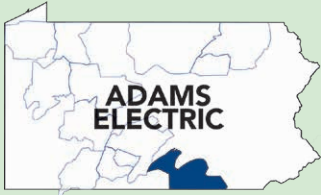




Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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Guest Column System Reliability Takes Planning



CHAD THOMAN

SYSTEM RELIABILITY IS SOMETHING THAT does not happen by accident. While severe weather, or lack thereof, does have a direct impact on how well we do in “keeping the lights on,” many things are happening behind the scenes that ensure power is available to our members and to make sure we get power flowing again when an outage occurs.

A little planning goes a long way.

Planning and construction projects are budgeted each year so our distribution system is capable of handling not only everyday use, but also unpredictable events. When emergencies occur, we often must use other lines to feed power from other sources.

Approved projects are not only selected to support load growth but also to provide extra capacity if we need to shift load among areas and equipment. Adams Electric Cooperative invests about \$13 million a year to improve the 3,000-plus miles of line on the system.

This work was never more evident than last summer, during one of the seasons worst heat waves. A failed substation on one of our power supplier’s systems forced us to use all available capacity and contingency capabilities to restore power to 1,614 members in the Littlestown area. To do so, we used a neighboring delivery point at Lake Heritage. System planning allows us to have options so there is some level of reserve capacity for emergency situations.

This preparation starts when putting together our long-range and construction work plans. We use load forecasting to ensure the lines and equipment are sized accordingly. The plans also give us a blueprint for where the system needs to be in the future. Adams Electric is not alone in this long-range planning. The investor-owned utilities (IOUs) that are upstream and through which our power flows, like Met-Ed and Penelec, plan this way as well.

Met-Ed currently has projects going on in the Littlestown area, including construction of a brand-new substation that will provide an extra source of power in southeastern Adams County. While some of these improvements were planned before last summer’s major power event, the finished product will greatly improve reliability in that area and help prevent a repeat of those issues.

We also have other tools in play to encourage our power suppliers to improve the systems that feed our delivery points. We have joint planning meetings in the spring and fall with them to discuss system improvements, reliability, and areas of weakness. There is a process in place where we can propose projects to help with our reliability. In fact, in 2026, about \$1.4 million is being allocated to projects that will help improve reliability for those who receive power from our Brodbeck and Valley delivery points.

We are working now to find projects for 2027 that will have direct impacts on reliability for both our members and our power supplier’s customers. This joint planning program is guided by our generation and transmission cooperative, Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. Through this program, the 14 Pennsylvania

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Share What You Can

KAMI NOEL, CCC, COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER RELATIONS COORDINATOR

TWENTY-ONE YEARS AGO, LYNN DEARDORFF made a shawl for her friend who was diagnosed with breast cancer. The gift touched her friend so greatly that Lynn decided she needed to find a way to make others feel the same comforting experience.

“My church friends and I each made something for the seven shut-ins of our church that year,” Lynn says. “Then they were asking what we can make next, and it just grew from there.”

The St. Mark’s Lutheran Church Prayer Shawl Ministry has been serving the needs of its neighbors ever since. Founded by Adams Electric Cooperative members Lynn and Kevan Deardorff of Dover, the group has grown from seven members to now close to 100.

In 2025 alone, the group gifted more than 80 prayer shawls, 200 blankets, 550 food gift bags, 1,200 handwritten greeting cards, 190 hats, 230 tote bags, 250 prayer patches, 450 soap sacks and numerous other items. Everything is made with love and prayers.

“The mission of our group is simple: If we have something to share, we share it,” Lynn says. “A need is always there.”

A ministry for veterans

Although the ministry works with more than 30 organizations — including cancer groups, drug and alcohol

recovery programs, and families with premature babies or those that have gone to Heaven — its focus is on our military and veterans.

Kevan is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and a member of the Biglerville American Legion, where he serves as second vice. He is also a member of the Adams County Allied Veterans, who perform military honors for veterans at their funeral services. Lynn joined the American Legion Auxiliary in 2011 to help expand the group’s mission of specifically helping veterans.

“We live in one of the wealthiest nations in the world,” Lynn says, “and yet we have veterans who are homeless and hungry. They fought for us and our freedoms, and we need to do for them what we can.”

The ministry works with Tracie Seiders, a past president of the Pa. American Legion Auxiliary, to provide food and hygiene items for veterans living in HUD housing in Lebanon. It also provides pallets of dog food to Devin Fink of Frontline Companions and the dog rescues he works with to train service dogs for veterans.

Bethesda Food Bank plays a vital role in donating food to the ministry that feeds approximately 300 veterans a month. Last year, the food bank donated approximately 30,000 pounds of food. Computer Ministries also donates two laptop computers a month for veterans. The majority of these are given to the Veterans Outreach of PA (Tiny Homes) to assist its computer training program for veterans.

“We are so blessed, and this is our way of giving back,” Lynn says. “Our mission is to let all veterans know they are not forgotten.”

Filling needs

Other veteran outreach programs supported through the ministry include For the Love of a Veteran, Inc., Soldiers’ Angels, 12 Days of Giving, the York Stand Down hosted by Crispus Attucks, “Troopons” (Coupons for Troops), Stamps for the Wounded, Help Heal Veterans and Gettysburg Military Share.

According to Lynn, Brian Prosser of Prosser’s Auto Body in Rossville has hosted the 12 Days of Giving event for the last eight years.

“Kevan and I would not be able to assist our homeless and at-risk veterans without his assistance,” she says. “We’ve come a long way from our first year collecting 75 blankets to eight years later collecting 44,000-plus items [in 2025].”

The donations are collected over 12 days just before



CALLED TO SERVE: Kevan and Lynn Deardorff, left, and Tonia Shoemaker, a former co-op Youth Tour student (2011), celebrate 20 years of service by St. Mark’s Prayer Shawl Ministry, Heidlersburg, Adams County, in October 2025 during a Dedication Service at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Hampton.

Christmas and then distributed to veterans in the VA hospital, shelters, and halfway homes. Some of the male and female vets suffer from physical ailments, disabilities or PTSD. They may also be on the rebound from addiction.

“We don’t ask why they are there, that’s private,” Lynn says. “If they have a need and we can fill it, we do.”

The Deardorffs and the ministry are always looking for items to help support their endeavors. If you feel moved to support one of the outreach opportunities, Lynn can be reached at 717-747-4988. 📞



A DIFFERENT KIND OF SERVICE: Devin Fink, left, a veteran and founder of Frontline Companions, based in East Berlin, Adams County, accepts a donation of dog food from Lynn and Kevan Deardorff. The donations help feed the service dogs he rescues and trains for other veterans.



12 DAYS OF GIVING: Lynn Deardorff and Brian Prosser stand with some of the items collected at Prosser's Auto Body in Rossville, York County, to support homeless and at-risk veterans.

Move Over and Pay Attention

MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH and a good time to remind members about a law that helps protect emergency responders, including utility workers.

Utility workers, especially our linemen, frequently work in dangerous proximity to moving traffic, particularly during storm restoration or maintenance.

Pennsylvania’s Move Over Law requires drivers to change lanes or significantly slow down when passing a utility vehicle, emergency vehicle, or tow truck with flashing lights or hazard signals, as well as stopped, clearly marked, or signaled disabled vehicles.

The law was designed to protect utility workers, including linemen, as well as police, fire and ambulance crews. It requires drivers on highways with multiple lanes to move into a lane away from workers, if it is safe to do so. If moving over is not possible or safe, drivers must slow down to at least 20 mph under the posted speed limit.

Violations carry hefty fines — \$500 for a first offense, and up to \$2,000 and potential license points or suspension for multiple offenses.

Also, during Electrical Safety Month, it’s important to remember the annual campaign by the Electrical Safety Foundation International, which aims to raise awareness about potential at-home electrical hazards. Electricity helps simplify our lives, but also poses serious risks. Lessons in electrical safety help ensure the safety of our employees and our members.

For more information on electrical safety, visit adamsec.coop or safeelectricity.com. 📞

Safety Tip

The orange work zone sign is not a suggestion, it’s the law. Slow down, move over, and use extra caution in work zones. Do your part to help everyone return home safely.



Safe Electricity.org®

GUEST COLUMN

Continued from page 16A

and New Jersey cooperatives are able to advocate that IOUs spend money on projects that strengthen their systems and, in turn, ours — and it's paying great dividends.

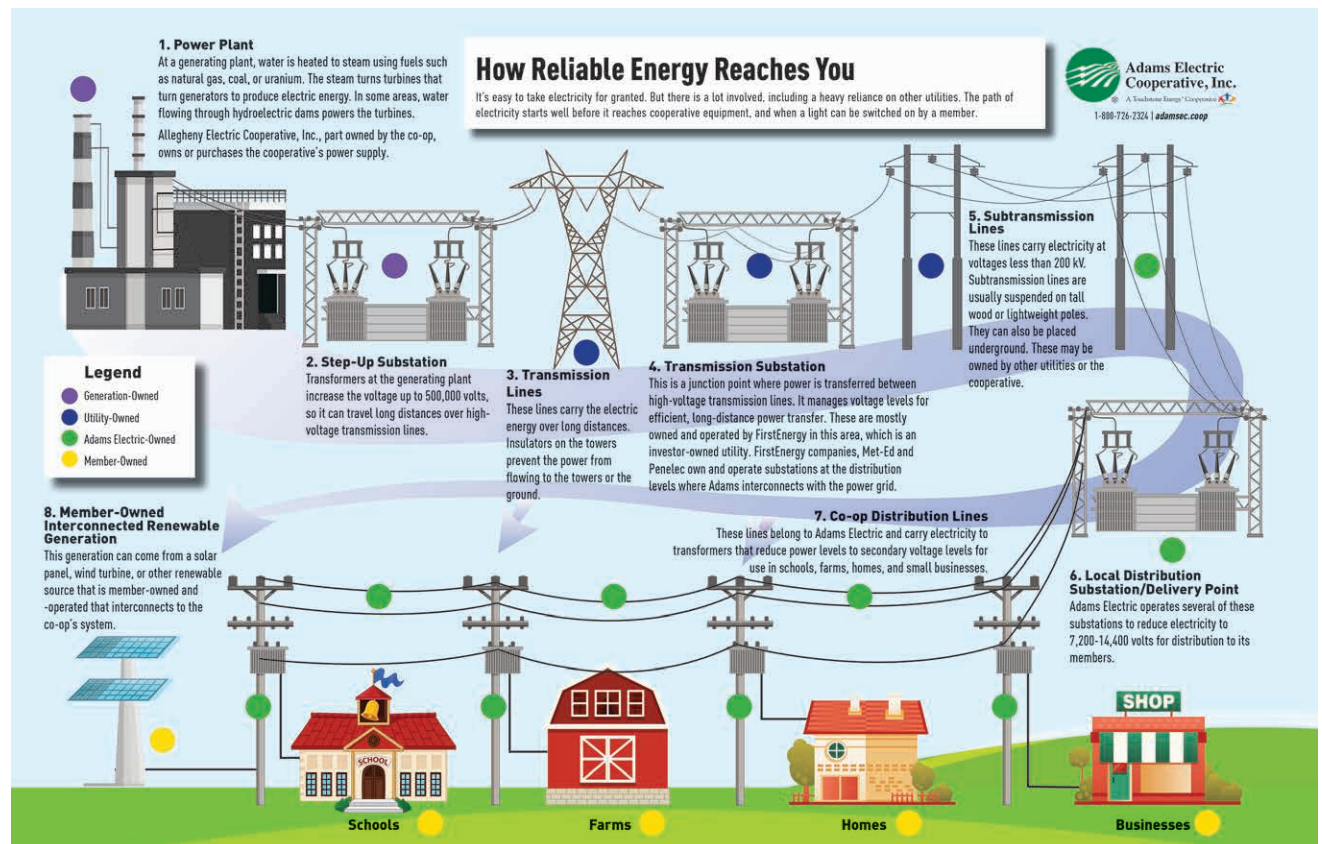
Another tool we use is the load control program. U-Shift, U-\$ave helps reduce load during peak times each month. This reduces the cooperative's monthly power bill and keeps rates as low as possible for members. Like you, we are billed each month on our overall use, and the demand during the peak hour for the month is part of the equation that sets the price. The system demand for the monthly peak is what we try to minimize when the load control program is engaged.

It is also why we may have multiple control periods each month as we try to hit that peak hour. In addition, it's why we have control periods every month and not just during the hottest and coldest days of the year. The load control program is not used because our system can't handle the peak use. Instead, it's a tool to help reduce costs from month to month.

However, it can also be used during emergency situations to provide additional capacity. The program allows us to shed about 10% of our system load, which can be useful when we are backfeeding and system demand (or load) is very high.

So as we enter the summer season, where electricity demand is high and severe weather can cause outages, this is a good time to remember that we are all in this together. While many causes of outages, such as weather, trees, animals, motor-vehicle accidents or power supplier issues, are not escapable, we have controls in place to prevent and mitigate what we can. These controls, such as system planning, outage response times, and load control, give us options during emergencies and outages. They allow us to reduce outage times and help us provide safe, reliable, and affordable power to our members. 📞

CHAD THOMAN
MANAGER OF ENGINEERING ELECTRICAL



HOW ELECTRICITY WORKS: A complex network of electricity generators and tens of thousands of miles of electrical lines work together to ensure enough electricity is available 24/7. Adams Electric Cooperative doesn't own generation or transmission facilities. We simply distribute power to our members through the lines and equipment that we do own. We only have control of our assets, and the reliability of the upstream networks plays a direct role in our own reliability.

MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Always assume lines are energized and dangerous. If you see a downed line, call the co-op at 1-800-726-2324. Never attempt to move the line, tree, or branch that brought it down.

Summer storms with their thunder and lightning can be as dangerous and destructive as winter storms. Always be prepared to weather the storm and have a storm safety kit ready.

Items to include:

- ✓ A cord-based telephone or cellphone
- ✓ A cooking source that can be used outdoors
- ✓ Battery-powered/portable clock
- ✓ Battery-powered/portable radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio
- ✓ Blankets
- ✓ Bottled water (three-day supply)
- ✓ First-aid kit with current supplies, including needed medications
- ✓ Flashlight and fresh batteries
- ✓ Non-perishable foods, non-electric can opener
- ✓ Small cooler
- ✓ Specialty items, such as baby items or extra clothing, or battery back-up systems for medical equipment
- ✓ Surge suppressors to protect sensitive electronic equipment
- ✓ Tool kit



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Visit Storm Central at
adamsec.coop to learn more storm and electrical safety tips.