

- I bet you've seen news reports on the potential for rolling blackouts this summer. You're probably wondering if this will impact you. The short answer is yes – there is an increased likelihood for this to happen in our service area.
- The energy business is complex, and it's important for me to explain how this could impact you. Back in 2005, utilities in our geographic location began participating in an energy market known as the Mid-Continent Independent Systems Operator, or MISO. It covers 15 states across the US and a province in Canada.
- MISO's role is to ensure adequate electrical generation and transmission to meet electric demand across its territory. Just like an air traffic controller for the energy industry. There are similar energy markets in other areas of the U.S.
- Another utility organization, called North American Electric Reliability Corporation or NERC issued a warning for the 15-state MISO market. NERC's perspective is MISO has a "high-risk" of requiring rolling blackouts, if weather conditions are extreme, and generators are unexpectedly offline this summer.
- This topic can be confusing and alarming at the same time. What this potentially means for MVEC, and all utilities in MISO, is the possibility that power could be shut off temporarily for short periods of time to our substations this summer. This is a rolling blackout. Although this will likely only happen if the weather is extreme and certain generating facilities fail, it's important to make you aware of the potential.
- MVEC has taken proactive steps to prepare and protect our electric system. We've contracted for and our power suppliers currently have adequate generating capacity to meet our needs. However, the regional energy market is managed as a whole and not separately. This means it could find itself without adequate generation, if extreme conditions occur.
- We are watching this closely and will provide you advance notice if market conditions indicate any potential for rolling outages. We will communicate on our website, mvec.net, Facebook, Twitter and/or email notifications if we believe rolling blackouts will occur.
- Energy conservation is important. Here are a couple of things to keep in mind:
 - Change your furnace filter – this can reduce energy consumption up to 15%
 - On 90 degree or higher days, increase your thermostat temp up four degrees – especially from 4:00 to 8:00 pm when there is high usage on the system
 - Join MVEC's Wi-Fi Thermostat Program to have precise control on your cooling settings., You'll receive a \$50 rebate, save 10% on summer electric bills, plus save on your natural gas bill, as well.
 - Visit mvec.net for additional details, energy saving tips and more, including other videos on the summer energy situation.
- Thank you for being members of MVEC. We are looking out for you.