

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - June 14, 2022



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## POTENTIAL POWER SHORTAGES ACROSS MICHIGAN

*Brownouts possible this summer.*

Hart, Michigan - The Mid-Continent Independent System Operator ([MISO](#)) is the organization which oversees the power grid for all or a portion of [15 states](#), including Michigan. In late April, MISO warned of the possibility of power shortages this summer during times of peak demand. According to Executive Director Zak Joundi, MISO's northern and central region are at heightened risk for controlled "load sheds".

*Load-Shedding: The deliberate shutdown of electric power in a part or parts of a power-distribution system, generally to prevent the failure of the entire system when the demand strains the capacity of the system.*

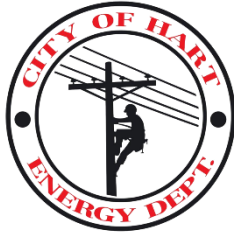
Two predominant factors are driving power shortages. First, there has been an increase in energy usage as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic ease. Second, as MISO's January 2022 [report](#) found, "...many thermal resources have recently retired from service due to economic, regulatory, and environmental pressures, and the aging thermal assets that remain in service may be more prone to unplanned outages and face supply chain issues."

In times of extreme demand, MISO may direct Hart Energy to activate emergency plans, known as load-shedding. "Hart Energy is preparing and planning for the possibility of power shortages over the summer. We are a locally owned, community-run Public Power utility, and anything that affects our neighbors affects all of us. As much as it is within our control, we hope to minimize any potential disruption to our valued customers," said Mike Schiller, Hart Energy Superintendent. "If the power grid is nearing capacity, Hart Energy's first action will be requesting help from you, our electric customers, who can assist by beginning conservation measures such as turning off unneeded lights and electronics or limiting the use of air conditioning." Schiller continued, "These simple steps, when we all follow them, can make a world of difference. The City of Hart and Hart Energy are confident we will come through this together."

"Our outstanding reliability is a keystone of Michigan's Public Power utilities," says Katie Abraham, Executive Director of the Michigan Municipal Electric Association ([MMEA](#)). "This will not change if the power grid faces the threat of outages this summer."

Hart Energy is working to ensure critical services are uninterrupted during temporary or sustained power outages. Critical care customers who depend on electricity for oxygen or other life-sustaining medical equipment should contact Hart Energy if they have not already done so previously.

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**by texting the word: HARTENERGY to number 91896**



## **POTENTIAL POWER SHORTAGES ACROSS MICHIGAN**

### Load-Shedding Questions and Answers

#### **Q. Will we see power outages/brownouts this summer?**

- Currently, we do not know. We are simply making you aware that it is a possibility.
- Grid operators have warned that power shortages exist in our region. As we approach the hot summer months there may be times when the supply of available electricity is not enough to meet customer demand.
- During times of extreme demand, when there is not enough generation to meet customer demand for power, power demand must be lowered to avoid uncontrolled blackouts.

#### **Q. What caused this problem? Why can't you fix it?**

- Unfortunately, this is a complex problem that can't be fixed by any one electric utility.
- There are two main reasons that our part of the country is facing potential power shortages. First, there has been an increase in energy usage as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic ease. Second, a significant amount of generation has been retired from service and existing resources face supply chain issues.
- Together, these tight grid conditions impact all electric utilities—big or small—not just The City of Hart. Consumers Energy, DTE, and other electric utilities in Michigan are also preparing for potential power shortages.

#### **Q. What is Hart Energy doing to prepare for this?**

- Hart Energy is actively planning and preparing for the possibility of power shortages. As much as it is within our control, we hope to minimize any disruption to our valued customers.
- We are sharing this information now because we are committed to transparency and want to keep you informed.

#### **Q. Will we be notified before any outages/brownouts?**

- If we are ordered to shed load, our first action will be requesting help from you, our customers, who can assist us by beginning conservation measures such as turning off unneeded lights and electronics or limiting the use of air conditioning.
- As a last resort, we may have to cut power to customers to reduce demand for electricity on the grid. If we are forced to do this, we will make every possible effort to notify our customers before we implement controlled power outages.

#### **Q. How can I learn more about this?**

We will continue to share updates through local media outlets, on our website and through social media. We encourage you to frequently visit our website: [www.cityofhart.org](http://www.cityofhart.org) and follow us on Facebook so you can view all our communications.

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