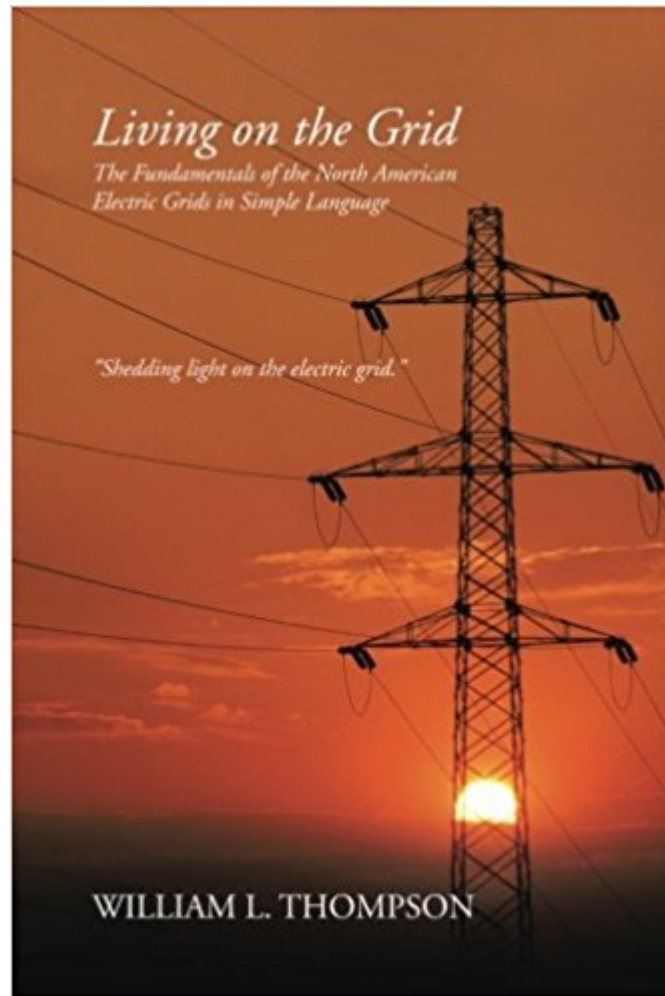




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Living On The Grid



Synopsis

There's probably a good chance that you've turned on your television, computer, or an appliance without giving much thought about the electric grid. But when there's a power outage, it's a different story. Suddenly, you're asking yourself questions such as: What is the electric grid and who owns it? Who controls the grid and how is it controlled? What causes a grid blackout? What is the future of the grid? William L. Thompson, who retired from Dominion Virginia Power after thirty-eight years in the electric business, answers those questions and many more in this book for anyone curious about the electric grid and how it works. In plain, simple language, he reveals what goes on behind the scenes at grid control centers across the country. He also explains how electricity is generated through renewable energy sources such as wind and solar. He also examines the causes behind the largest blackout in United States history and how global warming and technological developments could permanently change Living on the Grid.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a layman with a basic knowledge of engineering, I learned a lot from this book. It covers both the theory of how a power grid works, in reasonably simple terms (given that it's such a complex subject), and the author's personal experience of the real-world problems the grid managers have to deal with. Not the most exciting book compared to some history-of-science books I've been reading, but I'd still recommend it to anybody who wants an overview of the subject. It'd be great for students in electrical or industrial engineering too.

Mr. Thompson does an excellent job keeping the material on a high level (which must have been a challenge given his obviously extensive knowledge of the subject) and still providing a really good overview of the various components and related considerations. The book is well-written and well-organized. There are also interesting anecdotes and useful analogies. I'd recommend this book to anyone wanting to get a general understanding about how our electricity gets to us, and also to electrical engineers (for the big picture), employees of companies directly involved, and politicians and their aides so that they can understand the impact of legislature.

Chapters were short, topics were relevant and explanations were clear. Options of the author clearly stated so you could accelerate from facts. A fair amount of history supplied to give you context of how we got to where we are today. If you are looking to start learning about this topic, you can not go wrong with this book.

I'm not going to buy another home generator, just in case the grid may go down, but Thompson's humorous read and clear explanations of technical jargon made the topic easy to grasp and also provide an appreciation of the awesome complexity and responsibility for keeping the nation's grid operating. Also the simple graphics were clear and helpful.

To the point, great technical detail, and not mired in politics, scare tactics, or other problems found in similar titles. Well worth the read, especially for those relatively new to the energy sector (generation, transmission, distribution, control, operations, and markets).

This book does a great job of doing exactly what the title indicates, providing a compressive overview of the us electrical grid

Very interesting and written so a lay person can understand.

Very descriptive and easy to read and understand. Well illustrated to help you understand how everything works. I've always wondered how the grid was all tied in to get electricity to my house and this book explains it all. Chapter on EMP very interesting. My grid is currently up and frequency is within normal range of 60 Hz.

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