

# Taylor Report

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TAYLOR ELECTRIC  
Cooperative  
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

November 2019

## Tips for Staying Safe This Holiday Season



Gathering with family and friends during the holidays often means making great memories, reliving traditions, and sharing the spirit of the season. However, amid all the festivities, don't forget about safety. Safe Electricity shares tips to help ensure that your holiday season—whether decorating, feasting, or

traveling — remains a safe one.

"The holidays are one of the most festive yet also one of the most dangerous times of the year," says Jim Monk, Safe Electricity Advisory Board member. "Make a point to take care of yourself and those you love by taking all the necessary steps for safety to ensure that your holidays are both merry and bright."

### Keep safety in mind when decorating the home!

- Ensure that your tree is placed at least 3 feet away from heat sources such as fireplaces or radiators and on a stable platform.
- Before hanging holiday lights, check for worn spots, fraying, and excessive kinking. Damaged stands of lights should not be used.
- Consider investing in LED light strands. Although they are more expensive than traditional incandescent bulbs, LED

lights last much longer and are also more efficient and durable.

### Don't get burned in the kitchen!

- Clean your stovetop and oven often, especially before the large amount of baking and cooking that takes place for family gatherings. Doing so will help prevent fires in the kitchen, should a malfunction or accident in the kitchen take place.
- Do not leave combustible items, such as towels or pot holders, near the stove top.
- Keep all appliance cords away from heat.
- Never use appliances near the kitchen sink. Plug appliances into ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets. Unplug your appliances when they are not in use.

Whether you are leaving the home for a few hours or for a few weeks, turn off all lights when they are not in use. Your neighbors can still enjoy your exterior Christmas lights while you are away if you put them on an automatic timer. This will remove the extra worry of an electrical accident while also reducing energy costs. If you will be gone for an extended holiday trip, you can reduce the risk of a power surge damaging equipment by unplugging unneeded electrical devices before leaving.

For more home electrical safety tips, visit [safeelectricity.org](http://safeelectricity.org).

## LOAD MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS TO BE TESTED

The Winter Test for Interruptible Heat (Dual Fuel) Members is scheduled for Wednesday evening, November 20. This test is designed to provide you with the opportunity to observe your control device, ensure that the indicator lights on your load-control receiver function properly, and check that your heating system and/or backup heating system is working properly before winter sets in. Residential Interruptible Heat load classes will be controlled as follows:

### Control Start

All Interruptible Heat load classes will begin control at 5 p.m. without prealert.

### Restoral

Miscellaneous Heat loads (class 4B) will be restored at 8 p.m. All other Interruptible Heat loads (classes 2A, 2B, 2C and 2W) will vary in restoral, beginning at 9 p.m., with all

loads restored by 10 p.m. If you notice any problems with the load-management receiver during this test, please contact the cooperative, 715-678-2411. If you find that your heating system does not work as it should, contact your electrician or heating service representative.



## ELECTRIC BILL CREDIT!!

Based upon August and September purchased power costs and lower fuel costs, Dairyland Power Cooperative was able to issue Taylor Electric a credit on our power bill. We've opted to pass these savings along to you, our members, by issuing a credit on October's bill (enclosed with this newsletter). A member using 1,000 kWhs will receive an approximate credit of \$5.88.

THANK YOU FOR BEING A VALUED  
COOPERATIVE MEMBER!

# Board Report – Sept. 2019

- Approved August disbursements totaling \$752,044.26, accepted 19 new member applications, and June construction in the amount of \$130,870.86.
- Reviewed financial results through August 31, 2019 with \$376,963 Operating Margins and \$467,780 Total Margins year to date.
- There were 6 outages in August and 86 outages for the year to date, with average YTD outage time per member of 2.0 hours.
- One application for discounted early retirement of capital credits to estate was approved with total capital credits of \$2,216.33 to be paid out at the net present value of \$1,183.40.
- Contracts for right-of-way clearing, pole testing, and underground cabinet maintenance were approved.
- A policy change was approved to allow closure of the office on Christmas Eve when December 24th falls on a weekday other than Friday, and all employees agree to use vacation for that day.
- A policy change was approved for the Co-op's Sick Leave policy allowing management discretion for extended sick leave use in cases of severe injury or health issues affecting an employee's family living in their household.
- A new policy, Board Compensation, was approved providing guidance to all directors on what is proper and reasonable compensation in line with the Bylaws requirement that any change in the per diem rate has to be relayed to the members at the annual meeting.
- The policy on reimbursable meeting expenses for directors and employees was amended to clarify covered and non-covered expenses, and, adding first-class air travel as one of the non-covered expenses.
- Renewed the \$500 scholarship for an NTC student who lives in a household served by the Cooperative.
- Renewed the Cooperative's \$1,200 annual donation to the Christmas Wish program, plus a matching amount up to \$500 of collections from members during the October Co-op Month promotion.
- The Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) report by Director Zenner included: a financial review indicating Total Margins of \$6.9 Million for August, \$0.3 Million better than budget. Year to date Margins are \$18.4 Million compared to \$15.8 Million in 2018 and \$18.5 Million in 2017; preparation of new claims against the Department of Energy under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act; added \$40 Million Line of Credit; developing a PURPA waiver form that would allow DPC's distribution co-op members to deal directly with a PURPA qualifying facility (QF) or have the QF contract directly with Dairyland; Dairyland reviewing additional power purchase options; additional work on final details of the wholesale rate task force; and, DPC's CEO and CFO approved to vote on matters before the Finance Committee.
- 37 delinquent Accounts were processed for collection following the September 20th due date. The total amount owing on these accounts is \$13,429.50. Twenty-eight of these accounts have remote disconnect capability.
- CEO Schaefer gave an update on: Taylor County Broadband Committee waiting for feasibility study and business plan from Vantage Point Solutions; working jointly with Clark Electric Co-op on seeking solar bid options for tax equity financing or purchase power agreement; update on applications for the Line Superintendent position; initial discussion about retail rate study with CFC; Director Zenner to be present at Disabilities Awareness Luncheon set up for donors to the Village Playground; and, thank you notes received.
- Directors Waldhart and Albers along with CEO Schaefer reported on the "Cooperative Governance Challenges" seminar they attended. The seminar outlined ways "not to do it" with insights on IRS Form 990 that have come under more scrutiny, as well as director per diems, elections, expenses, and more. Additional discussion of this topic will be done during the board's October Strategic Planning session.
- The September safety meeting report by Director Smith included: hot-stick testing; review of close calls at other utilities including a serious accident where an energized guy wire killed two linemen; proper checking of rubber gloves for holes; and, hearing loss.
- The NRECA Region 5 meeting report was given by Directors Waldhart, Albers and Tesch along with CEO Schaefer. A main focus of the meeting was on meeting the demands of a changing membership. More than 50% of co-op members are under age 45. Guest speaker Kelly McDonald discussed fads versus trends: consumers want authentic, not perfection; give people what they want – women like many choices, men only 3; shorten emails, use bullet points – shorter, faster, easier is better; tout good deeds and community involvement; and, show ways that members can customize their experience in doing business with you. Director compensation, governance, and Touchstone Energy restructuring were also discussed at the Region 5 meeting.
- A preliminary look at the 2020 Cooperative Board Calendar was given.



• On November 11th we honor all who served. We are forever grateful.

• The office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 28th and 29th for Thanksgiving. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday!



• The Christmas Wish Program will be celebrating 23 years of helping those in need during the holiday season starting next month. Watch for more details!