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Duck River Electric Sets New Summer Peak Demand

With historic and prolonged record temperatures plaguing south central Tennessee, Duck River Electric Membership Corporation has established a new summer peak demand, exceeding the previous peak by almost six percent.

The system-wide peak demand, which represents reading from all 27 of Duck River Electric's power delivery substations, was set at 381,868 kilowatts on August 8. The previous summer peak demand was established on August 9, 2006 when the cumulative reading was 360,982 kilowatts.

“Although this represents a significant increase in the amount of power being used by Duck River Electric's consumers during these oppressively hot summer days, the demand still falls far short of the Cooperative's all-time system peak demand of 431,532 kilowatts, which was set on January 31 of this year,” explained Blake Butler, DREMC's Director of Engineering.

“The Cooperative has an on-going multi-million dollar reliability improvement plan which includes construction of at least one new power delivery substation a year for the next several years. With the addition of these new substations, we are able to meet the growing demand for energy from our consumers as well as meet extreme weather conditions, summer or winter, with minimal worry about the reliability of our system,” Butler explained.

He went on to explain, however, that this does not mean that consumers should not be concerned about the amount of energy they use. “Everyone should be as energy efficient as they can in order to help TVA and DREMC meet these unusually high peak demands as well as to save as much as possible on their monthly electric bill,” Butler noted. He suggested the following cost-saving steps to help improve efficiency in the home:

- Turn up cooling system thermostats from 75 to 78 degrees. Raise it even more (5 degrees) when no one is home.
- Avoid running dishwashers, washing machines and electric clothes dryers between the hours of 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
- Use the “sleep mode” on computers.
- Keep curtains closed on the south, east and west sides of the house during the day.
- Use the microwave instead of a stove burner or oven for cooking
- Make sure your air-conditioner filter is changed or cleaned regularly, at least once each month.