



A MESSAGE FROM:
Shane L. Larson,
Chief Executive Officer



Keep Warm, Prepared & Safe As Winter Rolls On

As you are well aware of, the trials and tribulations of winter aren't quite over just yet. The month of February can be rough—often unpredictable, cold, snowy and/or icy. Just look back to 2023 when a massive ice storm gripped our services areas (pictured here). Also think back to February 2024 when tornadoes caused significant damage in Rock and Green counties in Wisconsin.

So, as winter continues to churn, you may see our line crews on the road as they look out for damage or potential problems with overhead lines. This is part of our normal routine to ensure that our distribution lines are in good working order. If you see our crews on the roadway, please slow down and keep a safe distance while passing them. They are working to keep our electric distribution system safe and reliable.



A Rock Energy crew work on getting branches off of power lines. The branches were coated with ice from a storm in February 2023.

MAKE SAFETY PRIORITY NO. 1

Winters can be long and the conditions brutally cold, so when temperatures drop and storms hit, it can be challenging to stay safe and warm, especially if there is a power outage. In case of an outage, always remember this:

KEEP WARM — Plan to use a safe alternate heating source, such as a fireplace or wood-burning stove during a power outage. These are great options to keep you and your loved ones warm, but exercise caution when using, and never leave the heating source unattended. If you are using gasoline-, propane- or natural gas-burning devices to stay warm, never use them indoors. Remember that fuel- and wood-burning sources of heat should always be properly ventilated. Always read the manufacturer's directions before using.

BE PREPARED — Have several days of food supply available that does not need to be cooked handy. Crackers, cereal, canned goods and bread are good options. Five gallons of water per person should also be available in the event of an extended power outage.

BE SAFE — When an outage occurs, it could mean power lines are down. It is best not to travel during winter storms, but if you must, bring a survival kit along, and do not travel alone. If you encounter downed lines, always assume they are live. Stay as far away from the downed lines as possible, and report the situation to us by calling 800-752-4550 if possible.

Rest assured, Rock Energy does its best to prepare for what the weather has in store, and we want you to be ready too.

As always, I want to thank you for allowing us to be your energy provider. If we can do anything to improve our service, please let us know.



ROCK ENERGY
COOPERATIVE

2026 Annual Meeting

Monday, April 13, 2026

Janesville Conference Center (Holiday Inn Express)

Rock Energy's 90th Annual Meeting will be held on **Monday, April 13**, at the Janesville Conference Center (Holiday Inn Express), Janesville WI. Join us for a full-service, sit-down dinner for our members. Full details about the annual meeting will be in an upcoming co-op magazine.

* Registration is required. To register to attend, register on-line at www.rock.coop/annual-meeting.

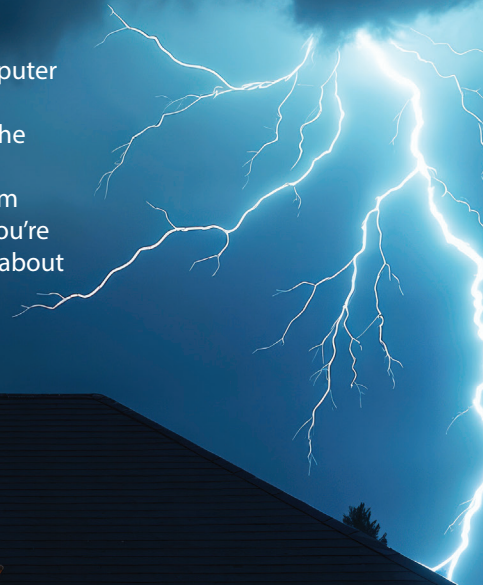
Insurance Policies & Power Outages

Rock Energy Cooperative works diligently to make sure your electricity and natural gas are there when you need it. But like most things, nothing is 100 percent guaranteed.

Outages or voltage issues—whether triggered by a storm, lightning, trees, equipment failure, animals, or vehicles hitting power poles—can damage computer equipment, TVs, and other appliances in your home. If an outage occurs due to an act that is out of Rock Energy's control (such as those events mentioned in the previous sentence), you won't be compensated for any damaged equipment.

However, most homeowners and business insurance policies cover losses from interruptions caused by lightning, windstorms, and other sources. Make sure you're familiar with your policy and what is covered. Call your agent if you're not sure about your specific coverage.

You can help protect your own equipment by unplugging it during a power outage and by installing surge protection.



IMPORTANT NOTE:

Rock Energy will do everything it can reasonably do to provide continuous service for members, but the co-op does not guarantee an uninterrupted or undisturbed supply of service. The co-op will not be responsible for any loss or damage resulting from an interruption or disturbance of service.

2026 Youth Events Scheduled

WASHINGTON D.C. TOUR (JUNE 14-20)

Each year, member cooperatives, like Rock Energy, sponsor young people for participation in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

Every electric co-op has the opportunity to sponsor students for this educational tour of national monuments and visits with elected officials at their Capitol offices.

Last summer, 13 youth delegates representing Wisconsin's electric cooperatives joined more than 2,000 additional youth delegates from across the nation for the annual event. Wisconsin's Federated Youth Foundation, a co-op sponsored, independent charitable organization, provides significant financial support for Youth Tour participation through the proceeds from investments financed by unclaimed co-op patronage credits.

To inquire about attending the 2026 Youth Tour, contact Rock Energy at 866-752-4550.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (JULY 14-16)

A key component of WECA's educational programming for young people, the three-day Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) has been held each summer since 1963.

This year's YLC event will take place July 14-16 at UW-Stout in Menomonie, WI. YLC offers a head start in understanding cooperative business principles for the next generation of co-op leaders.

The 2025 YLC attracted more than 60 students sponsored by 16 cooperatives. Activities focus on maximizing leadership potential, understanding cooperatives, and co-op governance—the students organize and operate a functioning cooperative during the event—effective communication, and turning mistakes into stepping stones for success.

Participating students elect a six-member WECA Youth Board who will help plan the following year's Youth Conference. They will also have the opportunity to attend the NRECA Youth Tour, and visit the WECA offices and State Capitol legislative offices. Another feature of the Youth Conference is the annual WECA Essay Contest. Students, writing on co-op subjects, compete for three scholarships of \$1,000, \$500, and \$250.



Rock Energy now is accepting on-line applications for YLC. Just go to www.rock.coop and click on the Community & Youth tab. For more information, call Jonas Berberich, Communications Manager, at 866-752-4550 or email him at Jonasb@rock.coop.

Do You Have Medical Devices At Home?

Make Sure You Have A Backup Plan

Electricity is something we take for granted. If you or another person in your home relies on medical equipment, plan ahead in case of a power outage. It's essential to think ahead and not wait until you are facing a crisis. Below are some important factors that you should consider.

* PLAN AHEAD *

Your plan may include backup batteries, a generator, and even asking local authorities (hospital, fire station, energy provider, etc.) for assistance. It's best to reach out to these sources in advance of a power outage to ask how and if they can help.

* KEEP TRACK OF DEVICES *

Make a list of all the different medical devices in your home that are machines (CPAP, respirators, ventilators), power wheelchairs and scooters, oxygen, suction, or home dialysis equipment, and even a refrigerator to store medicine, such as insulin.

* CHARGE IT UP *

Fully charge your cellphone, battery-powered medical devices, and backup power sources if you know a big storm is coming.

* EMERGENCY LIST *

Create an emergency power checklist that includes model and serial numbers for your medical devices, emergency contact information, power backup sources, etc.



* NON-ELECTRIC OPTIONS *

Get manual alternatives for your electric devices that are portable, dependable, and durable. For example, a manual wheelchair, walker, or cane as a backup for an electric scooter.

* INSTRUCTION MANUALS *

Have all equipment instruction manuals located in one easy place to find in the event of a power outage. Read the user manual or contact the manufacturer to find out if your medical device is compatible with batteries or a generator.

* BATTERIES *

If you use hearing aids, keep a supply of hearing aid batteries on hand. Create a plan for how to recharge batteries when the electricity is out. Check with your vendor/supplier to find alternative ways to charge batteries.

Shane Larson, CEO

P.O. Box 1758, 2815 Kennedy Rd., Janesville, WI 53547
P.O. Box 126, 15229 Willowbrook Rd., South Beloit, IL 61080
866-752-4550

Jonas Berberich, Editor



**ROCK ENERGY
COOPERATIVE**
Empowering Members Since 1936



Natural Gas Q & A

Rock Energy Cooperative operates about 180 miles of natural gas pipeline in northern Illinois with nearly 9,000 services. Our distribution system is regularly monitored and inspected for corrosion and leaks to ensure safe and reliable service.

Q: How can I prevent pipeline damage?

A: Damage from digging is the most common cause of underground natural gas leaks. Even a small scratch in the pipeline coating may result in corrosion that could lead to a leak. Always call 8-1-1 before you dig or excavate to avoid hitting a natural gas pipeline or other buried utility line. Illinois law requires people to call at least two business days before any digging project. Utilities then will send a representative to the site so all underground lines can be marked. The call and service are absolutely free. Remember that Rock Energy maintains buried gas pipes up to your meter. All pipes beyond that are the member's responsibility and should be periodically inspected for corrosion and leaks.

Q: What is natural gas?

A: Natural gas is an economical and reliable source of energy that is completely safe when used properly. It is formed when layers of buried plants and animals are exposed to intense heat and pressure over millions of years. Because natural gas is lighter than air, it rises and dissipates into the atmosphere if it escapes from a pipeline. Underground, however, it may follow the path of least resistance, accumulating in a confined space or traveling to an ignition source. Natural gas is easily ignited by heat, sparks, or flames and can cause explosions.

Q: How is it transported?

A: Pipelines are the safest and most economical method of transporting natural gas, according to the National Transportation Safety Board. Because pipelines are buried underground, warning signs are used to indicate their presence along the right-of-way. The signs are clearly marked with the operator's name and emergency phone number. The pipeline right-of-way must remain free of structures, vegetation, and any other obstructions. Maintaining a right-of-way free of encroachments is essential to ensuring the safety and integrity of pipelines.

If you have any questions about natural gas safety, we would be happy to provide you with further information. Just call us at 866-752-4550. We also encourage you to visit the web sites below to get more information about pipeline safety.

Rock Energy: www.rock.coop Call 811: www.call811.com

Diggers Hotline: www.diggershotline.com

JULIE (Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators): www.illinois1call.com

National Pipeline Mapping System: www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov

