

Understanding the importance of voluntary curtailment

Last winter, in the days leading up to Christmas, much of the country found itself in a significant polar vortex that had not been encountered in several years. Because of Winter Storm Elliott, many of us in Kentucky saw subzero temperatures for consecutive days with little relief. Numerous factors greatly increased the challenges associated with the constant supply of electricity. These included timing during the holiday season, rapid decline in temperatures and windchill, electric loads that were significantly higher than forecasts and unanticipated lack of availability of natural gas.

Some of you may recall Nolin sent out social media messaging encouraging our members to take all reasonable energy conservation measures during this time. This was met with a mixed response, but I want to take time now to explain why we made that request, why we may need to do it again in the future and, I hope, help you understand why it should be important to all of us.

The request we made to you last winter to conserve energy is known as voluntary curtailment. This is a request that you help limit total system power requirements, or demand. Some larger industrial operations can be subject to mandatory curtailments as a function of contractual terms.

You may remember several parts of the country encountered rolling blackouts during Winter Storm Elliott, and that places like Texas and California also en-

countered this fate in other recent severe weather events. This occurs when the power demand is greater than the supply. The rolling blackout is an action utilities can take in response to emergency circumstances to prevent system damage, brown-out conditions—or, even worse, much larger and much longer blackout conditions. The rolling blackout is designed to cut power supply to certain segments of the system for short durations (about one hour) while others stay on. This pattern then “rolls” from one part of the system to another so no one is impacted for too long. Though this is very inconvenient for all parties involved, the goal is to keep everyone as comfortable as possible during extreme temperatures. Last December, we asked you to voluntarily conserve because there was legitimate concern that parts of Kentucky might have been within hours of facing rolling blackouts.

The good news is that, from an electrical standpoint, Nolin RECC members sit in a very resilient position relative to the national grid. Starting locally, from your home to our substations, we have one of the most rugged and reliable distribution systems in the country. Our biggest challenge is controlling nuisance vegetation—which we are working hard to manage every day. East Kentucky Power Cooperative (Nolin’s power supplier) has a robust transmission system with diverse generation assets. It is consistent in providing high service availability time and prompt response to outage circumstances. EKPC

is a member of PJM, a regional transmission organization, which coordinates the distribution of wholesale electricity from hundreds of generation assets across 13 states in the mid-Atlantic and midwestern part of the country. As a member of PJM, EKPC can tap into the extensive generation and transmission network PJM offers. This gives EKPC dramatically increased reliability, resiliency and economics, while the generation assets it owns and operates here in Kentucky provide all of us a failsafe in the most challenging reliability and economic circumstances. Due to the collective performance of Nolin RECC, EKPC, and PJM, Nolin members are exceptionally well positioned, even relative to some of our close neighbors, to maintain service in drastic weather events.

Though we are well positioned, we cannot rest on that sentiment as a guarantee. One reason I share this now is because we typically see the highest demand on our system during the winter. So, when we ask you to conserve energy, we really mean it, and we really need your help. The

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by Greg Lee



From the
President/CEO

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



SARAH FELLOWS

Wide Open Utility Service Equipment Operator Chris Schmittou—2 years of service



SARAH FELLOWS

Senior Line Technician Shad Ray—2 years of service

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amount of notice we can give will vary based on conditions outside of our control. We will communicate this request in every way we have available to us including local media, our social media channels and website, and text/email alerts directly to our members.

Though we cannot predict the likelihood, it is possible we will all have to endure short term inconveniences to avoid a much longer service disruption. We can wait to wash and dry our clothes

and dishes. We can charge our EV or take a hot shower later. And we can all get by with the thermostat at 66 (winter) or 76 (summer) for a little while even if we prefer it at 72. When we ask you to curtail, please consider what actions you can take to help your neighbor until we can weather the storm.

More information about ways you can conserve can be found at www.nolinrecc.com.



Saving energy can save you money this winter

Conserving electricity doesn't just help the electric grid when demand is high—it can also help you save money on your bill. Here are some ways to reduce the amount of energy you use this winter:

1. Seal gaps in your walls around windows, doors and holes in exterior walls where cords and cables enter the house.
2. Lower the temperature in your home. Even 2 degrees can make a difference.
3. Install a programmable thermostat and use the "eco" setting. Check out our SimpleSaver program—it can save you even more if you are eligible!
4. Set the direction of your ceiling fans to clockwise to push warm air back down into the room.
5. Replace or clean the filters in your HVAC system.
6. Have your HVAC serviced and repair any problems.
7. Avoid using space heaters. Space heaters use a deceptively large amount of energy. Just one 1500W space heater running continuously for 30 days can contribute more than \$100 to a bill!

We may not be able to stop the low temperatures outside, but we CAN take steps to reduce the energy we use while keeping our homes comfortable this winter.

October is National Co-op Month

We are celebrating National Co-op Month by giving back to our members!

Any member who signs up during the month of October for a FREE **SmartHub** account, or is already signed up, will be placed in a drawing to win a \$50 cash prize!

SmartHub is a tool to keep track of your usage, pay your bill, report an outage or switch to paperless billing and more. It's quick and easy to sign up for SmartHub—you just need your Nolin account number and a valid email address. You can use SmartHub through the free mobile app or at www.nolinrecc.com.

If you need help signing up for SmartHub, check out the “how to” video on our YouTube channel. There will be 20 cash prize winners drawn from eligible members on or around Nov. 1. Only one winner per membership.



SERGE/ADOBE STOCK

We need your voice

One core principle of cooperatives is democratic member control. In addition to yearly director elections, we live this principle through our Member Advisory Council. The MAC is made up of interested Nolin members around our service area.

If you are interested in learning more about your cooperative and serving on the MAC, fill out the form below and mail it to Nolin RECC, Member Advisory Council, 411 Ring Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701, or call (270) 765-6153. Our next meeting is Oct. 23, 2023. Please contact us if you wish to attend.



The Brashear family attended the spring MAC meeting.
Photo: Sarah Fellows

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Acct. No. _____

Why do you want to be a member of the Advisory Council?

How to reach Nolin RECC

ELIZABETHTOWN OFFICE

411 Ring Road | Elizabethtown, KY 42701
8 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon-Fri | (270) 765-6153

RADCLIFF OFFICE

101 West Lincoln Trail Blvd.
Radcliff, KY 40160
8 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon-Fri

TOLL-FREE BUSINESS CALLS

1-888-637-4247

PAY DIRECT BY PHONE TOLL FREE

1-855-938-3651

FOR EMERGENCIES

(270) 765-6153

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Email: Comments@NolinRECC.com

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Download our SmartHub App



Annual Ronald McDonald House drive a success

Ronald McDonald House in Louisville is a place where families can stay when they have a child receiving care at one of the nearby hospitals. These families may stay for a few days or much longer. During this difficult time, the Ronald McDonald House provides a “home away from home” for them.

Nolin RECC hosted its annual donation drive benefitting Ronald McDonald House in July, and our members and employees rose to the challenge. Together, you donated more than \$1,000 worth of cleaning supplies, food items and other essentials to support



SARAH FELLOWS

families staying at the house. As a co-op family, we know firsthand how important the work of Ronald McDonald House is, and we are thankful for your support.



What is the Fuel Adjustment Clause?

Find information about the FAC and other items on your bill at <https://nolinrecc.com/understanding-your-bill>

LORI LADGEBE STOCK



J.J. BROWN

Right-of-way work schedule

In an effort to keep our members informed, we provide a list of where our right-of-way crews plan to work each month. This information is subject to change.

October 2023: Roanoke Substation, River Road, Lafollette Road, Peake Hollow Road.

Free wood chips are available, call (270) 600-2714 for details.