

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* December 2024 NEWS



Price Electric
Cooperative

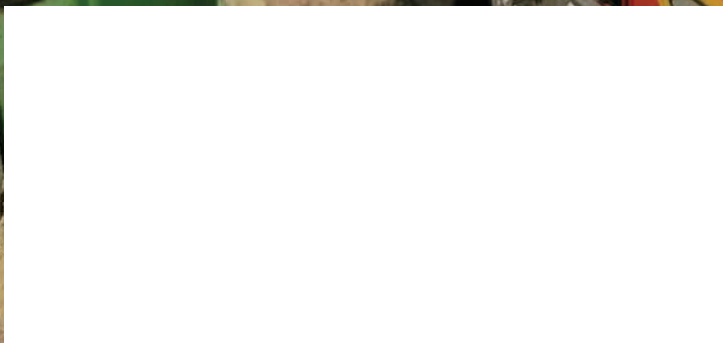
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

THESE ARE A FEW OF
MY FAVORITE THINGS

**SURGE OF SUPPORT
FOR LIGHT UP NAVAJO!**

BE AN ENERGY STAR

**BEST OF 2024
KIDS AND CRITTERS**



UNDERSTANDING POWER INTERRUPTIONS

Do you ever wonder why the power goes out when there is no rain, wind, snow, or other obvious reason? Members often inquire why their lights blink; when the power goes off for a few seconds, then comes back on. This may be very frustrating, as you have to reset clocks and other electronic devices. To understand why the power blinks, you must understand a little bit about the electric distribution system.

PEC's distribution power lines are equipped with oil circuit reclosers (OCR's), which are automatic high-voltage switches that act like circuit breakers in your home. An OCR will shut off the power line when a fault occurs on the line. Some examples of a fault include lightning, tree branches, squirrels, and birds.

During a storm, you may notice your lights blink; this may be due to a fault, such as tree branches hitting the power line. When the branch, or fault, hits the line, the OCR opens briefly, resulting in

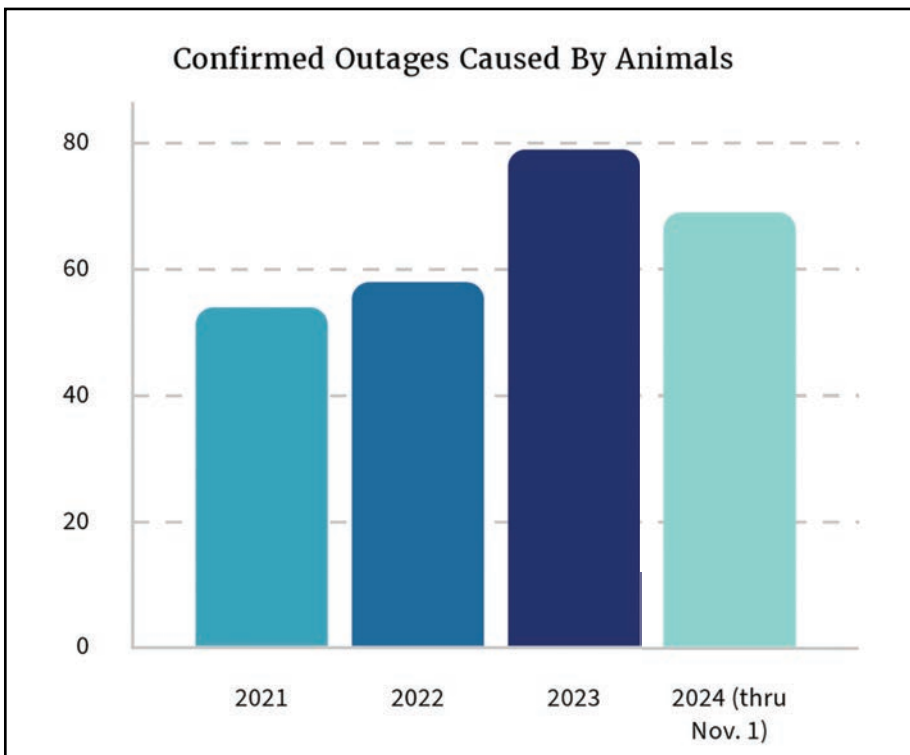
the blink. If the branch continues to hit the power line, the OCR can open and reclose up to three times, causing three blinks. If the fault, or in this case branch, does not clear the line by the third blink, the OCR will remain open, causing a power outage. At this time, members would call in their outage to PEC, and a crew would be dispatched to clear the tree from the line and manually reset the OCR.

Squirrels, birds, and other small animals can cause blinks and outages, too. When an animal finds its way between the energized equipment and path to ground, it creates an arc, which is what may cause the blink or outage. An animal could cause the power to blink at your home, but down the road, the power could be completely out. PEC usually sees a slight surge in the amount of small animal outages in the fall or on warm winter days when the sun is shining and animals are more active.

If you have concerns with persistent blinks at your home, reach out to PEC.



A bird caused the lightning arrestors to burn and crack (red arrow), creating a path to ground, causing an outage.



A squirrel made contact between the T bracket (red arrow), which has ground potential and cutout (green arrow), which is energized equipment, causing an outage.



A snapped pole and wires lying on the ground, with a PEC truck ready to start repairs.

ROPE - RESTORATION OF POWER IN AN EMERGENCY

PEC RESPONDED TO SOUTH CAROLINA'S CALL FOR HELP

In last month's issue of this magazine, on pages 10-12, you may have read about the unimaginable, Hurricane Helene sweeping across the south in early October, and how Wisconsin cooperatives headed to South Carolina to help rebuild power lines.

PEC was one of fifteen Wisconsin cooperatives that made the journey to Aiken Electric Cooperative in South Carolina to assist with rebuilding efforts. PEC linemen Jake Kraetke and David Pisca volunteered to head south, quickly packed their bags, and left their families to demonstrate cooperative principles six and seven: cooperation among cooperatives and concern for community.

When a major storm hits an area, cooperatives can call upon other cooperatives to assist in the restoration efforts; this practice is known as ROPE, or Restoration of Power in an Emergency. PEC has used ROPE several times in the past few years, most recently in the late June 2024 windstorm that caused widespread damage in our service territory. Typically, PEC's calls for help are on a more regional scale, where only local cooperatives come to help.

However, when a large storm, such as Hurricane Helene, hits a cooperative territory, cooperatives from across the country can respond and lend a helping hand, or in this case, a crew and digger truck. Jake and David worked tirelessly in South Carolina for nine days before making the trek back to Wisconsin. If you see Jake or David, please thank them for their hard work helping our fellow cooperative members in South Carolina.



Top row, left to right: The linemen's home for their stay: Tent City. A snapped pole, wires, and transformer dangling from the bottom portion of the pole.

Bottom: PEC linemen who assisted in the Hurricane Helene rebuild efforts, left to right, David and Jake.

WHAT'S IT COST?

These costs can be used as a general guide. Specific products usage/costs may vary.



1500-WATT SPACE HEATER

8 hours per day=\$1.64
\$49.20 per month



ELECTRIC BLANKET

8 hours per day=\$.11
\$3.30 per month



900-WATT HEAT TAPE

24 hours per day=\$2.95
\$88.50 per month



ELECTRIC FIREPLACE

4 hours per day=\$.82
\$24.60 per month



150 BULBS (21 WATTS) OF C6 LED STRING LIGHTS

6 hours per day=\$.02
\$.60 per month



2025 CALENDARS ARE IN!

Stop by the PEC office to pick one up.

Price Electric Puzzler

How closely are you reading the *WEC News*? Find the answer to the question below for your chance to receive a \$25 bill credit. Drop off or mail your answer to Price Electric or email your answer to memberservices@PriceElectric.coop. A winner will be drawn from all correct entries on the last day of the month.

Winner of the October puzzler was Christine Viers.



When are the 2024 rebates due to PEC?

Answer _____

Name _____

Account Number _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please return to Price Electric Cooperative,
P.O. Box 110, Phillips, WI, 54555

REBATE DEADLINE

Submit your rebates to PEC by December 27, 2024. Qualified items purchased after this date will receive the 2025 rebate amount, if available. A full listing of the 2025 rebates will be posted in this magazine next month.

UPDATED WEBSITE DESIGN COMING SOON!

GIVE THE GIFT OF ENERGY

Wondering what to buy for someone who has everything? Give them the gift of energy from PEC. If they receive their electric service from PEC, you can contact our office at 715-339-2155 to learn more about obtaining a gift certificate.

Happy Holidays!

The PEC office will be closed the following days in observance of Christmas and New Year's Day.

Tuesday, December 24
 Wednesday, December 25
 Wednesday, January 1

Jeff Olson, President/CEO

W6803 Springs Drive, P.O. Box 110, Phillips, WI 54555
 715-339-2155 • 800-884-0881
www.PriceElectric.coop

Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

Amy Jordahl, Editor



Price Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner