

Northern District  
2731 Milo Terr.  
Lebo, KS 66856

Southern District  
9346 Jewell Rd.  
Fredonia, KS 66736

Payment Center  
2501 W. 18th Ave., Ste. B  
Emporia, KS 66801

# 4 RIVERS

## Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

## 4 RIVERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# CURRENTS

### 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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President

**Robert Converse**  
Vice-President

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#### Staff

**Dennis Svanes**  
General Manager/CEO

**Mark Doebele**  
Assistant General Manager/COO

**Dennis Duft**  
Manager of Operations

**Roger Cole**  
CFO

**Ken Caudell**  
Manager of Member and Corporate Services

### FROM THE MANAGER

## Cooperative Update

COVID-19 has affected many lives and livelihoods very negatively. 4 Rivers is not immune to the impact. Last month, we had an employee test positive for the virus. While they were recovering in quarantine at home, we closed the Lebo/BETO office as a precautionary measure to ensure the virus was contained. While the pandemic has proved to be a challenge, the safety of our employees and members will continue to be a top priority.

The pandemic has negatively affected the co-op's financial position. Our small commercial sales are down 10% compared to last year. Additionally, our total sales are down 9% compared to the proposed budget. Fortunately, the consolidation was in place prior to the pandemic.

Consolidation cost-savings have helped buffer our margins, but budgeted margins are thin. Reduced sales have us considering alternative ways to ensure we can continue to meet financial obligations. We applied and were

approved for funds from the Small Business Administration's Payroll Protection Program. We plan on applying to make this loan permanent due to the negative impact of the pandemic.

Since we cannot predict how long this reduction in sales will continue, we are looking at ways to lower expenses without impacting power quality and safety. As a not-for-profit cooperative, most of our expenses are fixed, and we operate on minimal margins. We have been discussing our rate structures and looking at a cost-of-service study. Our goal is to avert a rate increase for as long as possible, but we know rate restructuring is inevitable and likely will come sooner than initially expected because of the pandemic. My staff and I are working closely with your board of trustees to make sure 4 Rivers remains financially solid and that rates continue to be affordable for our membership.



Dennis Svanes



# Duft Retiring After 43 Years of Service



Dennis Duft

4 Rivers' Manager of Operations **DENNIS DUFT** has announced he will retire Oct. 3, 2020, concluding 43 years of service to our cooperative.

Duft started his career with the cooperative on Oct. 3, 1977, when he was hired as a second-year apprentice for Radiant Electric. In 1995, Duft began serving as the cooperative's Operations Manager and representing Radiant on the Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) board where he served until the co-op's consolidation.

Duft is a second-generation cooperative lineman in two ways. In the traditional sense, he grew up as a co-op lineman's son, helping answer the co-op phone that tied-in to their home and riding along with his dad when he was called out on after-hours outages. In the industry sense, he is a part of the second generation of cooperative operations — a bridge between the REA co-op pioneers and the current generation of co-op innovators. He has seen the grit and ingenuity of the pioneers who organized and built the infrastructure and relationships that provide the foundation for our cooperative today. He witnessed advancements of tools and technology that make linework and

power distribution safer and more reliable. These experiences shaped him as a lineman, manager, leader and valued colleague for many in Kansas' electric cooperative network.

"Dennis will certainly be missed; he is widely respected throughout the state, and his knowledge of the members and the system is unmatched," Dennis Svanes, general manager, said. "We wish him well in the future and appreciate his contributions to the cooperative."

After retirement, Duft looks forward to spending more time on the golf course and having more time to tend to his garden and other outdoor projects. A heartfelt thank you to Dennis for his dedication to the cooperative and community for the past 43 years!

## Check Your Contact Info



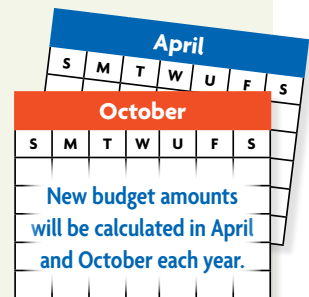
Please check the contact phone number listed on your electric bill to confirm we have accurate contact information. Many members have disconnected their home telephone and only use their mobile. If you notice that your listed phone number is not accurate, please call us at 620-364-2116 or visit your account via SmartHub at [www.4riverselectric.com](http://www.4riverselectric.com) to update your contact information.

## Budget Billing Update

Members enrolled in budget billing will receive their updated budget amounts this month. This amount was also noted on the bills issued in August.

Going forward, we will adjust the budget bill accounts twice a year and will no longer have a catch-up month.

The new budget amounts will be calculated in April and October, to be reflected on bills issued in May and November. If you are interested in signing up for budget billing, give one of our member service representatives a call at 620-364-2116.



## Receiving Multiple Bills for Multiple Accounts?



Save time and paper by letting us know you would like your accounts added to an invoice group and receive one statement with each account itemized. Available for electronic or standard paper billing.

# 'Standby' Me: Installing a Backup Generator

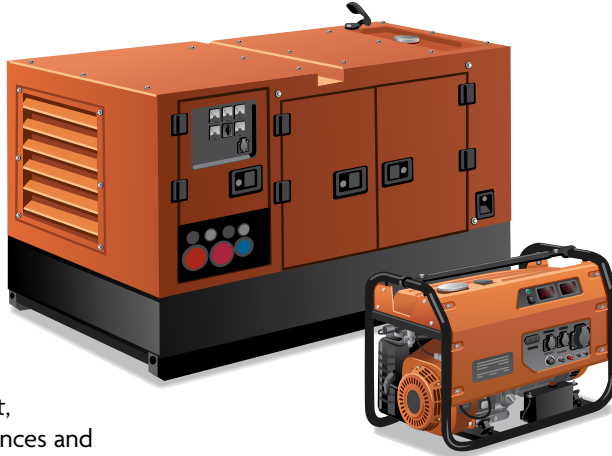
Many businesses and massive buildings rely on standby power when the power goes out — for the safety of their employees and customers and to power essential items.

More and more home generators are being installed so families can have backup power when they need it, whether to power appliances and essential medical equipment or simply for convenience.

There is more than one type of permanent generator. One has a transfer switch that must be manually “thrown” before turning on the alternate source of power, which is wired into a house. This type of generator is permanent but not considered “standby” because of the manual switch, and it should not be located near a home. **ALWAYS CONSULT A PROFESSIONAL ELECTRICIAN WHEN INSTALLING OR MAINTAINING A PERMANENT GENERATOR.** Not throwing the switch can result in backfeeding, which sends electricity back into power lines and can seriously injure or kill electric lineworkers or others working to restore power.

Another type of fixed generator is permanently housed in a metal box and is usually located close to the house. It is the most expensive permanent generator — a standby version that is permanently and professionally installed to power most of the appliances in your home.

When needed, a standby generator automatically transfers the power source from the electric grid to the generator. The cost of this type of permanent generator varies depending on



how much backup power you want.

Besides the cost of the system, there are also installation costs to consider since it will need to be installed by licensed and bonded contractors. This is not a DIY project! Fixr.com estimates the national average installation cost between \$4,500 and \$9,000, which does not include the price of the unit.

When considering a standby generator, a representative from the supplier you select will assess your home's energy needs and should ask you what you would like to power in the event of an outage. Other required steps include preparing a site near your current electrical meter and pouring a concrete pad.

The contractor(s) will install a new subpanel and automatic transfer switch. Your generator supplier should also create a detailed plan of which appliances and electronics should not be supplied with power during an outage since the generator's power supply can fluctuate and possibly damage sensitive items.

To inquire about how permanent generators should be safely used and installed, contact 4 Rivers Electric at 620-364-2116.

## 4 RIVERS BY THE NUMBERS

**CURRENT MEMBERS**  
7,418

**ACTIVE SERVICES**  
12,378

**MILES OF LINE**  
3,802 DISTRIBUTION  
47 TRANSMISSION

**ACCOUNTS PER MILE OF LINE**  
3.2

**SERVICE AREA**  
4,460 SQUARE MILES

**COUNTIES WE SERVE**  
16

**PEAK SYSTEM LOAD**  
34.128 MW

**POWER SUPPLIER**  
KANSAS ELECTRIC POWER  
COOPERATIVE, INC. (KEPCo)

**ENERGY SOURCES**  
WIND, SOLAR, HYDRO,  
COAL, GAS, NUCLEAR

**NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES**  
45

**NUMBER OF LINeworkERS**  
22

**POUNDS OF PERSONAL  
PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT PER  
LINEMAN**  
10-12

**POUNDS OF CLIMBING GEAR PER  
LINEMAN**  
30-35

**COMMITMENT TO  
OUR MEMBERS**

**100%**

## Saving Money in the Laundry Room

A washer and dryer inside the home is a luxury many enjoy. There's no waiting for a machine, no coin slots, and no one taking out a wet load from the washer if you aren't there when the cycle ends.

Although it's cheaper per load and much more convenient to do laundry at home, there's a somewhat hidden cost to consider, and that's the energy it takes to run your washer and dryer.

What appliances in your home use the most energy? The water heater costs the most to run. Right behind it is the washer and dryer's combined energy use. (Although not considered appliances by many, heating/cooling tops the list, followed by the water heater.)

A dryer requires more energy to run than a washer, but there are ways to reduce your washing costs, too (think hot water versus cold). To save money in your laundry room, consider these tips:

- ▶ Select the right amount of water for the wash load — that is, don't select the “extra-large” setting when doing a small load. In fact, consider waiting to do laundry until you have full loads to conserve water.
- ▶ Use cold water to save the money you would spend heating water. Some laundry detergents are designed to tackle stains in cold water.
- ▶ Choose warm water instead of hot to cut a load's energy use in half, and using cold water will save even more, according to energy.gov.
- ▶ Use dryer balls, which help separate clothes and get more air to them, cutting drying time.
- ▶ Dry at lower settings. Even if your dryer runs longer, you'll use less energy and be less likely to over-dry your clothes.
- ▶ Clean the lint out of your dryer between loads and scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.
- ▶ Put like items together since lighter-weight clothes take less time to dry. Drying towels and heavier cottons take longer.
- ▶ Use the moisture sensor option on your dryer if it has one.
- ▶ Take a clue from your teenage son and wear clothes more than once between laundering them (although don't wait until your jeans can stand by themselves).
- ▶ Consider an Energy Star® version when purchasing a dryer, which uses 20% less energy than a conventional model.
- ▶ Energy Star-certified washers use about 33% less water than regular clothes washers.
- ▶ Thoroughly clean your dryer's vents and duct system at least twice a year.

To learn more about how much you are spending to run your washer and dryer each year, refer to energy.gov's appliance energy use calculator.



About **90% OF THE ENERGY** used by washing machines goes to heating the water.

**SAVE ON ENERGY COSTS** by using cold or warm water.

Source: *energystar.gov*

## FARM SAFETY POWER LINE AWARENESS

Make sure everyone is trained in safe practices around electricity. Use these safety tips for you, your employees, seasonal workers, family members, and anyone else accessing your farm.

- ▶ Keep equipment at least 20 feet from lines — at all times, in all directions.
- ▶ Know all power line locations on your farm and routes between fields.
- ▶ Always use a spotter when moving equipment near power lines.
- ▶ Don't completely rely on autosteer or GPS to detect and clear power lines or poles.
- ▶ Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- ▶ If a power line is sagging or low, contact your local electric cooperative.

If your equipment does hit a power line, pole or guy wire, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

