

**ROLLING HILLS
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NEWS

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Like us on Facebook

For outage
updates,
energy
efficiency tips and
cooperative news.



Outage Leads to Major Project

At Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, we know our members expect the lights to come on every time they turn on the switch. Our goal is to safely and reliably deliver electricity to homes and businesses. However, there are times when we experience a power outage for a variety of reasons.

On Monday, Aug. 14, we experienced an outage on our Republic, Scandia and Jamestown substations, which impacted approximately 1,400 meters. Crews worked to pinpoint the cause, which was difficult due to the nature of the outage. Through a series of isolation efforts, the culprit was determined to be a failed substation transformer at our Scandia Substation.

Power was restored to the majority of members by that evening with a

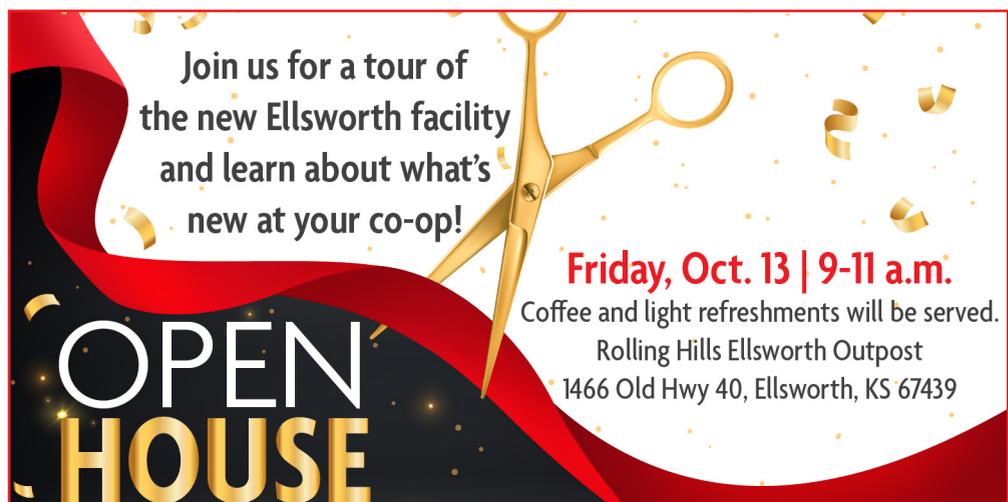


Crews de-energize the line to allow the transformer swap.

few members out for several more hours as the circuits were switched to backfeed power.

The failure of a large substation transformer is an uncommon event

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Join us for a tour of
the new Ellsworth facility
and learn about what's
new at your co-op!

Friday, Oct. 13 | 9-11 a.m.
Coffee and light refreshments will be served.
Rolling Hills Ellsworth Outpost
1466 Old Hwy 40, Ellsworth, KS 67439

OPEN HOUSE



RHEC in the Community

FORT HARKER DAYS

In July, Rolling Hills Electric participated in the Fort Harker Days Parade in Kanopolis. A big thank you to our RHEC crew, **TYLER ROESTI** with his family, **DOUG ERREBO** with his family, **HUDSON SMITH** and **BRANDON BRINN** as well as our friend, Willie Wiredhand (a.k.a. **KENNY CASTOR**), for their time!

SPOOKY Energy Savings

This spooky season, we're sharing a few energy-saving tricks so you can treat yourself to lower energy bills. Here are four simple ways to summon the spirit of energy efficiency.

Conjure instant savings with a smart thermostat. One of the easiest ways to save energy is through thermostat control, since home heating and cooling account for a large portion of monthly energy use. **SMART THERMOSTATS** can help you manage heating and cooling costs by learning your daily routine and adjusting the temperature settings accordingly. You can control a smart thermostat from anywhere (through your smart phone), which allows you to prevent unnecessary energy consumption while you're away. Sorcery!

Get rid of goosebumps by eliminating ghostly drafts. The winter chill is just around the corner, so now is the time to **SEAL AIR LEAKS** around your home. Apply caulk and weatherstripping around drafty windows and doors to make your home more comfortable and lower your energy use.



Smart thermostats can help you manage heating and cooling costs by learning your daily routine and adjusting the temperature settings accordingly.

Illuminate your lair with energy efficient lighting. **LED BULBS** use 75% less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent lightbulbs. Make the switch to reduce energy used for lighting. Remember to use LEDs when it's time to decorate for the upcoming holiday season. LED light strings offer an average of 88% energy savings compared to traditional incandescent light strings.

Stir up savings with countertop cauldrons. Cooler weather summons our favorite soup recipes. Small countertop appliances like **SLOW COOKERS** use less energy than cooking meals on the stovetop. Grab your book of spells (or recipes) and start stirring up savings in the kitchen.

When we look around our homes, there are many opportunities to save energy. So this spooky season, investigate your space and unlock a different kind of magic — the kind that brings real energy savings.



LED bulbs use 75% less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent lightbulbs.



Countertop appliances like slow cookers use less energy than cooking meals on the stovetop.

Outage Leads to Major Project Continued from page 12A ▶

and staff immediately went into action to locate a new transformer and coordinate shipping. Like many things, locating and purchasing a transformer in a short time frame is currently a challenge due to supply constraints, but Rolling Hills was able to locate a transformer in Texas. The current lead time on a new transformer is about **2.5 YEARS** or for remanufactured transformers about **3-4 MONTHS** to arrive.

Transformers weigh roughly 40,000 pounds, which means employees went to work finding a crane to set the transformer and developing a strategy to swap the unit. In short, this is a major undertaking to complete in a few days.

To minimize disruptions, the transformer was installed on Saturday, Aug. 19, into early Sunday morning. Area circuits were switched to handle the load, which meant Rolling Hills had less capacity for members to use. This was not a power supply issue, rather it was an equipment issue, which limited distribution. To solve the issue, Rolling Hills worked with a large consumption member to minimize the load and keep our system running smoothly.

To illustrate, think of a transformer as a pump and when that pump isn't working, you still have supply from other pumps, but with reduced capacity. Additionally, the further the distance from the pump to where you need the water, the more the capacity is reduced.

We have redundancies in our system, however, there are limitations to those redundancies. This is what made locating and installing this substation transformer so critical, especially with the heat that would cover the Great Plains over the course of the following week.

Saturday evening, the transformer and the crane arrived and Rolling Hills' line crews from our Belleville and Beloit locations prepared to swap the transformer.

At approximately 8:30 p.m., a planned outage was initiated so crews could safely perform the swap. The process of removing the failed transformer and setting the replacement transformer went smoothly — the days of preparation and planning by our operations team paid off.

Power was restored around 1 a.m., hours before the initial planned time frame. This effort by our Rolling Hills linemen was even more impressive considering the extreme heat and humidity which made for tough working conditions. Additional transformer setup was complete and the unit fully online by Sunday morning.

We understand that this was a tough situation for our members and apologize for any inconvenience this event may have caused. Our Rolling Hills linemen and supporting staff rose to the challenge for our members. At the end of the day, our system will be stronger and more resilient as a result.



Linemen begin with a “tailgate” safety meeting to establish duties and safety standards while working on the project.



Look how large a transformer is — weighing in at roughly 40 tons!



Linemen patiently wait to set the new transformer.



Out with the old, in with the new! Rolling Hills linemen use a crane to remove the damaged transformer and replace it with the new one.



OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

CO-OPORTUNITY DAY

COMMUNITY PICNIC

AT ROLLING HILLS ELECTRIC CO-OP • 3075 US HWY 24, BELOIT KS

OCTOBER 6, 2023

Central Valley Ag, Farmway Credit Union and Rolling Hills Electric Co-op invite the entire community to join us for a FREE community picnic. *(To-Go Meals Available.)*

11AM TO 1 PM

Come celebrate National Co-op Month with your local cooperatives.

BRING A FOOD PANTRY ITEM TO DONATE

