

2018 Regional Member Services Conference April 19 Roundtable Discussion: Innovations in Load Control

Moderated by Austin Partida of Generac, notes by Joyce Bodoh

Typical load reductions for different devices:

A/C Switches .6 kW;
Water Heater .4-.6 kW,
Generator: 4.5 kW

Demand Response on Generac Generator—a load control switch is installed on the generator. During load control, the switch drops the voltage to 80% and the generator automatically turns on. It does not record it as an outage. Most co-ops who work with Generac partner with certified Generac dealers to install and maintain generators. Generac has partnerships with 50 co-ops across the nation and only 10 do the installations in-house.

Once a member buys a Generac generator, it needs to be tested periodically. Some co-ops require yearly maintenance to participate in a demand response program. Once a year maintenance is about \$250 and that covers changing the oil and checking the transfer switch. Some co-ops offer free yearly maintenance to participating members. The generator has a lifespan of about 15-20 years.

When the generator is running, member receives notification on their smartphone app. During an actual outage, there is a 10 second delay before the generator kicks on.

Generac has generator programs for demand response with multiple utilities, including CK Energy, co-op in Oklahoma, Shelby EC In Illinois, REMC in Indiana.

CK Energy: 24,600 meters and 700 members have the Generac generator. For participating, member's receive \$2.00/kW monthly credit. The co-op also offers a geothermal leasing program. For members that participant in load control, they get a discounted electric rate of 10%. Co-op offers on-bill financing up to \$15,000 up to 7 years. Load control events are 20-30 events per year. Co-op employees are Generac certified and install the demand response switch, maintain, and inspect the generator.

Shelby EC: 10,000 meters and 500 members have Generac generator. Load control are run May 1- Oct 1 about 40 hours a year. Receive about \$200 bill credit. Co-op pays for maintenance of generator. Co-op employees are Generac certified and install the demand response switch, maintain, and inspect the generator.

REMC electric: 27,000 meters and 200 members have Generac generator. Receive \$50 bill credit. Generator size of 22 kW is about \$5600. Members pay down payment of \$1000 and then the rest is on-bill financing billed quarterly. If member defaults on loan, interest rate is 21%.

Central Hudson electric: incentive for generator demand response is \$500 credit from co-op, and \$250 every year participating in generator demand response.