

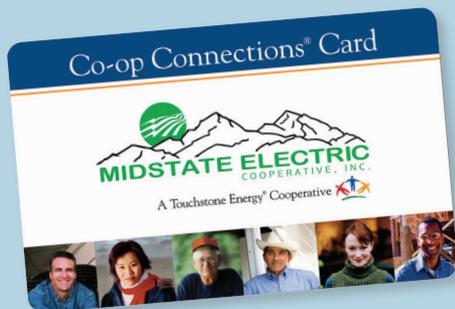


A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

MIDSTATE CONNECTION

Office Hours: 7:00 am-5:30 pm, Monday-Thursday
Closed Fridays & Holidays

Business Hours: 541-536-2126
After Hours Outages: 800-752-5935



Touchstone Energy® Co-op Connections® Update

The Co-op Connections Card is a money-saving member benefit program that provides valuable local and national discounts. The most widely used benefit of the card, the pharmacy discount, has saved members \$1,011,647 since June 2009.

For more information call 541-536-2126 option 5.

The Center of Member Engagement



Manage your electric account 24/7 by accessing SmartHub at www.mse.coop.

With SmartHub, you can:

- Pay your bill online
- View billing history
- Monitor energy use
- Receive notifications via email or text message
- Report outages and track outage restoration progress
- Check MEC's newsfeed



Friends Stay Connected



Like us on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter

Message from Operations Manager / Interim General Manager Ned Ratterman

As Oregon has been experiencing longer and more intense wildfire seasons, the topic of Public Power Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) has been in the news. The Oregon Public Utility Commission is requiring Investor-Owned Utilities to adopt PSPS as part of a mandated fire mitigation plan. PSPS is fairly new to the Pacific Northwest but has been used as a fire mitigation tool in California for a few years. PG&E has used PSPS to shut the power off to hundreds of thousands of utility customers to eliminate fires ignited by powerlines during red flag conditions. Red flag warnings are issued by the National Weather Service when strong gusty winds are combined with high temperatures and low humidity. The PUC does not currently mandate PSPS for co-ops but recommend it is considered in fire mitigation plans due in 2022.

Last September, a state-wide red flag warning was issued prompting Governor Brown to request that utilities enact a PSPS. Rather than opting for a PSPS, which would have shut power off to the entire service territory, MEC – along with many other utilities – opted to place our system on hot line tag. Hot line tag is the process of placing a recloser – an automatic high-voltage switch that operates like a breaker – on non-reclose mode so the breaker will trip off and the line will be de-energized when an object comes in contact with a powerline.

Hot line tag can cause more short outages. Line crews have to patrol the lines once the breaker trips, and power is brought back up in sections. This procedure is inconvenient at times, but it is the safest option we have for the protection of our employees and communities.

The problem with implementing a PSPS system-wide is that all lines would have



to be patrolled before power could be restored. This could take weeks. By setting the system on hot line tag, only those lines that lose power have to be patrolled. The other benefit to setting the system on hot line tag versus PSPS is fire districts, businesses and homes still have access to water to defend properties. The Oregon PUC has acknowledged that using hot line tag is an appropriate tool to use in lieu of a PSPS.

During red flag conditions, MEC's management staff will evaluate the conditions and take actions that are deemed appropriate. Our electrical system is well-maintained and our right of ways are in the best shape we have seen in years. Therefore, in most cases, hot line tag will be our first line of defense. Only under imminent danger to life or property will MEC implement a PSPS. Examples of this would be if a fire has started and fire-fighting crews need the power shut off for their safety or if lines are on the ground that are energized.

BPA has notified all their customers that they will enact a PSPS when they believe it is appropriate. Advance warning will be given – if possible – to MEC and therefore, you – our members – if this occurs. Unfortunately, if BPA implements a PSPS, we have no other options. We will be without power. We are hopeful this will be an extremely rare occurrence.



2021 PHOTO CALENDAR CONTEST

One of our members' favorite yearly events is MEC's photo calendar contest. After the success of our first ever digital photo contest last year, we are excited to say we will continue the format for this year's contest.

We invite members to share their most beautiful, engaging, and fun photos for the chance to appear in our 2022 calendar.

A total of 13 winners will be selected. Each monthly winner will receive \$50 and our cover photo winner will receive a grand prize of \$200.

Digital submissions should be submitted online at www.mse.coop/calendar-contest along with supporting information. Please put the words "2021 Calendar Photo

Contest" in the subject line.

Printed submissions can be dropped off at our office or mailed to:

Midstate Electric Marketing Department
PO Box 127
La Pine, OR 97739

Submission deadline is Monday, August 16, 2021.

Congratulations!

MEC awarded seven \$2,500 scholarships recently for the 2021-2022 school year to the following members of MEC:

- Emilio Nastri
- Judah Koehler
- Andrea Roth
- Jady Terry
- Sabrina Phillips
- Silas Roth
- Jaime Miller



MEMBER SURVEY

We value your opinions and suggestions because we know we are only as good as you perceive us to be. A member survey will be conducted in July to see how well we are doing. A small number of members will be selected randomly to participate. If you receive a phone call or email from our surveyor, we appreciate you taking the time to share your opinions with us.



Operation Round Up®

You can support worth-while projects in MEC's service area by rounding up your monthly electric bill to the next whole dollar. Every penny donated is used to support charitable causes and nonprofit community services and programs.

Call 541-536-2126 option 3 to sign up. Single donations can be made by mailing a separate check to Operation Round Up®, PO Box 127, La Pine, OR 97739.



Capital Credit Forfeiture Notice

Midstate Electric Cooperative gives notice that unclaimed Capital Credit payments are now and have been available since November 22, 2013 at the office of the Cooperative—16755 Finley Butte Rd, PO Box 127, La Pine OR 97739, 541-536-2126 or 800-722-7219—to the members listed on our website—www.mse.coop. Unless the members named, or their heirs, claim payment no later than Wednesday, October 13, 2021, the Capital Credits for patronage dividends earned during the years 1997 through 2000 will be forfeited to the Cooperative as permanent equity.