A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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DSO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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CAO

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Communications Manager

OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday

PAYMENT LOCATIONS

CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK IN WALMART SUPERCENTER
521 E. Chestnut St., Junction City, KS 66441
FARMERS STATE BANK
447 Harrison, Lindsborg, KS 67456

OUTAGE INFORMATION

IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE, CALL 800-376-3533. After-hours calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to standby personnel.

FIND OUT MORE

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Mitigating Wildfire Risks

BY NICK PETERSON, OPERATIONS MANAGER

On Dec. 15, 2021, a derecho moved through DSO's service territory. Fortunately, we had ample warning that the storm was coming, giving our crews time to prepare. Among those preparations, DSO sent linemen into the field and placed "one-shot" settings on many of the breakers throughout our system. A "one-shot" setting allows a breaker to operate only once before locking out and de-energizing the line, which reduces the likelihood of the line hitting the ground and causing a fire.

The experience gave us an important lesson; while advance warning allowed us to take those precautions that day, we could not count on having that kind of warning the next time. We realized that this critical safety function needed to be something we could manage remotely.

We applied for a grant to help us fund our fire mitigation plan. In 2024, we were fortunate to be awarded a $975,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to enhance wildfire protection and resilience in the communities we serve by making critical upgrades to our electric system.

With the DOE grant, DSO will replace older oil circuit reclosers with new electronic reclosers equipped with communications capabilities. This technology will allow our operations staff to place the new reclosers into "one-shot" mode directly from the office, without having to wait for crews to reach each device in the field. We still have some work to complete, but we are excited about the progress we've made and the opportunity to expand this capability through the support of this DOE grant. As additional reclosers are upgraded and integrated into the system, this technology will provide our operations staff with greater flexibility and faster response capabilities, ultimately improving system reliability and operational efficiency.

The goal is simple but important: reduce the possibility that damaged electrical facilities remain energized long enough to ignite a fire. By combining lessons learned from experience with modern technology, DSO is strengthening its ability to respond quickly, protect our members and communities, and better prepare for whatever the next storm may bring.

DSO Electric Cooperative is a member of a consortium of 35 electric cooperatives selected to receive federal funding through the Wildfire Assessment and Resilience for Networks project (WARN).

Led by Holy Cross Energy, Colorado, and in coordination with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Research, WARN will provide more than $145 million in wildfire mitigation funding to co-ops across 17 states in the central and western United States to drive energy resilience in high-risk rural areas. WARN funding comes from DOE's Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships program created by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Working together with NRECA Research, consortium members will share their expertise, lessons learned, and real-world data from their deployments to inform the creation of wildfire resources for the entire electric cooperative community.

COLD WEATHER RULE *Effective Nov. 1-March 31*

The provisions of the Cold Weather Rule (CWR) allow for special payment, disconnection, and service limitation procedures for any residential member with unpaid arrearages to retain or restore electric service throughout the cold weather period, which extends from NOV. 1 THROUGH MARCH 31.

DSO shall not disconnect a member's service when the local National Weather Service office forecasts the temperature to drop below 35 degrees within the next 24 hour period unless:

- It is at the member's request; or
- The service is abandoned; or
- A dangerous condition exists on the member's premises; or
- The member violates any DSO rule that adversely affects the safety of the member or other persons, or the physical integrity of DSO's delivery system; or
- The member causes or permits unauthorized interference with, or diversion or use of (meter bypass), electric service situated or delivered on or about the member's premises.

To avoid being disconnected when the temperature is 35 degrees or above, or to get reconnected regardless of temperature, a member must comply with the provisions of the "Good Faith Test." To meet the Good Faith Test, the member shall:

- Inform DSO of the member's inability to pay the bill in full; and
- Apply for federal, state, local or other funds for which the member is eligible; and
- Agree to be switched to a prepaid account, including completing a service application, if needed (any outstanding balance will still be owed to DSO, but will not be due to be paid to DSO until immediately after the cold weather period). Any existing deposit on the account would be addressed in Section 3.D.

DSO shall provide the following CWR notices:

- Mail a written notice of the CWR or publish a notice in *Kansas Country Living* once a year at least 30 days prior to the CWR period to each residential member who is currently receiving service.
- Send one written notice mailed first class at least 10 days prior to termination of service. A member shall not be disconnected until a 24-hour forecast above the activating temperature is predicted by the National Weather Service.

DSO MAY NOTIFY, AS A COURTESY, MEMBERS BY TELEPHONE AT LEAST 24 HOURS BEFORE THEY ARE TO BE DISCONNECTED. For purposes of this section, notification by telephone may be by electronic notification equipment to the member's telephone number on file and may include delivery to automated answering equipment, electronic mail or answering services.

THE CWR DOES NOT APPLY TO PREPAID ACCOUNTS. If the account balance is $0 or below during inclement weather, then it shall not postpone disconnection of a prepaid account.

Powering the Communities We Serve

As a customer-owned cooperative, DSO Electric is proud to support the communities we serve. From local parades and festivals to electrical safety demonstrations and community safety fairs, we enjoy connecting with our members and helping make our communities stronger and safer.
Have an upcoming event where DSO Electric could get involved? Contact us at 800-376-3533 or marketing@dsoelectric.com. We'd love to be part of it!





Marquette Safety Fair | May
DSO Electric joined the Marquette Safety Fair, where family fun meets real-life safety. Families had the opportunity to explore ambulances, police cars and fire trucks while learning CPR basics and important electrical safety tips.



Solomon Festival | July
DSO Electric employees and board members joined the Solomon Festival celebration, handing out watermelon as the community came together to celebrate 50 years of Solomon!



Central Kansas Free Fair Parade | July 29
DSO Electric employees and their families joined the Central Kansas Free Fair Parade in Abilene, celebrating the theme "Let Freedom Ring!" We were proud to be part of the parade and celebrate with the community!





Tampa Trail Fest | August
DSO Electric employees joined the Tampa Trail Fest providing electrical safety demonstrations for families. Attendees could also spin the prize wheel and enjoy some hot, fresh popcorn!

Local Voices Shape Local Solutions

October is National Co-op Month

When you hear the word cooperative, what comes to mind? As your local electric co-op, we hope you think of DSO Electric Cooperative.

Regardless of the services offered, all cooperatives have one thing in common: they're led by the people they serve — and that simple idea makes a meaningful difference.

Cooperatives come in all shapes and sizes, each created to meet a specific need. Credit unions help members save and borrow money. Producer cooperatives, like Ocean Spray and Land O'Lakes, help farmers bring their products to market. Retail cooperatives, like REI and ACE Hardware, are owned by their shoppers or a membership of store owners, while housing cooperatives give residents a voice in managing their communities. And utility cooperatives — like DSO Electric — provide reliable electricity to the communities they serve.

Unlike many businesses that answer to outside investors or shareholders, cooperatives are built for their members. Their goal isn't simply to earn a profit — it's to provide value, meet unique local needs and strengthen the communities they call home.

That's exactly what makes DSO different.

Our story began in 1937 when neighbors came together to bring electricity to an area where other utilities wouldn't. While a lot has changed since then, our purpose has remained steady. We're still here to provide power and make decisions with our community's best interests in mind.

Being locally owned means we have the flexibility to focus on what matters most to the communities we serve. That's why no two electric cooperatives are exactly alike. Every community has different needs, and every cooperative reflects those priorities.

For some co-ops, that means expanding programs that help members save energy and money. Others may focus on supporting economic development, investing in new technology or creating new opportunities for local students.

You'll also find the co-op difference in the little things. It's the lineworkers restoring power after a storm. The employees answering your questions when you call. The team members volunteering at community events. The board members — your neighbors — who help guide decisions for the future.

We're your neighbor and local energy partner, and we're committed to serving this community for generations to come.

This National Co-op Month, we invite you to join us in celebrating the cooperative difference, because this co-op belongs to you. Stop by the office to pick up your LED night light. (limit 1 per membership)

Whether it's DSO, your local credit union or ACE Hardware, cooperatives prove that when people work together, everyone benefits.

Your membership is what makes our mission possible — and it's what keeps us focused on serving the people and communities that matter most.

