



How Northeastern REMC prioritizes power restoration

After an ice storm or other widespread weather-related disaster, line crews work long, hard hours restoring electric service. It's a task that needs to be done methodically to be done safely. Every electric cooperative follows a basic principle when it comes to restoring power: priority is given to repairs that bring the greatest number of people back online in the shortest amount of time and safest manner possible.

Specifically, the priority goes like this:

- PRIORITY 1: Transmission lines
- PRIORITY 2: Substations
- PRIORITY 3: Main distribution lines
- PRIORITY 4: Tap lines
- PRIORITY 5: Individual service

Learn more about power restoration and safety tips at: nremc.com/blog

How to prepare for winter related outages

Indiana weather can be unpredictable, especially during the winter months. Heavy snows, freezing rain and ice storms can all cause power outages. The inclement weather could also make it dangerous to venture outside the home. It is important to develop a plan for prolonged outages during these harsh months so your family isn't caught off guard.

"Winter storms can not only cause power outages, but the working conditions for our linemen are especially harsh. We want to get the power back on as quickly as possible, but we also want to send our guys home to their families safely" said Jared Boggs, NREMC's Safety, Regulatory and Loss Prevention Coordinator. "During storms like this, we advise members to stay in their homes and eliminate any unnecessary travel especially on roads where our line crews are working."

Besides having a storm preparedness kit ready that includes food, water, flashlights and more, you can also add these items to your list to prepare for a winter outage:

- Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. If you hear reports of a winter storm heading your way, get your refills before the storm arrives.
- If you have alternative heating sources for emergencies like fireplaces or wood-burning stoves be sure they are clean and in working order.
- Keep important phone numbers written down and in a safe place. Phone systems, including landlines, are often overwhelmed following a disaster. Designate a person out of your local area who can help your family reconnect if needed. Be sure to share and practice this plan with everyone involved.

Once an outage is over, there are still safety precautions to take. Electrical power lines could still be down. If you see downed power lines, do not touch them or go near them. Call 911 immediately and stay clear. For more tips on winter storm preparedness or for more electrical safety tips, follow Northeastern REMC on Facebook at [facebook.com/nremc](https://www.facebook.com/nremc).



Heavy snows, freezing rain and ice storms can cause tree limbs to fall on power lines creating an outage.



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85 years

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Celebrating 85 years of powering Northeast Indiana

Happy New Year from your electric cooperative! 2021 is a big year for Northeastern REMC as we turn 85 years old! To celebrate, we'll take a look back at our rich history and share some groundbreaking news about the future which means big savings for members like you.

We've had some fun digging through the archives to find some really interesting photos from the past. (See page 3) If you haven't been following our Flash Back Friday series on Facebook, now is a great time to follow us. It's been an interesting deep-dive into the history of electricity, a look at linemen through the years, and even a look at the history of the areas we serve right here in Northern Indiana.

Most importantly, as we celebrate 85 years and look forward to the next several years, I want to thank you. On behalf of the board of directors and our employees, I want to extend our gratitude to each and everyone of you. I am constantly reminded that we're more than just neighbors joined together by power lines. We are a community of caring people who continue to make our corner of Indiana a great place to live, so thank you!

Eric Jung
President & CEO
Northeastern REMC



Learn the basic principle all electric cooperatives follow to get power restored quickly. (page 5)



Are you prepared for winter weather related outages? Learn what items to have on-hand. (page 5)

Plus...

- Energy saving tips to prevent cold air from getting in through your windows. (page 3)
- What is battery storage and how does it affect members? (page 2)
- Exclusive discounts for members (page 3)
- You could win a \$50 bill credit. (page 4)

LIGHTPOST

January/February 2021

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Follow us on Facebook to celebrate with us all year.
[Facebook.com/NREMC](https://www.facebook.com/NREMC)

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85 years

Revolutionary new utility program to save members more than 35 million dollars

Northeastern REMC and Flex Gen to launch largest battery storage system in region

In January, we announced the commission of a 108MWh utility-scale battery storage system, the largest on record for Indiana or surrounding states according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance data. Once fully deployed this system will save our members more than 35 million dollars over the next 20 years.



Battery storage allows the seamless export of power onto the grid when it's most needed – during times of peak demand or weather-related disruptions. During off-peak times, the battery storage systems will recharge when power rates are lower. This new energy solution could deliver enough on-demand energy to supply three hours of emergency power to more than 3,200 homes and can be used during peak demand times to reduce overall usage and help lower consumer rates over time.

“Our commitment to innovation at Northeastern is second to none among electric cooperatives,” says Eric Jung NREMC’s chief executive officer. “We have long provided affordable and reliable electric service, but now, more

than ever, we need to evolve to meet our members future energy needs. We are pleased to work with FlexGen on this critically important project.”

“Our team is honored to deliver these milestone projects for NREMC,” says Alan Grosse, FlexGen chief operating officer. “On commissioning, these sites will be among the safest, most reliable and cost-effective power plants in the United States.”

We look forward to breaking ground on the first two battery sites next summer in Perry Township in Allen County, and Jefferson Township in Whitley County. The total project will encompass five sites when complete.

What is battery storage and how does it affect members?



Battery Storage Explained

Battery storage systems store excess energy produced by generators or pulled directly from the electrical grid, and distribute the power as needed. It can also integrate renewable energy into the power grid from windmills or solar power.



Cost Savings for Members

When energy costs the most during peak times, usually in summer months, we can utilize our stored energy to power our electric grid. Then, we can recharge these later when energy costs are lower. Managing peak energy costs is one of the best ways to save our membership money.



Extra layer of reliability

If a large power outage happens caused by a transmission line malfunction (which is out of our control), our members will lose power. While we wait for the neighboring transmission company to make repairs, we can use stored energy to power those homes and businesses.



Preparing for the future

Making long-term plans have always had a certain level of uncertainty in the power industry. Extreme weather events are increasing in the U.S. and there are often changes federal policies can have an impact. Energy storage can help reduce some of the unpredictability.

Do you feel cold air by your windows?



(This guy does)

Understanding how your home loses heat and actively working against it will keep your house nice and warm during cold winter temperatures. We've put together four simple and inexpensive tips to help keep the cold air out this winter.

Other culprits for air leaks are attics, plumbing vents, around holes for cables around exhaust fans and several areas in your basement. Keep an eye out for more energy saving tips on our Facebook page.

Four ways to keep toasty while saving energy.

- Add a door sweep or door snake along the bottom of an outside door to block cold air. You can find a variety of sizes and thicknesses at your local hardware store or door snakes can be made easily at home.
- Use heavy curtains on your windows to help keep the room insulated.
- Place window film on your windows. This works like saran wrap and keeps the cold air out.
- Use weather strips to temporarily seal windows shut during cold months. Peel it off in the Spring when you're ready to open your windows again.

WE'RE HIRING

Member Services Representative

Learn more and apply at nremc.com



ENERGY TIP

When streaming movies or videos, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use ten times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.

Learn more energy saving tips at nremc.com/blog

Exclusive Co-op Deal of the Month

H&R BLOCK

20% off

off tax preparation

Columbia City location only

As a member of Northeastern REMC, you are eligible to receive discounts on products and services from participating businesses around the area, the state, and the whole country.

Browse deals or sign up for a FREE discount card: nremc.com/deals



Let's look back at 85 years of Whitley County REMC and Northeastern REMC

Willie Wiredhand is a long-time friendly face for co-ops across the country and he was part of our very first logo back when we were Whitley County REMC. "Wired hand" is a play on words for "hired hand" which is what co-ops were to farmers when electricity was first brought to rural America.



Jefferson Center School became the first Whitley County REMC powered facility on January 4, 1937.



Do you remember the five other locations of NREMC? Our current building was built in 2004.



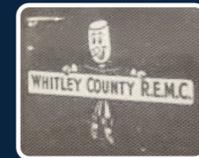
Members had to record the meter reading each month on their bill. Now we have computers that do this.



Utility poles were put in place by hand. This includes digging the hole that the poles were placed in. It took twice as many line workers to do it in the early days.

NORTHEASTERN REMC | 85 years
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Do you remember these logos?



New Year, Less Mail

Get a \$5 bill credit just for enrolling in paperless billing!

Are you looking for a way to reduce your carbon foot print and the amount of mail you get? You can now sign up for paperless statements in just a few clicks. And now, through February 10, **get a \$5 bill credit when you sign up. You'll also be entered in for a chance to win a \$50 bill credit!** (new enrollments only)

Once enrolled, you will receive an email that your bill is due and then you can view your bill online the same way you would view a paper bill. You will still need to follow the necessary steps to make a payment, but it's only a click away. At any time, you can view your bill and usage online or by using the app.

Sign up now at nremc.com/paperless.

SPOTLIGHT
QUICK INFO FOR MEMBERS

Water Heater Rebates

Please note that there have been some recent changes to the water heater rebate program.

This rebate is only available for **new construction** locations prior to occupancy. NREMC will provide a bill credit of \$200 for a 40-gallon (or \$250 for a 50-gallon or larger) electric water heater to qualified applicants.

Find full details at nremc.com/rebates

Lowering base rate to help offset rising transmission costs

With your bill, you'll be receiving more information regarding the rising PJM cost and decreased base rate. Most residential members will see a monthly increase averaging around \$8 - \$9 this year.

While we understand there is never a good time to see your bill go up, we always have and always will continue to do what we can to keep costs low. We already have plans in place to help your co-op to be better suited for increasing transmission costs, and to better protect our membership from cost increases that are largely outside our control.



We've also created a new rate calculator to help you estimate your new monthly bill.

Scan or go to: nremc.com/calculator

Contact Us

memberservices@nremc.com

1-888-413-6111

nremc.com

Call 811 before you dig