

## Industry Terms and Definitions

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### **“Back Feed”**

To alter the direction of power delivery in order to preserve the continuity of service.

### **Blinks**

When protective devices, such as reclosers, operate on the distribution system. These can be short-term interruptions of service or perceived reduced voltage at the members’ home. Blinks are most often detected by dim incandescent lights or flashing digital displays.

### **Bulk Transmission**

The high-voltage transmission systems, owned by various electric utilities, which act as a regional conduit for the bi-directional flow of electricity to numerous electrical providers.

### **Capital Credits**

The annual equity acquired by cooperative members based on the amount of power they purchase from the cooperative. Capital credits are refunded to members (who own the cooperative) each year in the form of a check. In 2016 the membership received a total of \$1.6 million in capital credits, bringing the cumulative total paid to more than \$41 million.

### **Conductor**

Overhead wire that carries electricity from one point to another.

### **Electric Cooperative**

A type of cooperative that is tasked with the delivery of electricity to members. Each year, profits are distributed to members in the form of capital credits, which are dividends paid on a member's annual patronage to the cooperative.

### **Kilowatt (kW)**

The measurement of instantaneous power required over a short interval of time. It is often referred to as demand. Demand can also be expressed in megawatts (MW) for larger loads.

### **Kilowatt-hour (kWh)**

The basic measurement of electrical energy consumed.

### **“Load”**

General term used to define the amount of electricity being delivered throughout the system.

**Member**

Cooperative consumers are referred to as members, since they participate in the ownership in the business through the delivery of power. They receive a return on their annual patronage to the cooperative in the form of Capital Credits.

**Peak**

The maximum amount of system demand during a given period of time. System peak demand directly influences wholesale power costs.

**Recloser**

A protective device used to interrupt the flow of electricity when conditions exist that could threaten public safety or the integrity of the distribution system.

**Smart Grid**

A modernized electrical grid that uses analog or digital information and communications technology to gather and act on information in an automated fashion.

**Three-phase**

The method of power delivery used for generation, transmission and electric distribution systems. This type of delivery is generally constructed with cross arms and multiple conductors spanning between structures. Most commercial, large power and large office facilities require three-phase power.

**Transformer**

An oil-filled device seen in overhead power delivery attached to the top of a pole. For underground installations, transformers are mounted on concrete pads. A transformer converts high voltage power to lower voltage utilized by residential and commercial members.