Along the Lines

A Publication of Rolla Municipal Utilities

TORNADO CLEANUP UPDATE

RMU sustained heavy damage from the storm on March 14, 2024. The EF2 tornado touched down within the City of Rolla beginning around South Side Shoppers World on South Bishop Avenue and continuing northeast through the city. The general trajectory bisected RMU's electric grid breaking or damaging poles and associated lines. RMU has substations on the south and east side of Rolla that suffered damage leaving thousands of customers without power. Upon initial inspection, RMU immediately determined that due to the severity and scope of damage, we needed to activate a mutual aid response. The first of several crews showed up the day after the storm. RMU made incredible progress with the team effort of our staff, and the assistance of Waynesville, St. James, West Plains, Fulton, Columbia, Macon and Higginsville electric crews. Within two weeks of the tornado, power was restored to all RMU customers - a major feat considering the damage RMU sustained. Our current estimate includes 100 poles, 25 roadway lights, several switches and 25 pole-mounted transformers with final costs estimated to be around $3 million. While power to our community has been re-established, the cleanup continues. We still have a lot of work repairing our damaged electric grid and finishing our temporary solutions. We also have a steady stream of other damage to fix as turned in by customers. We appreciate the support of our community as we continue to make progress with these efforts. RMU is proud to be your hometown utility.

NATIONAL LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

National Lineman Appreciation Day on April 18th honors the men and women who work around the clock to keep the power going. As demonstrated in the last month, when mother nature destroys what our linemen have built up, they are on call to build it back up again as quickly as possible. These men and women work tirelessly to get emergency systems back in working order and urgently return service to damaged areas. Rain or shine our lineworkers show up whenever they are needed. We are thankful for their dedication to work in challenging conditions to help restore power safely and quickly.





THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE

RMU thanks the Rolla community for all the support as our crews worked through the aftermath of the March 14th tornado. We want to especially thank UDT for the assistance the night of the storm. Many thanks to our local businesses: Applebees, Alex's Pizza, Arby's, Buckin' Hot Catering, Casey's, Colton's Steakhouse, Dickies BBQ, Casey's, Ed Morse Chevrolet, Food for the Soul Catering, Frida's Cantina & Grill, Greentree Christian Church, Hasselmann House, Hoppers, Jimmy Johns, Lees Chicken, Los Arcos, Maedgen's Lawn Care, Master Donuts, McAlister's Deli, McDonalds, Ozark Coca-Cola, Phelps County Bank, Phelps Health, Price Chopper, Rolla Church of Christ, Rolla Knights of Columbus, Rolla Lions Club, Scruffs Grill & American Taco, Sonic, Subway, Swaftastic-BBQ, Tater Patch, and Wendy's. We greatly appreciate the individuals who supported RMU including: Mikal Diva, Terrill Emmett, Renae Englemeyer, Raymond Gerichten, Robin Higley, Savannah Mitchell, Mike Patel, Sam Rollins, and Lila Wibbenmeyer among so many others whose name we've missed who dropped off food, snacks, and drinks to the office, service department and job sites. Please know that the staff at RMU are grateful to have the support of our community. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and RMU values your confidence in us. We cannot thank you enough and sincerely appreciate your support to help RMU crews power through the storm. We are proud to be your hometown utility!

Thank You

from Rodney P. Bourne, General Manager
and Rolla Board of Public Works President, Nick Barrack



In the history of RMU, this is the first time we recall requesting mutual aid. Thank you to Columbia Water & Light (pictured above) and to all the communities who responded to the call.



UPCOMING PROJECTS

RMU electric and water crews have planned projects throughout the City of Rolla. Please help keep crews safe by giving them plenty of distance and obeying road signs. RMU crews expect to be working in the following areas in the near future; however, crews could be working in other areas as situations dictate.

ELECTRIC

- Strobach Street
- 7th Street & Railroad tracks
- HyPoint area near Grellner

WATER

- 7th Street between Pine & Rolla Streets
- North Bishop near Lowes
- O Highway
- Shady Acres



Enter to Win

It's easy! To enter, simply ensure we have your current email address and phone number on file.

Stop by our office, call, or email us at info@rmurolla.org with your name, account number and updated phone number. We use email to send important notifications.

If we already have your email, you're automatically entered in the monthly drawing! We'll be holding this drawing every month in 2025. Each month, one lucky RMU customer will win a $50 credit just for having their email on file. Please note that RMU staff members are not eligible to win.