# Severe Weather & Extreme Heat Advisory July 20, 2022



### PJM HOT WEATHER ALERT AND POSSIBLE STORMS

The AEP team is closely monitoring the potential for severe weather conditions this afternoon throughout our service territory. AEP Ohio crews are on alert and ready to respond should any storm-related outages occur. According to the AEP meteorology team, the current weather pattern is not the same as the Derecho from last month, but expected instability in the atmosphere could create potential for unpredictable weather conditions including severe storms.

Additionally, PJM, the organization responsible for managing the electric transmission grid in 13 states including Ohio, has issued a <a href="https://hot.weather.alert">hot weather alert</a> for July 20 in anticipation of 90-degree temperatures. A PJM Hot Weather Alert is a proactive step taken by PJM to prepare personnel and facilities within the PJM region for extreme hot weather and / or humid conditions. This communication by AEP is for awareness only. While PJM is not projecting generation capacity shortages that would limit customer usage, we always encourage customers to use energy wisely and have included a few simple energy-savings tips.

We'll continue to update you with any new information from PJM about grid conditions and as we get a clearer picture of the path of the potential storms.

### **JUNE 14-15 EMERGENCY FORCED OUTAGES**

We understand that customers are concerned about the potential for power outages. Our grid is planned, designed and built with redundancy and hardening to handle extreme temperatures. The emergency-forced outages in Central Ohio on June 14-15 were driven by a unique set of circumstances, including severe damage caused by the storms and high demand for electricity associated with the extremely hot weather. Our crews have repaired damage caused by the storm and also completed additional tree trimming and clearing around high-voltage transmission lines in Central Ohio to help prevent future tree-related power outages.

AEP, PJM and Reliability First are currently working under the visibility of North American Electric Reliability Corporation and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to formally develop a report that documents the pre-event, real-time and post-event actions taken by AEP and PJM. The report is part of a voluntary NERC event analysis process which strives to develop a culture of reliability excellence and serves as a learning opportunity for the industry. Additionally, the event is being reviewed to determine whether all actions taken were in compliance with the NERC Reliability Standards.

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#### **ENERGY-SAVINGS TIPS**

When temperatures rise, there are simple steps customers can take to use energy wisely including:

- Turning your thermostat up a few degrees. Adjusting the temperature is one of the most effective ways to reduce cooling costs.
- Closing blinds and curtains to keep the sun out and cool air inside. Keeping window coverings shut during the hottest parts of the day can help reduce your home's overall temperature.
- Avoiding using appliances that produce heat, like ovens and dryers, when it's hot outside.
- More energy tips to consider can be found here.

#### STORM PREPAREDNESS & SAFETY TIPS

With extreme heat, summer storms can happen quickly. Customers can stay safe and prepared by remembering to:

- Assemble or refresh an <u>emergency kit</u> that includes (at minimum) non-perishable food, water, a flashlight, batteries, a battery-powered radio, a first aid kit, any necessary medications, portable chargers, extra cash and maps of your area.
- Develop an <u>emergency preparedness plan</u> for you and your family. Decide now what you'll do if there's an extended power outage. Also, contact family, friends and neighbors who are elderly or have medical conditions.
- Stay away from any downed wires and report any hazards through the <u>AEP Ohio</u> mobile app, call 911 or AEP Ohio at (800) 672-2231.
- For the health and safety of AEP Ohio crews, please stay at least 6 feet away from our employees, vehicles and equipment.
- Do not attempt to remove tree limbs or debris within 10 feet of a power line.
- Limbs, leaves and other objects moved by the wind could hide downed wires. Investigate your surroundings before trying to clean up any debris.
- Notify AEP Ohio if you're using a generator. This protects you and our lineworkers as they work to restore power.
- Unplug major appliances to protect them when power is restored.

#### STAY CONNECTED

Customers can receive the latest alerts and information by:

- Downloading the AEP Ohio mobile app: AEPOhio.com/App
- Signing up for text alerts: AEPOhio.com/Alerts
- Visiting <u>AEPOhio.com/OutageMap</u>
- Following AEP Ohio on Facebook and Twitter

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#### FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

If a customer is experiencing financial hardship, we will work together to find the right option. Additional information can be found at <u>AEPOhio.com/Assistance</u> or by reaching out to AEP Ohio on <u>Facebook</u> or <u>Twitter</u>.

We've also expanded bill assistance currently available through the Neighbor to Neighbor program. Through a special expanded assistance opportunity, eligible AEP Ohio customers in need may qualify for a grant applied directly to their bill, even if they are not currently past due. Customers can learn more and, if eligible, apply between now and July 29 at <a href="https://example.com/N2N">AEPOhio.com/N2N</a> while funds are available.

## **COOLING CENTERS**

If outages were to occur and communities establish cooling centers, we will communicate locations as they become available through our social media channels and the AEP Ohio Outage Map.