



DAVID VONDRAN
CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

Understanding power curtailments

Winter Storm Uri was an unprecedented weather event in February 2021 that left a lasting impact on all electric utilities. The historic storm caused significant disruptions to the regional power grid and highlighted the need for improved resilience in the face of extreme weather events.

The bitter cold led to an extraordinary surge in demand for electricity as more power was needed for heating and other essential needs.

Part of our preparation is to educate our members about the importance of having a diverse energy mix through an educational campaign called the Balance of Power. Please read the first in a very important series of articles on page 20.

Another key component is for members to better understand and prepare for potential curtailments.

When electric demand is extremely high, and there is not enough available generation, curtailments are mandated by our wholesale power generation organization to protect the electric grid from collapsing and to keep power flowing.

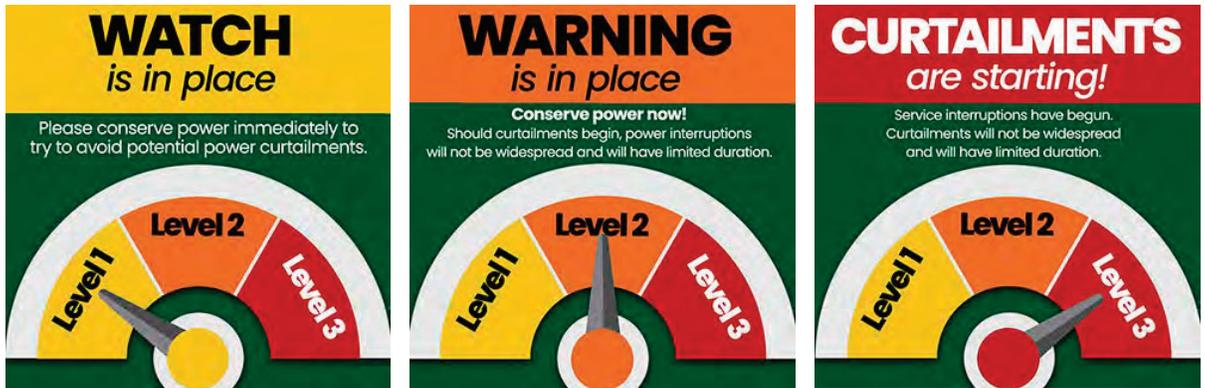
A curtailment is a CONTROLLED reduction of power. It has a LIMITED duration. Curtailments are a last-resort measure to safeguard the electric grid.

The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas have adopted a statewide curtailment communications plan to keep you informed of potential service interruptions. As the National Weather Service keeps Arkansans informed during potential bad weather, this communications plan serves a similar purpose. When directed by our wholesale power generation organization, we will begin the following curtailment alerts based on level of concern and action needed:

LEVEL 1 – Watch in place. Members are asked to conserve energy.

LEVEL 2 – Warning in place. Members are asked to prepare for the strong possibility of curtailments.

LEVEL 3 – Curtailments have started. Members are informed of the area impacted.



C & L Electric will make every effort to alert you about potential curtailments as quickly as possible through numerous means of communication. Unfortunately, there are times that the electric demand spikes so rapidly that there is little to no time to give warning and notify members prior to curtailments occurring. We encourage our members to keep your contact information up-to-date. Also, we will utilize social media as a means of communication with members. Follow our Facebook page at facebook.com/clelectric.

C & L Electric works to provide our members with Affordable, Reliable and Responsible energy. Winter storms like Uri and Elliott in December 2022 were reminders of the challenges that extreme weather and the resulting high power demand place on the electric grid. The storms' impact highlighted the need for continued investments in infrastructure, diversification of energy sources, improved communication and emergency preparedness strategies.

Learn more about the Balance of Power at aecc.com/balance-of-power/.

Re-file for sales tax exemption by March 1

If you are currently exempt from paying sales tax on the first 500 kilowatt hours of electricity used each month, that exemption expired Jan. 1, 2024. If you still qualify, you may continue receiving the exemption if you complete and return the exemption form to C & L Electric by March 1.

Act 120 of 1983 provides that members whose household income is less than \$12,000 annually shall be exempt from paying sales tax on the first 500 kWh of electricity used each month. All charges for electricity used above 500 kWh will still be taxed.

To qualify, members must complete a form supplied by the Revenue Division of the Department of Finance and Administration. These forms must be completed and re-filed annually to get the exemption. If you filed a form last year and are currently receiving the exemption, you must file again this year.

These forms may be obtained from the Commission of Revenues or from any one of the cooperative's offices in person or by mail. As noted on the official form, all claim forms are "subject to audit for tax purposes, by the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration."

Completed claim forms must be in the C & L headquarters office by March 1 to be eligible for the exemption during all of 2024. All applications received after March 1 will be for the remainder of the year.



STAR CITY OFFICE

900 Church St.
(870) 628-4221

Hours:
Monday-Friday
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

SHERIDAN OFFICE

1586 S. Rock St.
(870) 942-2732

Hours:
Monday-Friday
8 a.m.-11 a.m.,
12:30 p.m.-5 p.m.

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C & L ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE
CORPORATION

**C & L Electric
will be closed
Jan. 1 for New
Year's Day.**

C & L HELPS PROTECT SERVICE TO ELDERLY & DISABLED MEMBERS

C & L Electric provides special considerations to ensure the protection of our elderly and disabled members.

This protection includes:

* Before disconnecting your service due to an unpaid bill, we will make two attempts at different times of day to contact you, an adult at the premises, or someone previously designated by you, either in person or by telephone at least 72 hours before suspending service. If the attempt to contact is successful, we will offer to explain what can be done to avoid suspension of your service and explain payment and assistance options.

* If the attempt to make personal contact is not successful, we will give you 24-hour written notice which explains what can be done to avoid suspension of your service.

To receive C & L Electric's "protection" service, you must register and provide written documents certifying the status claimed. This protection is provided to prevent disruption to your electric service. It does not relieve you of liability for your electric bill or reduce the amount of your electric bill.

ELDERLY — An "elderly" member is one who is at least 65 years of age.

DISABLED — A "disabled" member is one who has a severe physical or mental impairment who is certified as being disabled by a physician, licensed psychologist, by the United States Veterans Administration, the Social Security Administration, the Arkansas Department of Human Services, the Arkansas State Hospital or a licensed mental health center.

If you wish to register for elderly or disabled status, fill out the form below & return to C & L with proof of age for elderly or physician's statement for disabled status.

REGISTRATION FORM: (Mail form to: C & L Electric, P. O. Box 9, Star City, AR 71667)
(Providing false information shall be grounds for termination of service.)

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone # _____ C & L Account # _____

CHECK STATUS: HANDICAPPED ____ ELDERLY ____

Attach proof of age for Elderly or physician's statement for Disability

Need a little help paying your winter electric bill?

The **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** provides help paying heating costs in the winter months to qualifying individuals and families.

In **January**, applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, as long as funds are available. Businesses are excluded from receiving this benefit.

Please check eligibility at your local Community Action Agency (CAA) at acaaa.org.



Please note: LIHEAP is not administered by your local cooperative utility. For more information, please contact your local community action agency.



Congratulations!

C & L Electric Cooperative Director Recognized

Director Tony Cathey received an award for his five years of service to the Cooperative.

C & L Electric employees provide Christmas gifts for families

To spread Christmas cheer, employees of C & L Electric Cooperative adopted 13 children to make their holidays merry and bright.

Beginning in November, C & L employees Amanda Horner and Dana Weast took on the task of fundraising efforts to help families buy food and gifts for their children last year for Christmas. The team assembled gift baskets and sold raffle tickets, set up food collection stations and organized a game of cellphone Bingo (an employee favorite)!

“Through the generosity of our co-workers, board members and donations from employee family-members, we were able to buy gifts for 13 children and provide food baskets for the families that included a ham and a turkey,” Horner said.

In 2024, the team has plans to start fundraising efforts earlier in the year “so we can adopt more families during the 2024 Christmas season,” Weast added.

At C & L, our mission is to keep houses warm and hearts warm, too!

