

ASSOCIATED ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

A powerhouse for members

60 years in the making

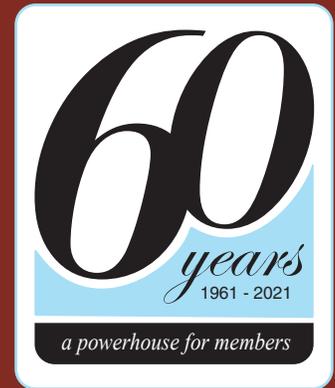
A powerhouse for members

60 YEARS IN THE MAKING

On Feb. 6, 1961, 15 individuals gathered around a table to sign articles of incorporation to create Associated Electric Cooperative.

At that time, this group had no idea the strength of the system they were building would evolve to such a level, enabling it to consistently provide reliable, affordable, responsible power to its members.

Sixty years of preparedness and tested strategies allowed Associated to maintain and prioritize member reliability during many storms through the years, culminating in the cooperative's performance during the 2021 life-threatening winter storm Uri.



Strong leadership has been the hallmark of Associated through the years.

Above, the earliest photo of Associated's board of directors, along with staff, between 1962 and 1966.

In 1985, O.B. Clark, board president, leads discussion. O.B. served on Associated's board from June 1974 to May 2009.

GENERATION



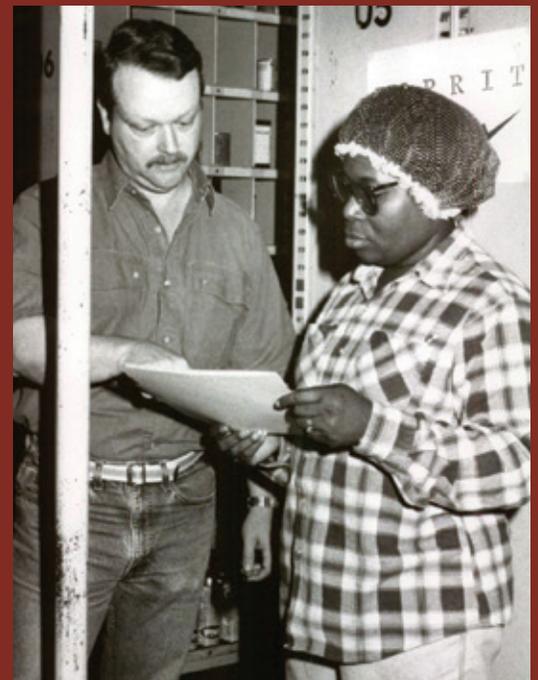
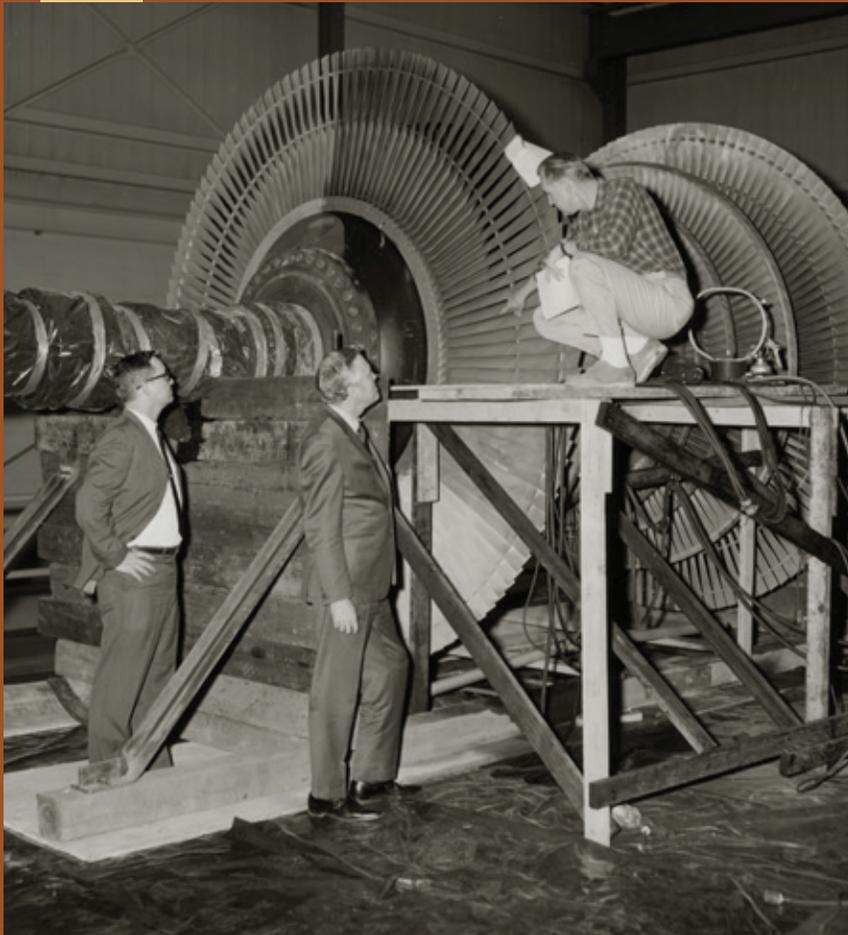
Associated builds a generation fleet to power the future

Associated has a rich history of forging its own path for the benefit of its members.

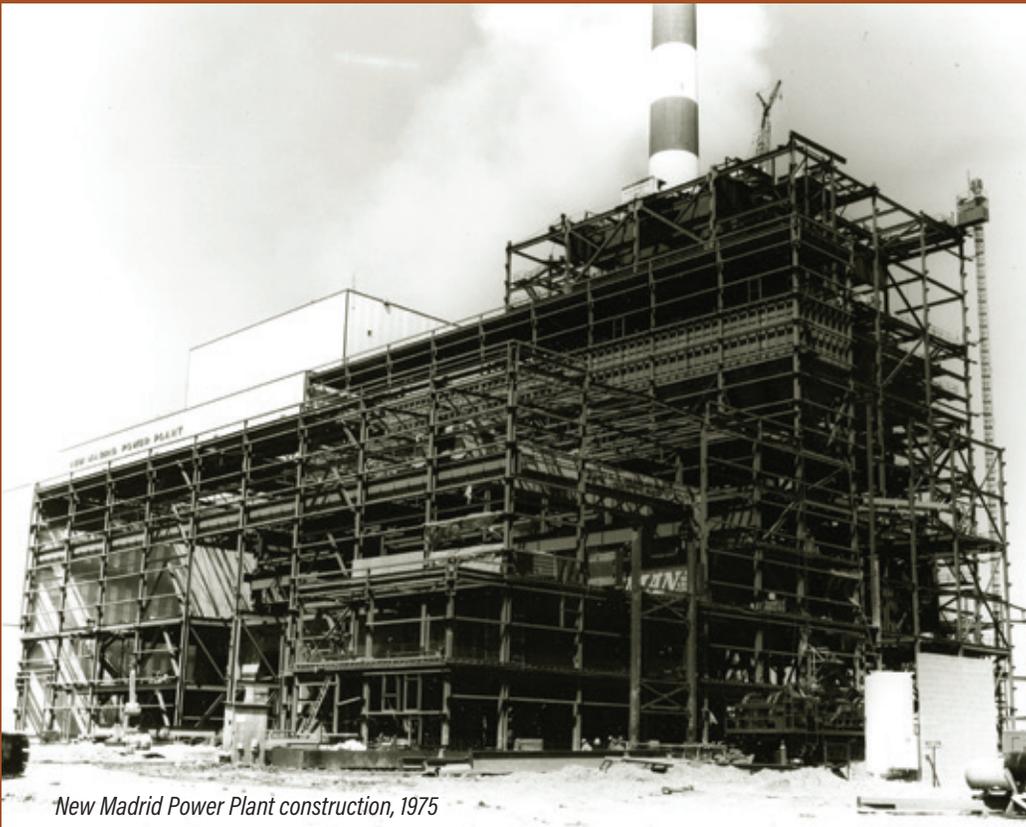
At formation, hydropower was the key generation source for the cooperative, and then coal. Thomas Hill units 1 and 2 were the first plants Associated built in the 1960s. As the cooperative grew, New Madrid's first unit of 600 megawatts went online in 1972, followed by Unit 2 in 1977. Thomas Hill Unit 3 came online in 1982.

Recognizing the need to diversify its generation portfolio, Associated constructed its first natural gas-powered plant – St. Francis Power Plant – in 1999, followed the same year with natural gas peakers Essex Power Plant and Nodaway Power Plant. The fleet was further strengthened with Chouteau Power Plant, Holden Power Plant and Dell Power Plant.

Further diversification came in 2007 when utility-scale wind farms were added, starting with Bluegrass Ridge Wind Farm. By 2021, contracted energy from wind farms reached 1,240 megawatts of capacity.



Above: Mechanical maintenance technician Gary Nelson works at Dell Power Plant in 2021. In the early years, Associated's first general manager Neil Adams (center) inspects turbine at Thomas Hill Energy Center. Bottom right: Workers at New Madrid Power Plant were key to keeping member-owned plant assets running (David Childers and Pearl Wheeler in warehouse).



New Madrid Power Plant construction, 1975



New Madrid generator step-up transformer install, 2017



White Cloud wind farm near Maryville, Mo.

Then and now stats

1960s

- Annual peak demand: 523 MW in 1969
- Total sales: 1,186 MWh
- Generation sources: Coal and hydropower

2021

- Total capacity: 5,584 MW
- Peak hour member demand: 5,549 MW
- Total sales: 28,025,964 MWh
- Generation sources: Coal, hydropower, natural gas, wind

Associated has been able to adapt its generation through the years, from initial hydropower and coal resources to open mining followed by award-winning land reclamation to wind generation. Every decision was guided by a focus on what would best serve members.

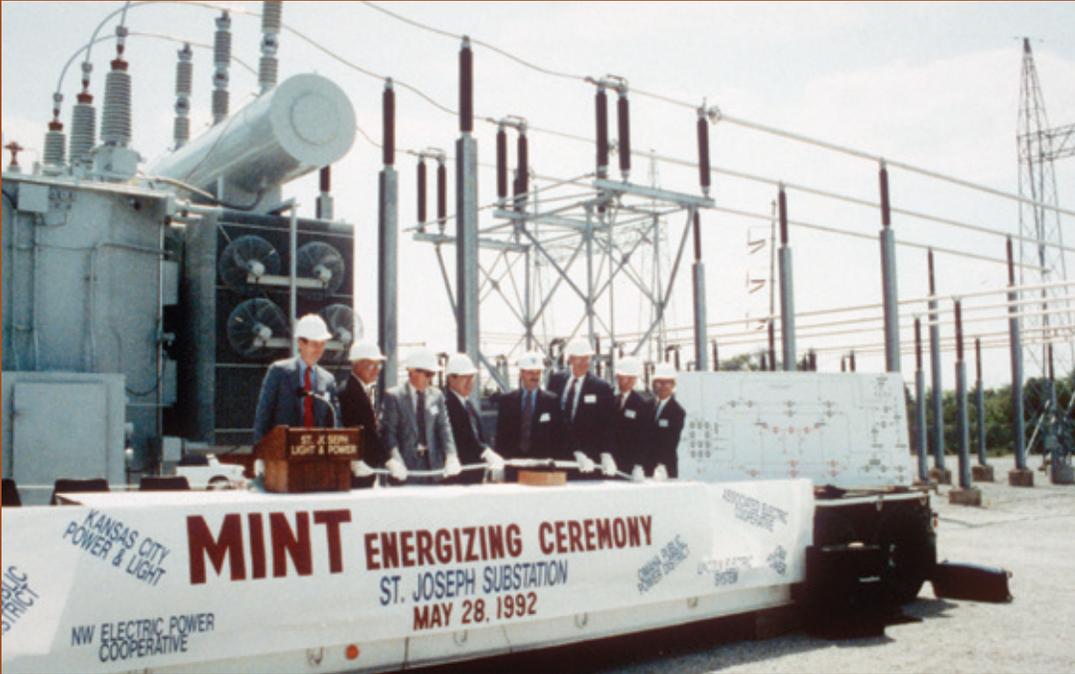


Coal mining, 1990s



Chouteau 2 construction 2010

TRANSMISSION



Integrated, resilient transmission system

In 1965, Associated built its first transmission line between M&A Electric Power Cooperative and Union Electric. It was the first 1.5-mile tie in what would become one of the largest, integrated transmission systems in the country.

Together with the G&Ts, Associated added to that system over the years, linking power to member-owners with reliability and resiliency. Its hallmark was partnering with neighboring utilities on projects, leading to about 230 interconnections today.

CEO Jim Jura presides over the 345-kV, 102-mile MINT line energizing dedication in 1992. Today, the transmission system has grown to 10,213 miles owned by Associated and the six G&Ts, serving about 935,000 meters.



500-kV line, New Madrid, Mo.



1980s line build



Lost Creek substation

RELATIONSHIPS AND PARTNERS

Relationships, partnerships and a laser focus on mission

All along the way, there was more powering Associated than fuel, a diverse generating fleet and extensive transmission system. The three-tiered system developed strong strategic alliances and working relationships with statewide associations and key business partners. It began operations with five employees, growing to 48 in 1966 and 102 by 1970. Sixty years later, a staff of 684 is skilled at putting its talent and dedication to work on behalf of members.

The board of directors, guided by its conservative management style, has never wavered in its commitment to members at the end of the line. And member governance remains the foundation of what has become one of the largest and well-run systems in the country.



Neil Adams, general manager, and John Buck, board president, 1970

Powering Associated through the years was a talented group of employees, strong leadership and strategic partnerships with statewide cooperative organizations, key vendors and legislators.



New Madrid employees Quince Darbonne, Chris Hayden and Michael Coleman, 2016



1980s technology, Don Letson



CEO and General Manager David Tudor visits New Madrid plant, 2021



Thomas Hill employees, 1980s



Joe Hicks, 2013 Excel recipient

Associated's dedicated employees have provided mechanical and electrical maintenance on the plants and operational leadership to ensure the generation fleet is able to meet members' power needs reliably, affordably and responsibly. Along the way, select employees received Excel awards for innovative ideas, above-and-beyond achievements and job expertise.



First dispatch center, 1960s

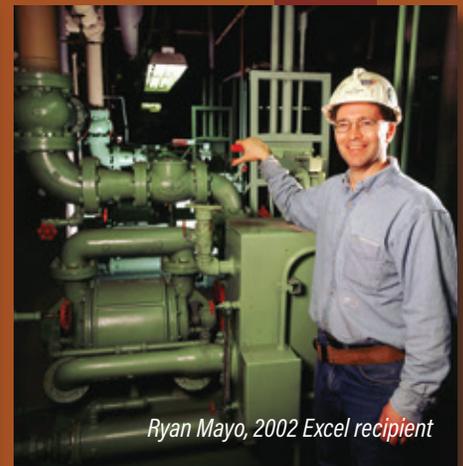


CEO Jim Jura, AMEC and board members meet with U.S. legislators.

Legislative action and support help the cooperative system with issues of importance to members, and strategic vendor partnerships position the cooperative to meet the unique challenges of every year or decade.



First BNSF train at New Madrid, 2014



Ryan Mayo, 2002 Excel recipient



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

2814 S. Golden Ave., P.O. Box 754, Springfield, MO 65801-0754
417-881-1204, www.aeci.org

An equal opportunity employer and provider/disability/veteran.
© 2022 Associated Electric Cooperative Inc.
All rights reserved.