

BE PREPARED

Energy policy issues contribute to summer reliability concerns; watch for alerts

The board and staff of Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative (CVEC) would like CVEC members to be aware we are facing the heightened risk of rolling blackouts this summer due to generation facilities being retired faster than the pace of adding new energy sources, resulting in capacity shortages.

CVEC's power supplier is Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC). DPC is a member of Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), which oversees the regional power grid. The MISO service territory includes 15 states and extends into Manitoba, Canada.

Government regulations have forced the closing of generation facilities that use coal to produce electricity, such as DPC's Genoa facility. Investments in additional new natural gas facilities are being hampered by economic, social,

and governance (ESG) requirements, as lenders are reluctant to finance any facilities that may contribute to "carbon emissions."

In addition to generation, there are issues with accessing power on neighboring systems as well, known as transmission. There are large wind farms outside of DPC's service territory, but the energy is unable to be transferred to DPC via MISO as environmental groups and government regulations are not allowing the construction of the required transmission facilities.

Wind and solar are not reliable forms of energy; if the wind doesn't blow and/or the sun doesn't shine, there is no power to deliver to CVEC's members. There must be reliable energy available to fall back on when renewables are not available—this is known as baseload.

Coal and natural gas plants provide baseload, but they cannot be enabled in short order—they are designed for a steady-state operation.

The lack of baseload power generation facilities coupled with insufficient transmission lines will lead to power shortages in the coming months. To address these shortages, MISO has implemented a Max Gen procedure. Max Gen (Maximum Generation) starts with a series of alerts

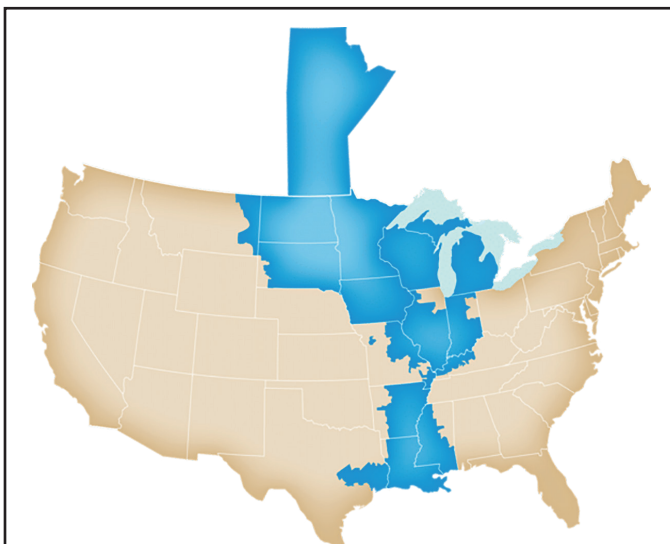
Why does a Maximum Generation (Max Gen) Event occur?

Max Gen Events occur due to a shortage of generation resources. In other words, the amount of electricity available on the grid is critical and may not be able to meet the demand for electricity. This could occur for multiple reasons:

- Severe weather conditions
- Generation resources (power plants, solar/wind facilities, etc.) are unexpectedly off-line or unavailable
- Higher-than-projected need for electricity
- Transmission congestion

and advisories to CVEC. Members participating in the co-op's load management program will be notified when a Max Gen warning is issued, at which time DPC will issue a Full Load Control, similar to Peak Alert days, but without restrictions on hours. All loads that are on load management programs will be controlled, and all members will be asked to conserve energy wherever possible. If the reduction in load via Full Load Control and voluntary reduction is not sufficient to relieve the stress on the grid, firm load shed will be initiated and rolling blackouts will start.

Once rolling blackouts commence, we have no way of knowing how long they will last. If we fail to perform rolling blackouts to reduce load the grid



MISO (Midcontinent Independent Service Operator) is an organization that controls the very flow of electricity over a massive 15-state footprint from south Louisiana up to northern Manitoba, Canada, and from Montana to eastern Michigan.

Reliability Concerns

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could collapse, resulting in significantly longer outages.

Depending on the circumstances and severity of stress on the electrical grid, there is a strong possibility some of the steps in the Max Gen process may be skipped, resulting in rolling blackouts with little or no warning. CVEC will have no electricity to manage/distribute to members.

Please prepare now. If you depend on electricity for oxygen or other life-sustaining medical equipment, it is recommended you arrange for a reliable backup in the form of an uninterruptible

power supply or a generator.

This is an entirely new set of circumstances we are being forced to deal with, unprecedented in CVEC's history. Updates will be posted on CVEC's Facebook and web pages.

Thank you, in advance, for joining CVEC as we all do our part to ensure safe, reliable, and affordable electricity for all members and the region. CVEC's board of directors and employees are dedicated to being Your Cooperative Powering Your Future.—*Russ Falkenberg, Director of IT and Member Services*

What Should Members Do?

If notified of a Max Gen Event, CVEC's load management program may be activated outside of normal program hours. This could happen with minimal advance notice. Members who do not participate in a load management program can still help:

- Turn off lights, televisions, electronics, and other appliances
- Cook food in a microwave instead of using a stovetop or oven
- Adjust your thermostat up or down, depending on the season
- Shift laundry, vacuuming, and running the dishwasher until after the Max Gen Event has ended
- Delay electric vehicle charging until after the Max Gen Event

If we continue to retire baseload generation faster than we replace it, the situation will only worsen.



Please contact your elected officials and make them aware of your concern. CVEC supports renewable energy sources, but we cannot lose sight of the fact that we must maintain reliable baseload generation.

Elected Officials Contact Information:

Senator Ron Johnson
ronjohnson.senate.gov
202.224.5323

Senator Tammy Baldwin
baldwin.senate.gov
202.224.5653

Representative Tom Tiffany
tiffany.house.gov
202.225.3365

Representative Ron Kind
kind.house.gov
202.225.5506

THINK SAFETY WHEN USING A GENERATOR



Of course, no one would ever purposely cause the death of a lineworker. Nevertheless, a generator connected to a home's wiring or plugged into a regular household outlet can cause backfeeding along power lines and electrocute anyone who comes in contact with them—even if the line seems de-energized.

Never connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system. There are only two safe ways to connect a standby generator to your equipment.

Stationary Generator:

- An approved generator transfer switch, which keeps your house circuits separate from the electric co-op, should be installed by a Master Electrician.

Portable Generator:

- Set up and run your generator in a well-ventilated area outside the home. Make sure it's out and away from your garage, doors, windows, and vents. The carbon monoxide generated is deadly.
- Start the generator first before connecting appliances.
- Plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator.
- If you use an extension cord be sure it's appropriately rated for the load/device connected to the generator.