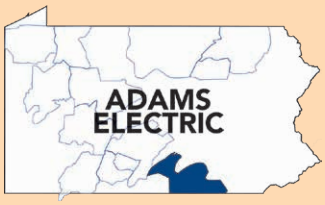
Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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Guest Column

The Perfect Storm

CHAD THOMAN

PICTURE THE PERFECT STORM — without the "bad" weather — and that's what happened in the southeast corner of our service territory in late June. Nearly 1,600 of our Littlestown, Adams County, members lost power June 22 at dinnertime, just as we were entering a three-day heat wave.

Overall, our system held up remarkably well with the loads on it due to the extreme heat that began and ran through June 25. The biggest challenge for us was what happened when we lost power supply.

When Met-Ed dropped its power supply to our Germany substation near Littlestown, which serves 1,614 members, half of those members were restored in about 20 minutes. The remaining 771 were restored over the next 6 hours due to load constraints and the need for a line crew to bypass a set of breakers.

As a distribution cooperative, we don't generate power or own transmission lines. We deliver electricity to our members from the point of its arrival at our substations and metering points. Our system is set up to provide options for switching when we lose power supply to a delivery point, but we aren't set up to pick up every station, all the time, for all load levels.

We have load limitations at each delivery point where we take power from our transmission providers, Met-Ed and Penelec, both FirstEnergy companies, as well as ratings on our own equipment that we must be mindful of or we put our equipment at risk.

Lake Heritage is a solid delivery point for us, as it is fed from Met-Ed's nearby Straban substation, which helped us reroute power flow from our Germany substation. Recently, the cooperative built out a dual circuit from the Lake Heritage substation, which also paid huge dividends for us during this situation.

The project allowed us to run the station past its normal load limit from Met-Ed of 10 megawatts (MW) to as much as 12 MW (and briefly to 13 MW). Had we been limited to 10 MW, the feed to Littlestown would not have come back at all after the initial outage on June 22 until the Met-Ed power supply was returned late on June 24.

We pushed our equipment as hard as we safely could to minimize outage time for our members, and I would say we did well despite the systematic outages pushed out June 23 and 24 for Littlestown (563 accounts) and Bonneauville (292 accounts), respectively.

It was a terrible feeling to make the decision to turn power off on such brutally hot days so we could keep the power on for the remaining members served by those stations.

As if this wasn't bad enough, on June 23, Met-Ed's Gardners substation caught fire at 8:53 p.m., just as we were trying to return power to our Littlestown members from their outage. This outage impacted four co-op delivery points: Shippensburg (10 minutes), Southampton (3 minutes), Tyrone (39 minutes) and York Springs (51 minutes). Of these, three were mitigated by FirstEnergy's response to get our cooperative power supply back on quickly — except for York Springs, which we were able to backfeed from our Tyrone substation about 12 minutes later, after Tyrone was restored.

The strength of the FirstEnergy transmission feed to our Tyrone substation, as well as our own facilities downstream from Tyrone, allowed us to carry the energy load of all our cooperative accounts in that area without issue or the need for an additional outage. Had Penelec — our power supplier over the mountain in Cumberland and Frankin counties — not been able to reroute its power flow to our Shippensburg and Southampton stations, we would not have been able to deliver enough power from our own system to maintain that area.

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Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Looking to Expand Across Adams County

KAMI NOEL, CCC, COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER RELATIONS COORDINATOR

JUST OVER A YEAR AGO, the Thunderbolt Foundation in Littlestown Area School District decided incoming students needed more access to reading materials that were inexpensive, high-quality and age-appropriate. The organization opted to join Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, which is dedicated to fostering a love of reading in children from birth to age 5.

The Dollywood Foundation partners with local programs to mail Imagination Library books directly to children's homes each month, free of charge.

"The Imagination Library opens a world of new experiences to a child," says Beth Becker, the Thunderbolt Foundation's executive director. "Studies show the better our children are prepared for school, the better they will perform."

'Off and running'

With just a year of the program under its belt, the foundation has run into a good problem to have: Too many people want to participate.

"The program runs off zip codes and our district shares those with both Gettysburg and Hanover," Becker says. "We keep getting sign-ups from outside our district, which we have to deny."

As a result, the foundation decided to transfer the program contract to an organization that can accept a larger audience. By the end of the summer, the Adams County Library System will be taking the reins.

Becker will continue as a committee member during the transition because, she says, it's her mission now to see

PHOTO COURTESY OF BETH BECKER

HOW TO DONATE: To help bring new books and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to Adams County, send your donation to Adams County Community Foundation, 25 S. Fourth St., Gettysburg, PA 17325, and add a note in the memo: Adams County Imagination Library Fund.

the program pushed out to the whole county.

"We have a library in every school community," she said. "We'll be setting up a fund with the Adams County Community Foundation to help the library sustain the program and then we'll be off and running."

The "magic number," according to Becker, is $40,000 to make sure the program launches successfully.

Adams Electric Cooperative plans to play a small part in that success. Through a matching grant with CoBank, a cooperative bank serving rural utility providers, we are sponsoring a donation to help bring Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to all of Adams County.

"It's a great opportunity for us," CEO/General Manager Steve Rasmussen says. "It aligns perfectly with our mission and core values to make a difference in our community."

Imagination Library is also a turn-key initiative of the cooperative's national brand, Touchstone Energy, which has encouraged partnerships with the program since 2020. According to the Touchstone Energy website, "True engagement means members recognize their co-op is more than a monthly bill, and this book-gifting program is a meaningful way to add lasting value to members' lives."

A gift in the mail

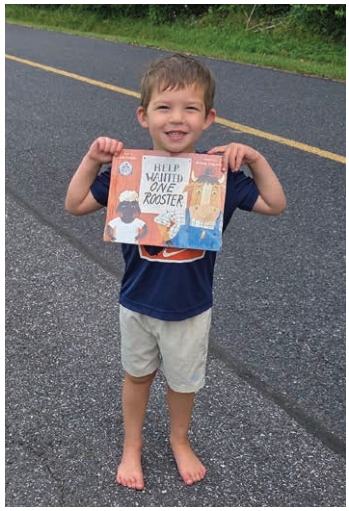
Inspired by her father's inability to read and write, Dolly Parton started the Imagination Library in 1995 for the children in her home county in Tennessee. Today, her program spans five countries and gifts millions of free books each month to children around the world.

The cost is $31 a year per child, which provides a book a month to each enrolled pupil and covers mailing expenses. Each book comes with a personalized label and a message from Parton herself.

"It's a bargain for 12 books at today's costs," Becker says. "Plus, what kid doesn't like to check the mail, especially when there's something in it for them?"

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BETH BECKER

FULL SPEED AHEAD: Adams Electric Cooperative member Thomas Showvaker of Littlestown and his children, Presley and Lincoln, enjoy reading the first book they received from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, "The Little Engine That Could."



SPECIAL DELIVERY: After an adult makes sure the roadway is safe, Bentley Lookingbill goes to get his monthly book from the mailbox and is excited to show off and read "Help Wanted One Rooster."

Delivering Safe, Reliable Electricity is a Team Effort

KAMI NOEL, CCC, COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER RELATIONS COORDINATOR

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. How does it all fit together?

Adams Electric Cooperative's primary goal is to deliver the highest possible quality of reliable electric service at the lowest competitive price. But perhaps the key measure of quality in the eyes of our members is not acceptable voltage ranges, but instead it's the number of times their lights go out.

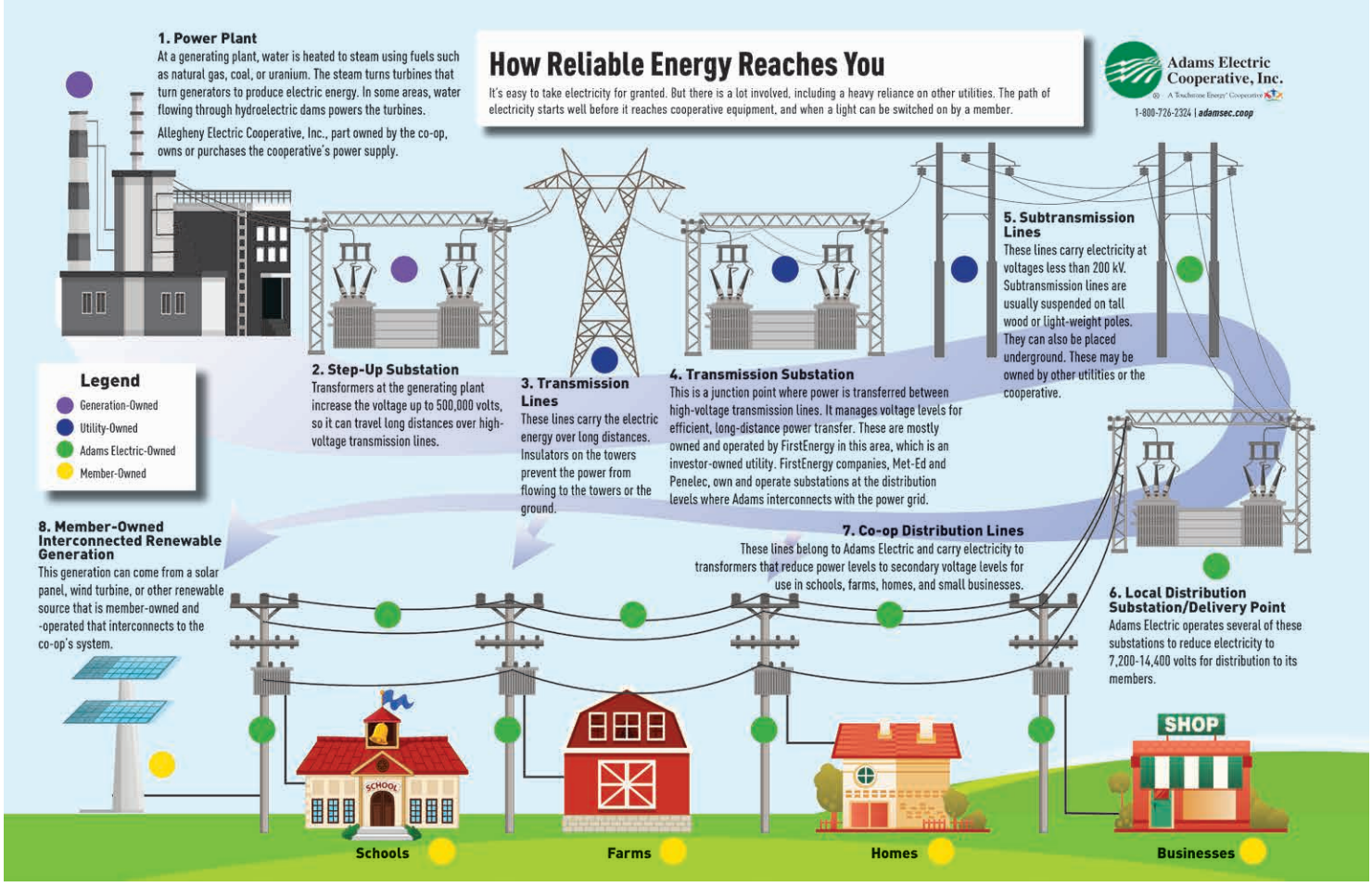
Balancing supply and demand

The key to meeting energy needs is balancing supply with demand. While that may sound simple, there is a complex web of providers who work together to make it happen each day.

Regional transmission organizations help coordinate and monitor the electric grid. Think of them as energy traffic controllers. We rely on high-voltage transmission lines, owned by other companies, to deliver power from a power plant potentially hundreds of miles away to our local delivery points.

Electricity is produced at a generation facility either by renewable or non-renewable energy sources. After the electricity is generated, it travels through high-voltage transmission power lines to electric substations, where the voltage is lowered. Once the voltage is lowered, the electricity travels over distribution power lines, which ultimately deliver the electricity to homes and businesses.

For Adams Electric Cooperative, that power flow generates from sources like the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, a nuclear power facility in Berwick, and the Raystown Hydroelectric Plant in Huntingdon. Power is then transmitted through various transmission companies, via their substations and lines. For us, these include Penelec and Met-Ed, both FirstEnergy companies. Once the power arrives at our substations and metering points, it is distributed to our members through power



lines owned and operated by the cooperative.

When any of the steps in the power delivery process are interrupted, it disrupts electric flow to all the remaining devices served downstream. And while blinks are a nuisance, they eliminate a lot of extended outages by protecting wires and equipment from serious damage when a temporary fault occurs on the lines.

"We are a distribution cooperative," says Chad Thoman, Adams Electric manager of engineering-electrical. "We don't own generation or transmission facilities. We simply distribute power to our members through the lines and equipment that we own. We only have control of our assets, and the reliability of the upstream networks plays a direct role in our reliability.

"If something breaks down in the generation or transmission process, our substations and metering points could be in the dark, which in turn, leaves our members in the dark, as well. It's like plugging in an extension cord. If there's no power to the outlet, you're never going to be able to operate it."

It's all about reliability

Power failures can happen anywhere on the line.

While the co-op is proactive in maintaining and updating its distribution infrastructure, not all utilities practice the same procedure. We sometimes fall to the mercy of those coming before us, and no matter how proactive any of us are, equipment failures and acts of nature are not something within our control.

"Everyone fights new transmission lines being constructed because they don't want the 'eye sore' in their backyard," Thoman says. "But without reliable infrastructure to get power where it needs to be, sometimes the lights will go out."

Luckily, the co-op has invested in technology that allows certain workarounds when it comes to power delivery. Through various processes, electrical circuits can be bypassed and electricity rerouted as needed, especially in an emergency. During times of high demand, however, the amount of power that can be rerouted may be limited.

"It's not ideal, as it puts a definite strain on the rest of the system, but the capability is there," Thoman says.

That doesn't mean power restoration is immediate. It still requires boots on the ground from our line crews and the assistance of many others at the co-op.

"Bottom line," says Thoman, "we're a team, and it takes all the players to keep the power flowing, assuming it has been delivered to our substations and metering points."

APPRENTICE EARNS STEP UP

Congratulations to Dru Hartman of York who was promoted June 23 to fourth-year apprentice at the co-op's York District. He started with Adams Electric Cooperative in 2023 as a first-year apprentice.

DRU HARTMAN

GUEST COLUMN

Continued from page 16A

We were lucky! This really was the best case of a worst-case scenario for us. While our neighbors and some fellow co-workers in northern Adams County, served by Met-Ed, had no power for two days, our York Springs members saw, at most a 51-minute outage from the equipment fire at Met-Ed Gardners. Without Met-Ed and Penelec's efforts — and the knowledge and training of our own personnel to make quick decisions — our members would have experienced a lot more outage time.

I am proud of our co-op team and how everyone came together in the face of this challenge. We communicated openly and honestly with you, our members, to ask for help in conservation and patience. We used specialized technologies to maintain power quality and modify device settings so we could get as much as we could out of our installed facilities when system load was at record levels.

We employed U-Shift load management controls to keep demand down as long as possible to create extra grid capacity during peak hours. We also took calls from members who were not happy with us, but they were glad to have a real person with whom they could talk. Crews were on standby and ready to bypass a device or sectionalize the line to bring power back more sustainably. All of this was done to protect the system's health, minimize outage time for our members and keep everybody safe and informed of the situation.

Thank you to all our members for your conservation practices, patience and support of our team's efforts.

CHAD THOMAN
MANAGER OF ENGINERING-ELECTRICAL