this method provides a much more accurate reflection of costs.

The recently enacted legislation has altered the sizing of new systems,

the maximum allowable amount of distributed generation (including net metering) on our system, and the value of generated energy under parallel generation. Our proposed tariff changes are designed to comply with these updated statutes, streamline existing language, and standardize definitions across both tariffs.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the proposed tariffs, or if you're interested in attending the hearing, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Later this month, school will be starting. Make sure to be safe around the school buses!



Kaylee Mason

### WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEE

**KAYLEE MASON** joined the 4 Rivers team on June 30 as our newest customer service representative. Mason brings valuable experience in customer service and will be a great asset to our members and team alike. She lives in Fredonia with her family and will be serving members from our Fredonia office. Welcome, Kaylee!

### SAFETY TIP

August is Back-to-School Safety Month, so let's remember to play it safe as we begin a new school year. A friendly reminder to slow down as you drive through residential areas and school zones.



### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Replace your cooling system's filter regularly to maintain strong airflow and boost energy efficiency. A clean filter means your system doesn't have to work as hard, saving energy and lowering your utility bills. Factors like allergies and pets in the home can impact how often filters should be replaced. Check the filter every month and replace it as needed. Changing filters regularly also reduces wear and tear on your cooling system, helping extend the life of the unit. **SOURCE: WWW.ENERGY.GOV**



## 4 Rivers Sponsors Trip of a Lifetime to Nation's Capital

Rising juniors, **KALEB ARNOLD**, Olpe High School, and **LONDON PETITJEAN**, Osage City High School, recently represented 4 Rivers at the 2025 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., held June 14-20. This once-in-a-lifetime experience brought together 31 outstanding student representatives — 27 from Kansas and four from Hawaii — for a week of deepened understanding of America's electric cooperatives, leadership development, education, and connection with peers from across the cooperative network.

Students were selected through a competitive application process that included essay questions and an interview evaluating leadership qualities and community involvement.

The Youth Tour kicked off in Topeka with a welcome dinner and icebreakers, followed by an exclusive night tour of the Kansas State Capitol led by State Treasurer Steven Johnson and Kansas Representative Kyle Hoffman, both proud alumni of the Youth Tour program.

In the nation's capital, students explored iconic landmarks including the U.S. Capitol, Arlington National Cemetery, and The People's House — A White House Experience, along with numerous monuments and memorials. Visits to the Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Smithsonian museums offered powerful insights into history and culture.

During the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) National Youth Day on June 19, students were inspired by a dynamic lineup of speakers, including NRECA CEO Jim Matheson, Olympic medalist Mike Schlappi, and Maggie Martin, the 2025 National Youth Leadership Council spokesperson.

The Kansas and Hawaii delegations also joined peers from Colorado and Wyoming for an engaging leadership workshop led by nationally renowned youth leadership expert Craig Hillier.

Students also met with U.S. Senator Roger Marshall and Jason Morganti, a legislative assistant for Congressman Ron Estes. The students came prepared with thoughtful questions on a range of topics that mattered to them, gaining



Delegates from Kansas and Hawaii pose in front of the White House during the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

firsthand insight into the legislative process and the role of elected officials.

Beyond the educational highlights, students forged lasting friendships with peers from across the country — trading state pins and enjoying a scenic dinner cruise on the Potomac River.

"This has been a trip of a lifetime, and I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity," said Arnold. "I was inspired by the speakers that we heard, especially in the nationwide conference. Mike Schlappi's story and the way he conveyed it was truly inspiring. I will always remember seeing the sights of D.C., exploring landmarks, and making tons of new friends. Thank you for this opportunity."

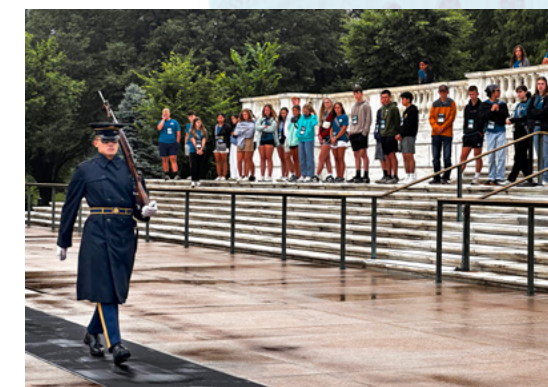
At the conclusion of the conference, Dominic Hernandez, sponsored by Midwest Energy, Hays, was elected by his peers as the 2026 Kansas representative to the NRECA Youth Leadership Council. Alongside 43 other student leaders from across the country, Hernandez will assist at PowerXchange, NRECA's Annual Meeting, to be held in Nashville, Tennessee, in March 2026.

To learn more about the Youth Tour or other 4 Rivers youth programs, contact April Engstrom, manager of member services, at 620-364-2116.

**LEFT:** Kaleb Arnold (left) and Landon Petitjean represented 4 Rivers at Electric Cooperative during Youth Tour.



**RIGHT:** Students explored iconic landmarks like the U.S. Capitol, Arlington Cemetery, and the White House, while also visiting the Holocaust Memorial Museum and Smithsonian museums for a deeper understanding of history and culture.





## Understanding the Power Behind Your Power

### Behind the Fence: How Substations Power Our Lives

Electric substations play a vital role in delivering reliable power to homes, farms and businesses across our region. They're part of the system that generates, transmits and distributes electricity. Inside a substation, equipment like transformers work to change electricity from high voltage to low voltage — or the other way around — so electricity can safely travel long distances and be used in your home.

Substations also contain switches, control systems and circuit breakers to protect the electrical system. These breakers are designed to shut off power if there's a short circuit or overload, helping to prevent bigger problems like fires or equipment damage.

Because of powerful electrical currents and close spacing of equipment, substations are enclosed by fencing to protect the public from harm. It's important to remember: never enter a substation, touch the fence or attempt to retrieve anything from inside. Only trained and authorized personnel should ever go near this equipment.

#### BE ALERT, STAY SAFE

You can help protect your community by being aware of unusual activity around substations or utility equipment. Here's what to look for:

- ▶ Individuals near substations who do not appear to be wearing protective gear or have no visible utility identification.
- ▶ Unmarked vehicles or suspi-

cious-looking trucks near electrical equipment.

- ▶ Open or damaged gates or fences, signs of equipment damage, smoke, or people inside the fenced area who aren't utility workers.

If you see something concerning:

- ▶ Call 911 immediately.
- ▶ Then call the substation's utility company, if known, to report the activity. The company name and phone number is located on signage outside the fence.

Do not approach or try to handle the situation yourself. Stay clear to help ensure your safety and the safety of others.

#### SPECIAL NOTE FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

We rely on our local first responders to help during emergencies, but when electricity is involved, extra caution is critical. Firefighters, EMTs and law enforcement should always wait for the all-clear from 4 Rivers Electric before approaching:

- ▶ A substation fire.
- ▶ Downed lines or poles.
- ▶ Equipment damaged by storms, accidents or vandalism.

We're available 24/7 to respond to electrical hazards and assist in making the scene safe.

#### TIPS FOR FAMILIES

Keep in mind these important reminders for parents and caregivers:

- ▶ Never enter or go near a substation for any reason.
- ▶ Teach kids never to climb a substation fence to retrieve a ball, toy or pet. Instead, call the utility company, and they'll respond safely.
- ▶ Talk to children early about the dangers of electricity and how to stay safe around utility equipment.
- ▶ Never try to extinguish a substation fire or a burning transformer — call 911 to report it immediately.

#### HOW 4 RIVERS MAINTAINS ITS SUBSTATIONS

At 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative, we inspect and maintain our substations to ensure safe, reliable operation. Our crew performs routine checks, thermal assessment, testing of protective devices and cleaning to prevent failures or outages. We also respond quickly to signs of damage, wear or potential issues before they become bigger problems. This ongoing maintenance is one of the ways we deliver safe, consistent power to our members.

#### NEED HELP OR WANT TO LEARN MORE?

If you'd like to learn more about substations, transformers or electrical safety, or if you'd like us to speak to your school, organization or group, call our member services team at 620-364-2116.

You can also find helpful safety information at [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org).