



## White River Valley Electric Cooperative News Release

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### **Anonymous text message identified as prank**

**Branson, Mo.** – At approximately 10:30 a.m., White River Valley Electric Cooperative’s branch office in Ozark, Mo., received calls regarding a text message that was intended as a prank from a source unaffiliated with WRVEC.

The text message read, “We regret having to inform you that your electric bill is 10 days past due and that we will be shutting off your power within the hour. If you have any questions you may call 417-485-6012.”

Initially, WRVEC personnel were unable to discover any information from the callers as to the source of the text. A member came forward with information that led to the discovery that the text message was only sent to a handful of people, both WRVEC members and non-members.

While the text message did not directly mention WRVEC, it did include the phone number to the cooperative.

“Anytime anyone communicates with our members on our behalf, it is a serious matter,” Member Services Manager Jeff Pardeck said. “By putting our office phone number on the text message, the sender was impersonating us. We are taking it very seriously.”

For more information about this incident please contact WRVEC at 417-335-9335.

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[White River Valley Electric Cooperative](#) is a [Touchstone Energy Cooperative](#) dedicated to ensuring our members receive safe and reliable service in their homes and businesses across five southwest Missouri counties including Ozark, Taney, Stone, Christian and Douglas.