

Members First!



**HANCOCK-WOOD  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**HANCOCK-WOOD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

# EPA'S POWER PLANT RULE THREATENS ELECTRIC RELIABILITY

**A**t Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative, keeping the lights on at a cost you, our members, can afford is the focal point of everything we do. Transparency is one of our core values, so in addition to sharing co-op successes, I believe we also have a responsibility to tell you about the challenges, too.

In May, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued a rule that impacts energy production from power plants. The power plant rule will undoubtedly threaten access to reliable electricity for our local community and communities across the country.

The rule constrains existing coal and new natural gas plants by requiring them to install carbon capture and storage (CCS) — a technology that has potential but has not been proven to be viable as required. No power plant in North America currently uses CCS at the scale and levels mandated by EPA. When power plants can't comply with EPA's CCS requirements, they will be required to shut down, significantly limit operations, or switch fuels. These unrealistic standards will force the unnecessary and early shutdown of many power plants that currently provide reliable electricity 24/7, including the coal-fired Cardinal Power Plant in Brilliant, which supplies more than 80% of the power for Ohio's electric cooperatives.

Renewable sources, such as solar and wind, are important components of our overall generation mix. But given the intermittent nature of these energy sources, we simply cannot depend on them because the wind doesn't always blow and the sun doesn't always shine. The need for always-available power generating resources is still essential.

The timing of the power plant rule is equally troubling. At the same time the EPA is leading our nation down the path to fewer power plants, utilities are facing a surge in electricity demand — driven by the onshoring of manufacturing, the growth of the American economy, and the rapid expansion of data centers to support artificial intelligence, e-commerce, and cryptocurrency.

Many states have already experienced rolling outages, and if the supply of electricity is further threatened by the EPA's power plant rule, the problem will only get worse. In fact, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, the nation's electric reliability watchdog, recently forecasted that over the next five years, all or parts of 19 states are at high risk of rolling power outages during normal peak electricity demand conditions.

It's also no secret that when demand is high and supply is low, costs go up. We're concerned about threats to reliability as well as cost increases to our members.

I don't say all of this to worry you, but I do want our members to understand the challenges that lie ahead. Just as we've always done, we will look for solutions that serve our members best. We are joining electric co-ops across the country to fight these regulations, and we are working with our local elected officials to help them understand the consequences this would have on all Ohioans.

Co-ops are no strangers to innovation, and we're taking proactive steps to address today's energy challenges and tomorrow's energy needs. We've led the charge on industry endeavors such as community solar projects, and we'll continue to explore new technologies and strategies that bolster reliability and our local grid.

Electric cooperatives like Hancock-Wood deliver power to 42 million Americans. At the end of the day, our top priority is to meet our members' energy needs, and we must have reliable electricity available to do that.

If you're interested in learning more about policy impacts to power reliability, or to make your voice heard on this matter, visit [voicesforcooperativepower.com](https://voicesforcooperativepower.com).



**Bill Barnhart**  
PRESIDENT & CEO

# Member Appreciation Day

A huge thank-you to all the amazing members of Hancock-Wood for coming out to our member appreciation event!

You're the reason we do what we do, and we're so grateful for your support. As a non-profit cooperative, our goal is to always make our members feel valued, while also keeping in mind our board-approved budget. Hancock-Wood is committed to providing member events for all to enjoy, while keeping our spending at a minimum. As you can see from the numbers below, changing to the drive-thru format has helped the co-op reduce costs by more than 75% while reaching more members. For the future, our team has discussed a longer time frame for the drive-thru event to help reduce traffic concerns.

We understand the importance of coming together as members of Hancock-Wood and we still invite all members to attend our annual legislative meetings, where we offer a meal and education on the current issues facing your co-op. Hancock-Wood will also

be exploring some new member engagement opportunities in the future, so be sure check our magazine or follow us on social media to see the latest happenings at the co-op!



## Hancock-Wood member appreciation events

2022 Event at fairgrounds	2023 Drive-thru	2024 Drive-thru
Member attendance <b>379</b>	Member attendance <b>645</b>	Member attendance <b>795</b>
Event cost <b>\$71,603</b>	Event cost <b>\$24,841</b>	Event cost <b>\$34,748</b>
Cost per participating member <b>\$188.92</b>	Cost per participating member <b>\$38.51</b>	Cost per participating member <b>\$43.71</b>



As you prepare for harvest season, don't forget to plan for safety. There are many aspects to safety on the farm, but electrical safety is often overlooked. Keep these safety tips in mind as you prepare for harvesting:



### TRAIN OTHERS

Train anyone working on your farm, including family members and seasonal workers, about electrical hazards.

### SAFETY FIRST

Have daily meetings to review the day's work and discuss safety implications. Know and review where the power lines are, the clearance required, and the proper position of extensions as they are transported.



### WAIT TO UNFOLD

Remind workers to fold or unfold extensions well into the field, not close to the field's edge where power lines are typically located.

### USE A SPOTTER

When working in the vicinity of power lines, always have a spotter on the ground, who can direct you away from power lines or poles if you are getting too close.

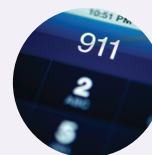


### DO NOT EXIT YOUR CAB

If your machine or truck makes contact with a power line, pole, or guy wire, you could become electricity's path to ground and become electrocuted if you step out of the cab.

### CALL 9-1-1

Call 9-1-1 to have your electric utility dispatched to deenergize the power source. Only exit the cab if your equipment is on fire. If that happens, make a solid jump out and hop away with feet together as far as you can.



For more information:



## Join the Cardinal Plant tour on October 10

Members are invited to join us on a Cardinal Power Plant tour on October 10, 2024. This free, all-day trip will depart from the cooperative's office at about 7 a.m. on Thursday, October 10, and include an interesting and informative guided tour of the plant, as well as lunch provided by the cooperative. The bus generally returns to the cooperative's office at about 7 p.m. The Cardinal Plant tour consists of a 60- to 90-minute walking tour with several flights of stairs. Members with health concerns, those who require assistance walking, or those who cannot walk more than a half mile without resting should not take the tour. Participants must be at least twelve years old unless specifically authorized.

Space is limited, and seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Call our office or email [marcy@hwe.coop](mailto:marcy@hwe.coop) by September 27 to reserve your spot.**

**Come join us!**  
**WEDNESDAY**  
**OCTOBER 9th**  
**1 p.m. – 3 p.m.!**  
**BECOME A WINNER AT**  
**BINGO!!**

**1399 BUSINESS PARK DR. SOUTH,  
 NORTH BALTIMORE**

**MEMBERS ONLY.  
 (ONLY 50 SEATS AVAILABLE.)**

**First-come, first-served. Sign up by calling  
 our office at 800-445-4840.**



# Sign up for bank draft

as your form of payment.

## EXPERIENCE THE BENEFITS:

- Receive a one-time \$15 bill credit after you sign up
- Help the co-op save money
- Save time with automatic payments
- Avoid potential late charges



Sign up online or call  
800-445-4840.



## The Hancock-Wood



office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2



to observe Labor Day.



### CONTACT

800-445-4840  
FAX: 419-257-3024

### WEBSITE

[www.hwe.coop](http://www.hwe.coop)

### OFFICE

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### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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### PAYMENT OPTIONS

online, dropbox, office, by phone, or  
automatic bill pay

### HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

Email your ideas to:  
[leslie.guisinger@hwe.coop](mailto:leslie.guisinger@hwe.coop)



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