



Y2K update

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We're pleased to say that MECO has now successfully:

- Remediated and tested enough power generating equipment to meet the expected demand for power well into the year 2000. Work on the remaining generating units is proceeding according to a carefully planned schedule and by the end of September, we'll have additional generation Y2K ready to meet expected power needs for the entire year.
- Fixed and tested the equipment that controls the movement of electricity over the transmission grid.
- Tested the relays and metering equipment that monitor and protect our electric system.

We don't expect Y2K to affect your electric service. However, as part of our careful planning, we want you to know that we also have extensive contingency plans. These plans include:

- Additional power plant operators, trouble crews, computer technicians, customer service and communications employees on duty and on call when the Year 2000 arrives. This will allow us to respond to any incident as quickly as possible.



Also in this issue:

[Pay your bill at Foodland](#)

[Is your UPS beeping?](#)

[Use portable generators safely](#)

[Recipe of the month](#)

- Additional generating units on line to provide extra "ready reserve" capacity.
- Increased inventories of fuel and other supplies.
- The capability to control and dispatch power manually, if absolutely necessary.
- A central coordination and communications center set up over the New Year's weekend to manage any incidents, monitor global Y2K events and coordinate communications with key government agencies such as State and Maui County Civil Defense and with the media.

We're right on track with our Y2K readiness plan. While no utility can ever guarantee 100% reliable service, Y2K issues or not, we're doing everything we can to ensure that come midnight on New Year's Eve, you will toast the new year under bright lights.

This is a Year 2000 Readiness Disclosure

Pay your bill at Foodland



Just as some banks have done for years, all Foodland and Sack N Save stores on Maui will begin accepting MECO electric bill payments by the end of September. Before or after picking up your groceries, you can stop by the Customer Service counter and pay your MECO bill. There will be a 75 cents handling fee. Be sure to allow at least three working days for your electric bill payment to be credited to your account.

POWER TIPS



Is your UPS beeping?

"I have an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) for my home computer. It emits frequent and annoying beeps at odd times. What causes this and what can I do about it?"

A UPS is a battery back-up to provide power to your computer in event of power fluctuations—outages, momentary voltage sags or dips, or unusual low or high voltage conditions—on our electric system or in your home. We highly recommend a UPS to protect sensitive electronic equipment like computers. But what about those beeps?

When a UPS detects a voltage disturbance, it will switch from your household power to battery power until the voltage levels stabilize. Most will beep whenever they switch over to battery power. This alerts you that there's a problem with the normal power supply and reminds you that the battery supply is limited. Most UPS batteries last a minimum of five minutes, long enough for you properly shut down your computer and protect it from damage.

Less expensive, lower-end UPS products can be hyper-sensitive to voltage changes. Daily events such as turning on the air conditioner or your washing machine may set off beeps. Also, as part of normal procedures for maintaining stable power when loads on the electric system change throughout the day, we perform switching and make other adjustments to the transformers, capacitors and other equipment. This switching causes minor voltage disturbances that may set off some UPS devices.

If a UPS beeps continuously, consult the manufacturer's manual. This may indicate a malfunction such as old batteries or faulty home wiring. If the occasional beeps bother you, read the manual for instructions to reduce the sensitivity or to turn the alarm off. Even better, consider investing in a higher quality UPS. These units may cost more but are more reliable, less sensitive to harmless minor disturbances, and may provide better protection in the long run.

Use portable generators safely

A portable electric generator can be a handy back-up if the power goes off. But unless used safely, the results could lead to a deadly accident. That's because electricity from a portable generator can back flow into our power lines, unexpectedly energizing them and possibly injuring or killing crews working on the lines. Passersby could also be hurt if a downed line suddenly becomes energized. At the very least, you may burn out your appliances or generator. Here are some safety tips.

- Before using any portable generator, be sure to carefully **follow all manufacturer's instructions**.
- As a general rule, **don't plug the generator into your household electrical outlets**. This is what can cause power to back flow into power lines. Instead plug the generator into the specific equipment or appliance you're providing power to. Make sure the wattage needs of the appliance don't exceed the capacity of your generator.
- Provide **adequate ventilation** for exhaust and cooling systems.
- Store reserve **fuel in a safe place** away from the generator or any other equipment that might ignite the fuel. Use containers designed for fuel storage.
- **Avoid operating generators in rain**, near swimming pools, sprinkler systems or with wet hands, feet or clothing.
- In rare cases, you may need to connect a generator permanently to your household wiring. Do NOT do so UNLESS:
 - You first notify MECO at 871-2390.
 - The generator's capacity is adequate to meet the power demands of your major appliances.
 - A transfer switch is installed to prevent back flow of power into utility lines.
 - The installation is done by a licensed electrician or electrical contractor.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Easy Macadamia Nut Pesto

- 1 cup fresh basil leaves
- 3 tablespoons unsalted macadamia nut bits
- 3 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 to 3 cloves garlic
- 3 to 4 tablespoons olive oil



In a food processor, add basil leaves, macadamia nuts, Parmesan cheese, and garlic. Process until pureed. Add olive oil, a little at a time, and continue to process until a smooth paste is formed. Cover surface of pesto with a thin layer of olive oil and store pesto in a tightly covered container in the refrigerator. Serve over chicken, pasta, rice, fish, vegetables, or in soup. Makes about 1 cup.

