

Guest
COLUMN:

The lowdown on load management



Ralph Park
Senior Director of Engineering

It's been a long time coming, but summer has finally arrived.

While warm weather and longer days conjure images of picnics and outdoor activities, most of us spend a good deal of time indoors during the summer, too. There's still the vacuum to run and laundry and cooking to do. And on those dog days of summer, many of us enjoy beating the heat by retreating to an air-conditioned room or flipping on electric fans.

When these indoor activities take place simultaneously in a given region, electric power generators may experience what is known as peak energy demand.

During a time of peak demand, the price of electricity can spike dramatically. If the generation plants that feed electric distribution systems like Tri-County's can't keep up with demand,

brownouts — periods of reduced power — may occur. Fortunately, brownouts haven't been much of a problem in Pennsylvania in recent years.

One of the reasons for this is that Tri-County and our fellow cooperatives throughout the state have load management programs in place to help level out the demand for energy over the course of the day.

Many of you are familiar with our load management program because you participate in our water-heater control program.

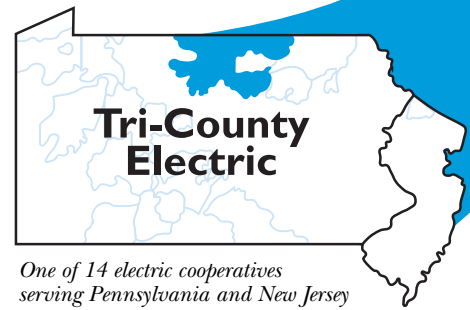
Through this program, a load control switch is attached to a member's water heater. The switch allows our power supplier to automatically turn off the water heater when energy demand peaks statewide. On weekdays from May through September, this peak generally occurs between noon and 6 p.m. During this time, load management participants will typically notice the red light glowing on their water heater switch, an indication that power to the heater is being controlled.

How long the water heater is managed depends on the member's lifestyle and household size, and the holding capacity of the water heater. Because water heaters are well-insulated and capable of storing hot water for extended periods of time, they make an ideal load management device. Our goal is to receive no complaints of cold water.

Load management is not practiced on weekends or holidays, because energy demand statewide is lower on those days when industries are not operating.

The load management program has worked very well for the co-op. We saved nearly \$400,000 last year on our power bill thanks to our dedicated members who participate in the water-heater control program.

I'd like to thank these participants for their cooperation and generosity. These co-op members, and there are nearly



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

1,800 of them, help keep Tri-County's power costs down by allowing us to purchase electricity when it is least expensive. The savings we realize enables us to delay future rate increases, benefiting all our co-op members.

By reducing energy demand at key periods of the day, they are also helping to defer the need to build additional power plants in Pennsylvania, which has beneficial implications for not only future electric rates, but also the environment.

While we are always happy to welcome new load management participants, members can also help the co-op keep rates down by simply limiting their energy consumption during peak demand times in the summer. Some easy ways to do this include turning off unneeded lights, turning up the thermostat on air-conditioning units until evening and waiting until after 6 p.m. to run the washing machine, clothes dryer and dish washer.

Maybe the easiest way to avoid the summer peaks is to simply spend more time outdoors. After the long, miserable winter we've just endured, do we really need any extra incentive for that?



Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Gerald A. Kite Barbara J. Seeley

Summer Hours

7 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Mon.-Fri.)

Director elections slated for Districts 1, 4 and 7

Democracy will take center stage at Tri-County's 2003 annual meeting, with director elections highlighting the agenda.

This year, board seats are up for election in Districts 1, 4 and 7. Only members of those three districts may vote in this year's election.

In accordance with Tri-County's bylaws, director elections take place on a rotating basis, with three of the cooperative's nine districts electing directors each year.

If your account is located in one of this year's voting districts, you will find a mail-in ballot included with the annual meeting notification that Tri-County mails to members in June.

Please review the ballot, cast your vote and mail it back to Tri-County.

Election results will be announced at Tri-County's 2003 annual meeting on Saturday, July 12, at Williamson High School in Tioga, Pa.

Elected candidates serve three-year terms. Tri-County directors are responsible for representing the needs and concerns of members in their districts. They also establish co-op policies and oversee business operations.

Two candidates are competing for the District 4 board seat. Challenger Duane Stafford is running against incumbent Dr. James Davis. Incumbent Gerald Kite is running unopposed in District 1. Alston Teeter, also an incumbent, is the lone candidate for District 7.

A profile of each candidate follows.

District 1

District 1 serves members in East Fork District, Homer, Keating, Portage, Summit, Sylvania and Wharton townships in Potter County; Liberty and Norwich townships in McKean County; Grove and Lumber townships in Cameron County.



Gerald A. Kite

Incumbent Gerald A. Kite is a fulltime business owner seeking his fifth consecutive term as District 1

director. Kite is a Keating Township supervisor and active in local affairs.

He serves as chairman of the Valley Energy Board of Directors. He and his wife, Carol, own and operate the Forest House Inn in Keating Summit, Pa.

Kite states, "I continue to represent all classes of our membership in Tri-County's pursuit to bring quality service and the best of values to the broad-based membership of the cooperative."

District 4

District 4 serves members in the Tioga County townships of Chatham, Clymer, Deerfield, Elkland, Farmington, Gaines, Middlebury, Nelson, Osceola and Shippen.



James R. Davis

James R. Davis of Farmington Township is seeking election to his first full term on the Tri-County Board of Directors. He has served as District 4 director for the past two years. A retired educator, Davis performs educational consulting work. He serves on recreational and health advisory boards, is a Pennsylvania Department of Education program monitor and an educational textbook author. He and his wife, Elaine, have three grown sons.

"In the two years I have served on the Tri-County board, I have taken many director training courses and learned the dynamics of the position and would like to put that education to use," Davis says. "I have board experience, and, as an area native, I understand the needs and problems of the members here."



Duane P. Stafford

Duane P. Stafford lives near Sabinsville with his wife, Jimona. The couple has three grown daughters. A Tri-County member

for 30 years, Stafford owns and operates a carpet cleaning business. He is active in the local cable television association and serves as auditor for Clymer Township, as well as the township's volunteer fire company, ambulance association and library.

"I have been self-employed and managed my own businesses for 27 years, served as director and secretary/treasurer for a cooperative for 13 years and audited financial records of other organizations," Stafford says. "I am conservative and willing to listen and learn and will strive to represent the best interests of all members."

District 7

District 7 serves members in Athens, Ridgebury, Smithfield, South Creek and Ulster townships in Bradford County.



Alston A. Teeter

Alston A. Teeter, incumbent director from District 7, is seeking re-election for a ninth term on the board of directors.

Active in his church and serving as secretary/treasurer of the Tri-County board, Teeter is also chairman of the board of directors for Continental Cooperative Services member Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Tri-County's power supplier. Additionally, he serves on the boards of directors of Citizens' Electric Co. and the Northern Tier Solid Waste Authority. He and his wife, Jenny, have three grown children.

"My first concern is to serve every member," Teeter says. "I feel with my business experience and co-op training, I am qualified to meet the challenges of today's business and to maintain a healthy cooperative. With the importance of electricity in our lives today, I strive to keep it reliable and affordable to each member."

Tri-County selects Youth Tour students

Eight lucky high school juniors from Tri-County's service territory will join thousands of students from all over the United States this month for the Rural Electric Youth Tour, a week-long journey through our nation's capital.

The students will visit historical sites including the Vietnam Memorial, Smithsonian museums, National Cathedral, National Zoo and Washington Monument.

Selected on the basis of an application, essay and extracurricular activities, the following students will represent Tri-County on the 2003 Youth Tour:



Robert Brennan is the son of Judy Ziegler of Genesee, Pa. The Northern Potter High School junior participates in track and field, is a basketball manager and a member of the Future Business Leaders of America. Active as an acolyte and lector at his church, Robert also enjoys racing go-carts. He aspires to become a mechanical or aerospace engineer following high school.

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Ashley Douglass is the daughter of Michael and Lori Douglass of Trout Run, Pa. A student at Liberty High School, Ashley serves as vice president of the school's Key Club, is a peer helper and has participated in German Club, Odyssey of the Mind, chorus, band and youth group. She also performed in the school play this year. Ashley's post-high school plans include attending college.

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Scott Filer is the son of Michael and Michelle Filer of Shinglehouse, Pa. The Oswayo Valley High School student is junior class president, vice president of the Oswayo Valley Rod and Gun Club, and has been active in chorus,

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show choir, band, marching band, football, wrestling, cross country and track and field. As a Boy Scout, he has attained the rank of Life Scout and recently completed his Eagle Scout project. Scott also participates in 4-H and is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, peer helpers and student council. He plans to study nursing/medical technology following high school, with the goal of becoming a nurse anesthetist.



Sara Kasper is the daughter of Bryan and Laurie Kasper of Columbia Crossroads, Pa. The Mansfield High School junior participates in band, chorus, youth group and Key Club. She has worked as a Red Cross volunteer and is a member of the National Honor Society. Trained in classical ballet, Sara also represented her school as a Maple Sweetheart candidate. She plans to attend a four-year college and major in elementary education.

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Katie Mead of Westfield, Pa. is the daughter of Richard Mead Jr. and Veronica Mead. A junior at Cowanesque Valley High School, Katie has lettered in volleyball and basketball, serves on the prom committee, is involved in the Tioga County Youth Leadership program and was selected as the 2003 Potter-Tioga Maple Sweetheart. She participated in the HOBY leadership program and is active in the Letterman's Club. Following high school, Katie hopes to obtain a bachelor's degree in journalism or advertising.

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Lori Mitstifer is the daughter of Lynn and Carol Mitstifer of Liberty, Pa. The Liberty High School student participates in 4-H, serves as vice president of Tioga County

4-H Council, is co-captain of the school volleyball and basketball teams and has also participated in track and field. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, German Club and serves as junior class secretary. Lori serves on the school yearbook staff, participates in the Tioga County Youth Leadership program and represented her school as a Maple Sweetheart candidate. Her career goal is to become a teacher.



Renee Norman is the daughter of Dave and Aggie Norman of Liberty, Pa. The Liberty High School junior is her school's student council president and Key Club

president. Active in 4-H, she serves as co-president of the Liberty Community 4-H group and as president of the Tioga County 4-H Council. She participates in band, chorus, German Club, Future Farmers of America, her church youth group and is a member of the National Honor Society. She also is involved in the Tioga County Youth Leadership program and serves as Tioga County Dairy Princess. Renee also co-captained the Liberty varsity volleyball team. Following high school, she plans to attend a four-year college.



Janell R. Thompson is the daughter of Donald and Cathy Thompson of Westfield, Pa. A student at Northern Potter High School, she is active in basketball, volleyball, softball and track and field. She was selected as 2002 Most Valuable Player on her school's basketball and track teams. Janell is also active in Future Farmers of America and 4-H, serving as her local club's secretary and treasurer. Her career goal is to become a farmer/business woman after attending a two-year agri-sciences program following high school.

She was selected as 2002 Most Valuable Player on her school's basketball and track teams. Janell is also active in Future Farmers of America and 4-H, serving as her local club's secretary and treasurer. Her career goal is to become a farmer/business woman after attending a two-year agri-sciences program following high school.

Safeguard your home with Surge Tamer protection

The day is bright, but thunderheads are building to the west. The clouds are piling up, looking like towers of cotton. Suddenly, a bolt of lightning bursts from the clouds, striking nearby. After the booming clap of thunder passes, you notice that the computer monitor has gone blank, the television is not working and the microwave shows "PF" where the time should be.

Your sensitive electronic equipment has just been toasted.

Or has it? If you had Tri-County Surge Tamer surge protection devices attached, your chance of loss has been reduced. Surge Tamer is your first line of defense against electric surges caused by lightning and other sources.

The sophisticated circuitry normally either filters the surge, or the Surge Tamer "sacrifices" itself to protect the connected equipment. Without surge protection, you could be looking at replacing the computer, TV, microwave and all the other electronics knocked out by the lightning strike, instead of just calling Tri-County for the free replacement of your Surge Tamer.

Occasionally the surge is so quick and so severe that it not only cooks the Surge Tamer, but also goes beyond to the connected equipment. All is not lost. Our Surge Tamers come with a "down-line" warranty that will replace connected equipment damaged by these super quick, super severe surges.

In this case, we still replace the Surge Tamer at no charge and call in a claim to the manufacturer. A statement from a certified technician or repair service accompanies the claim form for your damaged appliance or electronic device. The warranty is secondary to your homeowners or renters insurance. It pays for damages up to the deductible amount of your homeowners policy, but not over that amount.

For example, if your damages are \$500 and you have a \$250 deductible, the Surge Tamer warranty would cover the \$250, but not the total amount. The difference would be your insurance carrier's responsibility. In the same

scenario, if the damages are \$245, the warranty would pay the full amount.

Tri-County offers Surge Tamer units to its members at discounted prices. A variety of high-quality surge protection devices are available to safeguard your home.

To help you evaluate your needs, a product list follows. For more information on Tri-County's Surge Tamer program, call the member services department at 570/662-2175 or 800/343-2559.

Surge Tamer product line

HG2: Provides general protection for major household appliances, including washers, dryers and refrigerators. Installed by Tri-County personnel on your meter base.

iAR: Same as HG2, above, but wired into your home's panel box. Requires 30-amp, two-pole breaker and box.

W2: Two-outlet, plug-in model. Protects electronic equipment from power surges within the home. Recommended for televisions, VCRs, stereos, computers and microwave ovens. Also available with telephone/FAX/modem protection.

P 1500 PPS: Eight-outlet, plug-in model with 6-foot cord. Protects electronic equipment from surges up to 20,000 amps. Recommended for televisions, home computers, microwaves, stereo equipment and answering machines.

P 1500 PPC: Eight-outlet, plug-in model with 6-foot cord. Protects electronic equipment from surges up to 20,000 amps. Includes protection for one COAX cable line. Typically used for a TV or VCR that receives service from CATV or a roof antenna.

P 1500 PPT: Eight-outlet, plug-in model with 6-foot cord. Protects electronic equipment from surges up to 20,000 amps. It includes protection for one standard telephone line. Typically used for a computer system with a modem, but could be used any place where a nearby phone needs to be protected.

P 1500 PPD: Eight-outlet, plug-in model with 6-foot cord. Protects

electronic equipment from surges up to 20,000 amps. Includes protection for one standard telephone line and two COAX cable lines. Typically used to protect a home entertainment system.

P 1500 PPR: This device is designed to protect large outdoor satellite dishes. The unit includes three AC outlets for control boxes and TV.

ED 15, 20 & 30 (amps): This device is designed to protect submersible pumps not located within the house or building. It boasts 78,000 amps of maximum surge protection with less than one nanosecond response time.



Join us at the 2003 Tri-County Rural Electric Annual Meeting

Saturday, July 12, 2003

Williamson Area High School,
Tioga, Pa.

Highlights

- Door Prizes
- Lunch
- Director elections
- Children's activities
- Entertainment

