

NE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

**NEW OWNERS
AT PINE LODGE RESORT**



APRIL 2025



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

NE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Northeast Connection is published monthly to communicate with the members of Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative.

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GROVE OFFICE

600 South Main, Grove, OK 74344

BUSINESS HOURS

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Offices are closed Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

DISPATCHING AVAILABLE 24 HOURS AT

1.800.256.6405

If you experience an outage:

1. Check your switch or circuit breaker in the house and on the meter pole to be sure the trouble is not on your side of the service.
2. When contacting the cooperative to report an outage, use the name as it appears on your bill, and have both your pole number and account number ready.

Please direct all editorial inquiries to Public Relations at 800.256.6405 or email publicrelations@noec.coop

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DID IT STORM LAST NIGHT?

Nick Sutton
Manager of Operations

Did it storm last night?

I've heard that question asked countless times by family members and friends over the course of my career. When you

work for an electric cooperative, you never have to wonder if it stormed last night. You always know with one hundred percent certainty.

NOEC service territory covers the four northeasternmost counties of Oklahoma, and the powerful storms that roll through the area can wreak havoc on our lines. As an NOEC employee, you have a front row seat to what Mother Nature can do. The worst damage is often confined to a rural area that it is never reported by news or social media outlets. However, cooperative linemen and property owners know all too well the extent of the damage.

Damage varies from storm to storm. A small twister can cause isolated damage or a large one can cross our entire system. Regardless of the impact, rest assured that our employees here at NOEC will be here to restore the power all hours of the day or night, come rain or shine.

Post-storm recovery requires a collaborative effort from a dedicated team of electric cooperative employees. The moment a storm hits, a coordinated response unfolds, involving individuals from various departments, each playing a crucial role in bringing power back to the greatest number of members in the shortest possible time.

At the heart of the restoration process are the **line crews**, the unsung heroes who brave the elements to repair damaged power lines. They often work long hours in challenging conditions, assessing the extent of damage, safely de-energizing lines, and meticulously replacing damaged poles, wires, and transformers.

Continued on page 4.



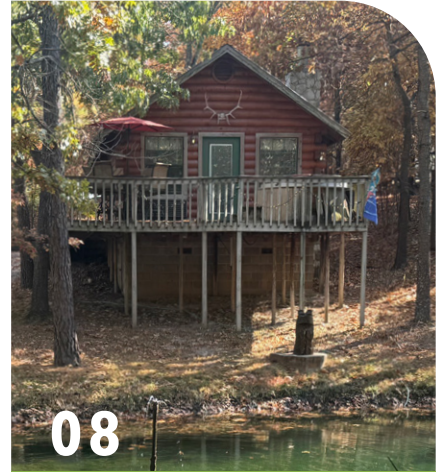
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ENERGYKIDS DAY

DON'T FORGET!

**COLLEGE/TRADE SCHOOL
\$2,000 SCHOLARSHIP**

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

MON, APR 21

visit www.noec.coop to learn more.

\$100 IS HIDING!

Search the pages of *Northeast Connection* for a 6-digit account number with an asterisk on each side. For example: *XXXXXX*. Compare it to your account number, which appears on your monthly electric bill. If they match, contact the cooperative at 918.256.6405, by May 1, 2025, to claim a \$100 credit on your electric account.

APRIL EVENTS

Teen Bowling Class

Apr 2, 9, 16 | Miami

JJ Lanes

Grove Merchants' Spring Open House

Apr 4-5 | Grove

Downtown

Spring Craft Show

Apr 5 | Vinita

Downtown

Celtic Day

Apr 5 | Grove

Har-Ber Village Museum

Flint & Steel Trail Run

Apr 12 | Pryor

New Life Ranch Frontier Cove

Que'n at the Lake

Apr 12 | Ketchum

343 W Ealum Avenue

ASCS National Tour at Salina Highbanks

Apr 12 | Pryor

Salina Highbanks Speedway

Lineworker Appreciation Day

Apr 14

Income Tax Deadline

Apr 15

Jay Easter Egg Hunt

Apr 19 | Jay

Jay City Park

Earth Day

Apr 22

Make Dish Gardens with Us!

Apr 24 | Miami

Miami Public Library

Youth Art Show

Apr 25-26 | Grove

Brush & Palette Art Gallery

3rd Annual Benefit Car Show, Benefiting Dolly Parton's Imagination Library & Ottawa County Arts Festival

Apr 26 | Commerce

Downtown

DID IT STORM LAST NIGHT?

CONTINUED FROM INSIDE COVER



► **Dispatchers** coordinate the efforts of line and right-of-way crews, assigning them to specific areas (based on severity of damage) while prioritizing larger outages.

Public relations team plays an important part by keeping members and the general public informed about the status of restoration efforts.

Member services employees field calls and relay information gathered from members and first responders. They also provide updates on estimated restoration times when available.

Engineers assess damage and analyze system data to identify potential issues and develop restoration plans.

The right-of-way crew helps by removing downed trees off lines and clearing access to poles and lines.

Warehouse personnel gather materials and has them ready for crews, all while carefully tracking inventory.

Mechanics ensure our fleet vehicles and heavy equipment remains operational and is safe to use.

In the aftermath of a storm, the cooperative's accounting team works diligently to process claims for damages and secures funding necessary for repairs. These financial resources are essential for rebuilding infrastructure and ensuring the cooperative's long-term sustainability.

Severe weather is a fact of life and storms of every shape and size will continue to interrupt service for our members long after I'm gone. You can be sure that when they do strike, our employees here at NOEC will answer the call and restore power to our members.

.....
That's how they know it stormed last night.

THANK A LINeworker ON LINeworker APPRECIATION DAY

APRIL 14

Electric lineworkers provide an essential service: They install and maintain overhead and underground power lines that keep electricity flowing. These specialized workers are on call 24/7 in case severe storms or other circumstances cause the power to go out.

Lineworkers work with high-voltage electricity, often at great heights, in all weather conditions. Maintaining the power grid is physically demanding. To become proficient, most lineworkers go through a technical training program and learn on the job as apprentices under the careful eye of seasoned lineworkers who have earned journeyman status.

Electric power line installers and repairers held approximately 122,400 jobs in 2022, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Nearly half of these employees worked for electric power generation, transmission and distribution utilities.

Safety comes first

Lineworkers spend numerous hours in safety training each year and must understand and apply crucial safety regulations.

Protective clothing is required to shield lineworkers since they work around high voltages. Collectively, gear components can weigh up to 45 pounds.

According to the BLS, electric power line installers and repairers typically:

- Install, maintain or repair the power lines that move electricity.
- Identify defective devices, voltage regulators, transformers and switches.
- Inspect and test power lines and auxiliary equipment.
- Install power lines between poles, towers and buildings.
- Climb poles and transmission towers and use truck-mounted buckets to access equipment.
- Operate power equipment when installing and repairing poles, towers and lines.
- Know and implement safety standards and procedures.

When a problem is reported, lineworkers must identify the cause and fix it. This usually involves diagnostic testing using specialized equipment and repair work. To work on poles, they usually use bucket trucks to raise themselves to the top of the structure, although all lineworkers must be adept at climbing poles and towers when necessary. Workers use specialized safety equipment to keep them from falling when climbing utility poles and towers.

Storms and other natural disasters can cause extensive damage to power lines. When power is lost, lineworkers must work safely and efficiently to restore service. We salute our lineworkers who work around the clock to keep the power on. Their safety, as well as yours, is our top priority.



REPRESENT YOUR CO-OP

FILE FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES CANDIDACY

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A TRUSTEE?

Have you ever considered running for the Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees?

Trustee elections for Districts 2, 7, and 9 will take place at the 2025 Annual Membership Meeting to be held later this year. Eligible members residing in Districts 2, 7, and 9, and nominated at their respective District Meetings, may serve as a Cooperative Trustee for a term of 3 years if elected at the Annual Membership Meeting. This year's District Meetings are currently scheduled for July 7 (District 7), July 8 (District 9), and July 10 (District 2) (further District Meeting details will be provided in the future). Trustee eligibility requirements are as follows:

TRUSTEE QUALIFICATIONS

SECTION 3.02. Qualifications

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a Trustee of the Cooperative who:

(a) while serving on the Board or during the five (5) years preceding nomination thereto shall have been finally adjudged to be guilty of a felony;

(b) is, becomes, or within the last five (5) years has been employed by the Cooperative, a Cooperative subsidiary, or a labor union which represents, or has represented, or has endeavored to represent any Cooperative employees;

(c) is, and if elected and seated as a Trustee will continue to be, a Close Relative of an incumbent Trustee or Cooperative employee;

(d) has not continuously been, for at least one (1) year prior to nomination, or who ceases after election to be, a Member in good standing of the Cooperative, receiving Electric Service at a permanent and year-round residence which is the Member's primary residential abode in the Trustee District from which the Member is elected; or

(e) is not at least eighteen (18) years old; or

(f) while a Trustee, and during the one (1) year immediately before becoming a Trustee, is or was employed by, controlled, owned more than ten percent (10%) of, served as a trustee, director, or officer of, or received more than ten percent (10%) of annual gross income from an Entity that advances the Entity's financial interest by: (1) competing with the Cooperative or a Cooperative subsidiary; or (2) providing electric energy or a good or service related to providing electric energy; PROVIDED, however, that a Trustee shall be permitted to serve as a director or Trustee of such an Entity on the Cooperative's behalf.

Notwithstanding the Close Relative restrictions prohibitions in Section 3.02(c), no incumbent Trustee shall lose eligibility to remain a Trustee or to be re-elected a Trustee if, during incumbency, the Trustee becomes a Close Relative of another incumbent Trustee or of a Cooperative employee because of a marriage or an adoption to which the Trustee was not a party.

OFFICIAL TRUSTEE CANDIDATE FILING PERIOD: MAY 12-14, 2025

Section 3.06 of the Cooperative Bylaws requires any member desiring to be a Trustee candidate from the District of their primary residence to file with the Cooperative their Notice of Candidacy for Trustee during the official Candidate Filing Period:

- **Monday-Wednesday, May 12-14, 2025: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

The Notice of Candidacy for Trustee MUST be filed at the Headquarters Office of the Cooperative: 27039 S 4440 Rd, Vinita, OK 74301, during the Candidate Filing Period. **Only pre-qualified Candidates can be nominated at District Meetings.**

RECIPES FROM CRAIG CO.



HOT FUDGE SUNDAE CAKE | DAISY MOORHEAD

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup flour
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2 Tbsp cocoa
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 cup nuts (optional)
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/4 cup cocoa
- 1 3/4 cup very hot water

Step 1: Preheat oven to 350°F.

Step 2: Mix flour, sugar, 2 Tbsp cocoa, baking powder, and salt in a non-greased 9x9x2 inch pan. Mix in milk, oil, and vanilla until smooth. Stir in nuts and then spread mixture in pan.

Step 3: Sprinkle brown sugar and 1/4 cup cocoa over the mixture. Then pour hot water over the batter and bake for 40 minutes.

Step 4: When baking is complete spoon warm cake into serving dishes and top with ice cream and sauce from the pan.

819978

BLUEBERRY, APPLE, PINEAPPLE DUMP CAKE | TERRI KEMOHAH

INGREDIENTS

- 21oz can apple pie filling
- 1, 8oz can crushed pineapple, drained
- 12 oz frozen blueberries
- 1/2 cup sugar
- Box white cake mix
- 2/3 cup butter (1 1/3 sticks) cut into slices
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1/2 cup sliced almonds

Step 1: Preheat oven to 350°F.

Step 2: Mix pie filling and pineapple in a greased 9x13 inch baking dish until combined. Then layer frozen blueberries, sugar, cake mix, butter slices, pecans and almonds on top. Do not stir.

Step 3: Bake until golden brown and bubbly for 45-55 minutes. Serve warm with ice cream.



A GETAWAY

FOR ANY REASON & ANY SEASON

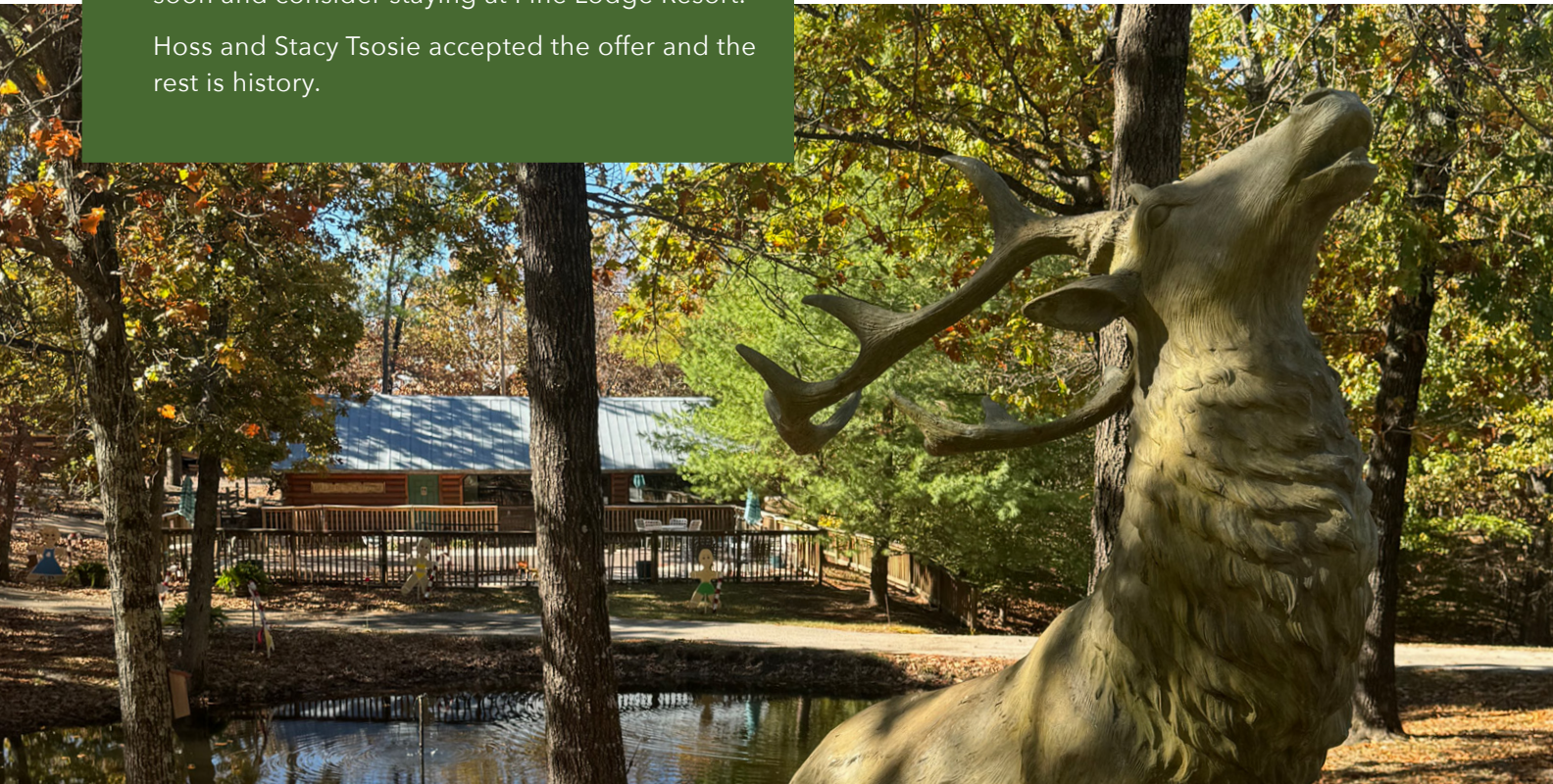
A chance meeting in Wichita, Kansas, nearly twenty years ago has grown into a special bond between two unlikely families from neighboring states.

A young couple from Arkansas City, Kansas, was attending a boat, sport, and travel show in Wichita one winter weekend almost decades ago when they happened upon a booth manned by Grand Lakers Art and June Box. The two couples struck up a conversation and the Boxes invited the young couple to visit Grand Lake one day soon and consider staying at Pine Lodge Resort.

Hoss and Stacy Tsosie accepted the offer and the rest is history.

“We took a trip to Pine Lodge Resort for our anniversary that year. It was so peaceful,” Stacy said. “We had no interactions with anyone during our first visit and that made it feel like it was ours.”

The Tsosie family would become regulars at Pine Lodge in the years that followed, breaking away whenever possible to enjoy the cozy cabins in the woods and familiar surroundings.



Main Lodge



Moose Lodge Cabin

"We would go for a birthday weekend getaway or go casino-hopping during the day and enjoy the hot tub during the nights in February," Stacy recalled.

THE TSOSIE CHILDREN LOOKED FORWARD TO THE GRAND LAKE GETAWAYS AS MUCH AS THEIR PARENTS.

"They loved playing in the hot tubs and swimming in the pool during the summer," Stacy said of Xavier (now 24), Brianna (20), Jaxon (18), and Kendrix (10).

The family didn't really need a special reason to visit Grand Lake. However, there were plenty of great ones to keep them coming back. The 4th of July holiday—and fireworks show—and off-roading excursions below the dam in Disney were two of the best reasons.

The family also enjoyed its many friendly interactions with the Boxes.

"We were always met with warm smiles and great conversations over the years," Stacy remarked.

"They followed my husband on social media and watched our kids grow up. They watched us build our family and our businesses and cheered us on."

When Art and June made the decision to sell the property, the Tsosies couldn't help but be interested. Despite owning two other successful businesses, they couldn't pass up an opportunity to own the property they always considered a home away from home. In October of 2024 they made the deal official.

GRAND LAKE O' THE CHEROKEES

PINE LODGE RESORT



NORTH



Morning Star Cabin



The Tsosie Family

► Art and June Box moved to Grand Lake in 1992 from the Tulsa area. They built a home and broke ground on the resort in 2002. Construction unfolded in multiple phases over the next two decades until they had built the resort and neighboring RV park as it stands today.

June said she and Art are enjoying retirement at their Grand Lake home and will both certainly miss the resort and the many guests they hosted over the years.

“We will continue to live in our home and enjoy Grand Lake and its beauty but will miss our guests. We made many lifelong friends,” she said. “All we can say is that God really blessed us, and Pine Lodge Resort became our ministry. We knew it was time to retire, but not until God sent the most perfect buyers to take it over. The Tsosies had been staying with us for many years. They felt like family. We knew they would put their talents, heart, and soul into keeping it going. They were the perfect family to become the new innkeepers.”

June added: “We met so many people whose stories were very happy, but some were also very sad. Like the man who told us his wife died and coming to Pine Lodge Resort was a favorite part of their life together. So he wanted to come back and stay in their cabin on their anniversary. Or a lady whose husband died. Or a child who died. You can't listen to people's stories and not be touched. They came back to grieve for that loved one or maybe they came back if they had a cancer diagnosis and this is where they found peace to cope. So many marriage proposals took place here.

So many honeymoons, anniversaries, etc. We became a part of our guests' lives and felt privileged to be able to comfort them or celebrate with them. We often said we could not have traveled the world and have met this many people.”

Hoss and Stacy continue to reside in Arkansas City, Kansas, where they own multiple businesses that serve the south-central Kansas and north-central Oklahoma region. Daughter Brianna is the on-site manager at Pine Lodge Resort and has reliable help from Candie McSpadden and Craig Flood, who handle housekeeping and general maintenance, respectively.

Pine Lodge Resort is tucked away amongst wooded hills along the western shores of Grand Lake. Wildlife abounds amid the tranquil setting. All is quiet, save for the occasional chirping bird or squirrel. Scattered throughout the resort are eight cozy log cabins that rent on a nightly basis and accommodate up to four guests.

The popular resort has remained consistent in its offerings over the years. Cabins are furnished with all the amenities guests need for a comfortable stay. Open floor plans feature a queen-or king-sized bed, fold-out couch, refrigerator, television, dining/game table, kitchenette, and a full bathroom.

Perfectly complementing the rustic charm, all cabins have wood-burning fireplaces—firewood is furnished—as well as auxiliary heat/air conditioning to ensure climate-controlled comfort for guests.

Outside, guests will appreciate a private deck with a covered table and seating, perfect for long conversations and taking in the forest views with loved ones. Each cabin has its own outdoor hot tub, a guest favorite, for relaxing while perhaps enjoying a nightcap. A Weber Kettle and grilling utensils are also available should you choose to grill up some dinner one evening.

Nestled within the heart of the resort is a large clubhouse with space sufficient for a large gathering. The clubhouse has a lounge area with a fireplace, full kitchen, and a recreation space with ping pong and foosball tables. Books, movies, cards and board games are also available for guest use. A large swimming pool at the clubhouse offers guests an inviting spot to cool off in the summer months. Consider booking the resort clubhouse to host your next family reunion, birthday party, holiday celebration, business meeting, or staff retreat.

The Tsosies are excited about the future of Pine Lodge Resort. It had been a dream of theirs to one day own a resort property. Owning the place they always considered a second home makes the acquisition even more meaningful.

"Even though it happened a little sooner than we expected, owning a resort has long been a dream of ours," Stacy said, adding with a laugh: "We had plans for this to be more of a retirement goal. We are still quite a few years away from retirement age. When we found out Pine Lodge Resort was for sale we knew it was meant to be."

"Pine Lodge Resort is well-established here in the Grand Lake community. We want to continue the legacy the Boxes started when they built the resort. Everyone has made us feel welcome and speaks highly of the resort. We hope to keep the same connection with the community."

Pine Lodge Resort is open **year-round**. For more information or to book a stay, visit online at pinelodgeresort.com, call 918.782.1400, or follow on Facebook (pine lodge resort), Instagram (resortpinelodge), or TikTok (pinelodgeresort).

Guests who value an atmosphere of privacy will appreciate a contactless check-in process at the resort.

"AND WE ARE ONLY A PHONE CALL AWAY SHOULD A NEED ARISE," STACY ASSURED.

energy**KIDS**

SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 9AM - NOON

**Craig County Fairgrounds
915 E Apperson Rd, Vinita, OK 74301**

Attend and ENJOY:

Bounce house & obstacle course, meet your linemen heroes, touch-a-truck, games & activities

One lucky registrant will win a FREE iPad!

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO ALL CHILDREN, INCLUDING NOEC MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS



RSVP for energyKIDS Day

Let us know if you'll be attending energyKIDS day with your children! To RSVP scan the code at right or visit noec.coop/5xar.



SCAN ME!



TUESDAY, APRIL 22

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With Earth Day around the corner, it's time to reflect on the systems that sustain us. This includes the power grid that keeps our homes comfortable and our modern world running. As climate patterns shift and extreme weather events increase, the grid faces new pressures to meet our growing energy demands. From heatwaves to hurricanes, today's changing conditions are testing the limits of an infrastructure first built in the late 1800s.

The first power grid, developed in 1882 in New York City, laid the foundation for the modern grid that powers our world. The systems we depend on today were built for past and current weather conditions. However, these conditions are changing. Extreme weather is now the number one cause of blackouts in the U.S., accounting for 80% of major power outages.

HOW DOES EXTREME WEATHER IMPACT THE GRID?

Regions across the U.S. face extreme weather that strains infrastructure not built for extreme conditions. In Texas, limited winterization led to power outages and frozen pipes during the 2021 winter storm. The Pacific Northwest's record heat dome in 2021 increased electricity demand to record highs, causing grid equipment to overheat. In California, utilities implement public safety shutoffs during dry, windy conditions to prevent wildfires.

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Extreme weather impacts the grid in several ways. Sometimes, power is still being produced, but it can't reach homes because power lines are downed or damaged by fallen trees and debris during storms. During hurricanes, substations – facilities that control and distribute electricity – can flood, causing widespread outages. Other times, when demand spikes during heatwaves or winter storms, the grid can become overwhelmed, leading to rolling blackouts or outages as supply struggles to meet increased energy demands.

WHAT IS CAUSING THE INCREASED DEMAND FOR ELECTRICITY?

While extreme weather is one source of growing energy demand, development and technology are increasing the demand for energy. This demand is projected to rise 15-20% in the U.S. over the next decade, according to the Department of Energy.

Significant factors impacting this growth are the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) and its expanding data centers, cloud storage, communication tools and much more.

The grid faces two significant opportunities for growth: adapting to extreme weather conditions and meeting the rising energy demand. The energy industry is working tirelessly to ensure the power grid meets these ever-growing challenges and provides a more resilient and sustainable energy system that supports affordability and reliability.

Utility companies, government agencies, regulators and other stakeholders are working to increase grid resilience. Efforts include raising substations that are vulnerable to flooding, deploying battery storage to supplement the grid, expanding renewable energy sources, and connecting regional grids to improve overall stability.



WHAT CAN WE DO?

While the challenges facing the power grid are significant, there are steps we can all take to reduce strain and contribute to a more reliable energy system.

Simple actions like running high-energy appliances during off-peak hours can ease pressure on the grid, especially peak demand times. Conducting a home energy audit can identify ways to improve your home's efficiency, reducing both your energy consumption and utility bills.