

# Clinton County Connection

Published by Clinton County Electric Cooperative

Volume 14 Number 4 • email - cceci@cceci.com • Web page - www.cceci.com • August 2006



## Across the manager's desk



Clinton County Electric would like to guarantee that you have power 100 percent of the time, but unfortunately that just isn't possible.

Vehicles and farm equipment, thunderstorms, high winds and tornadoes, power equipment failures, animals – just to name a few

– are all reasons why your power may be interrupted.

In a major outage (e.g. severe storms and tornadoes, or power supplier failure) when outage calls begin to pour into the office, CCEC's engineering department begins to assess the extent of the damage. Always, the plan is to restore power to the greatest number of members in the shortest amount of time. The severity of the outage and the weather conditions always play a role in the time it takes to restore power. In a major outage, crews are immediately dispatched in order to restore power to our members. Repairs are first made at the substation, followed by major feeder lines, and then individual service lines. The last portion of the plan, dealing with individual outage situations, can take the greatest amount of time. During that phase, crews move from house to house making repairs. And, remember, with the co-op's rural service

area, there are often great distances between homes. So, we ask you to please be patient.

Also, we ask that you be patient with us when calling in to report that you have no power. Even though the co-op has 4 lines coming into the office and the phones are answered 24/7, during a large outage situation, the phone lines may be busy and patience is needed. We

*We ask that you be patient with us when calling in to report that you have no power.*

NEVER, ever take the phones off the hook – we need to know the location of the trouble and we can only know that if we talk to you. We

know busy signals are frustrating, but please know that we will get to you as soon as possible.

On behalf of all the CCEC employees and trustees, I would like to thank all of you who took the time to call us or drop us a note thanking us for restoring your power so quickly. All of us certainly appreciate your vote of confidence.

Call us – 526-7282 – any time with your questions, comments, suggestions or complaints. Our job is to serve you. (See related articles and photos concerning recent storm damage throughout this issue.)

## Capital Credit Allocation Notice

By this time, you have received a Capital Credit Allocation Notice, which states the amount of capital credits allocated to you for the year 2005. This notice also states your cumulative unretired balance, or the amount you have in your Capital Credit account with the cooperative to date.

As a member-owner of your cooperative, you share in any annual margins. Your share of these margins is called "capital credits." At the end of each year, these net margins are allocated to each member on a basis of the dollar amount of energy used

during that year. The notice you received shows the amount of the allocation for the year 2005.

These allocations are not available as cash nor can they be applied as payment on your electric bill.

These monies are used by Clinton County Electric Cooperative for long-term debt retirement, reserves, emergencies, system improvements and other contingencies.

Capital Credits may be paid to members as the Board of Trustees deems appropriate and as the financial condition of the cooperative permits.

## “What should I do if my power goes off?”

Even though CCEC tries its best, sometimes, through faults not of our making, your power might go off. In that case, we offer the following suggestions:

- Check your main fuses or circuit breakers. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the “ON” position.
- If you have a meter pole, check the main breaker panel just below the meter socket.
- If the breaker is in the “OFF” position, check all of your wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears to be okay, reset the breaker to the “ON” position.
- If you still do not have power, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.

- To report a power failure or outage or any other electrical emergency, please phone 526-7282, or (800) 526-7282. This phone number is monitored around the clock, 365 days a year to accept your outage and emergency calls.
- If you are calling after office hours, your call will be handled by the co-op’s answering service. If you are calling during office hours, a co-op employee will take your call. Either way, please be prepared to give your name, account number and the address at which you get service. Please remember that it is important that you give the address where you get electric service – not your mailing address. Many, many times these two addresses are different.

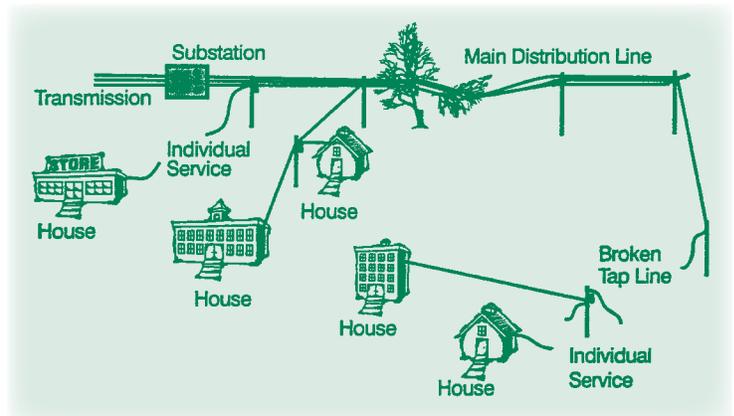
Once your outage has been reported, it is dispatched to CCEC line crews who will restore your electric service as soon as possible.

## Restoring Electrical Service

When the cooperative experiences multiple power outages, it’s our goal to restore service to the greatest number of customers in the shortest amount of time. Your cooperative begins at the power source and works out to the individual services along the system. Dangerous problems such as downed power lines are attended to as soon as possible.

The following are service restoration priority procedures:

- 1. Transmission lines:** These are high voltage lines that move bulk electricity from a generating plant to a substation or between substations.
- 2. Substations:** Substations are electrical facilities that contain equipment for switching or regulating the voltage of electricity. These lower the amount of electrical voltage from transmission lines so that the electricity can be transmitted through distribution lines.
- 3. Main distribution lines:** These are the 7,200-volt lines that you see along roadways.
- 4. Tap lines:** Tap lines are electric feeder lines with limited capacity that run from a main distribution line and service small numbers of customers.



- 5. Individual service:** This is the line that runs from the pole transformer to the customer’s electric meter.

Electric utility facilities are constructed with protective devices such as fuses and circuit breakers. These confine the outage to specific areas, limiting the number of customers affected by the power interruption.

For example, if a tree falls on a tap line, only that line would be without service. Other customers served from the main distribution line would still have service, although their lights may blink momentarily.

If you have questions about how your electrical service is restored after a storm or other outage, please call your co-op.  
***Remember: you are a member-owner!***

## Blinking lights

Most of the time, blinking lights are a result of momentary outages that occur when lightning strikes, when an automobile hits a pole or when a squirrel or tree branch comes into contact with an energized power line.

Blinking lights are the result of the operation of cooperative equipment that protects the lines and keeps the power from going off for extended periods of time. Clinton County Electric's distribution system includes devices that are called oil circuit reclosers (OCRs). OCRs operate whenever there is a short circuit on the line. If the short circuit is cleared after the first operation of the OCR, the recloser allows power to continue flowing through the lines with only a brief interruption of service. If the short circuit is not cleared after three operations of the OCR, the OCR will open and stop the power from running through the lines. At that point a line crew will be dispatched after the outage is reported. Once the linemen have found the problem and corrected it, a lineman will close the OCR back in and restore service.

Just a single operation of the OCR causes a brief interruption in power and the result is what our members like to call "blinks." Even if you weren't at home when this occurred, you could tell it happened because your digital clocks on the VCR and microwave plus all the other digital clocks in your house are all blinking. Annoying, isn't it? Everyone - the co-op and the members - all agree that blinks can be very frustrating and irritating.

Lightning, automobiles and squirrels, the co-op can't do much about, but when the blinks are caused by trees that come in contact with our power lines, we can do something about that. Not only does tree trimming reduce blinking lights and outages, it also improves access to our right-of-way, making it easier and faster for our crews to complete their repair work.

Please contact our office, (800) 526-7282, if you have a tree growing into our lines or if a tree limb is making contact with our line. Hopefully, we can get to it before the next storm hits.

---

## What is a facility charge?

A Facility Charge is the cost incurred by your cooperative even if you **do not** use any electricity. It is a cost that does not go up or down based on the amount of power you use.

In November 1996 CCEC made the Facility Charge a separate line item on your bill. Before 1996, you always paid a Facility Charge but it was included with the cost per kilowatt-hour.

The Facility Charge covers construction and day-to-day maintenance of distribution lines, substations, poles, meters, transformers, conductors, guy wires, and upkeep on the wires that carry electricity from the distribution lines to your home.

---

## Been on vacation? Then why isn't your bill lower?

You were gone for two weeks on vacation. And when you got your electric bill you found that it wasn't any lower, or not much anyway, than the month before! Why?

**Major Appliances.** If you did not adjust your electric water heater before you left, it would have continued to run, even with no one home. The same with your refrigerator(s) and freezer(s). Did you turn your air conditioner OFF while you were away?

**Split Billing Periods.** The time that you were away may have been split between two billing periods. So even if there would be some decrease in electrical usage, it probably would not be noticeable on either bill.

**Extra Before & After the Trip:** This might include laundry and/or air conditioning.

We want you to enjoy your vacation, but remember: the electricity is working even while you are away.



## Missing Persons

We are trying to locate the following former Clinton County Electric members in order to issue them a check. We have tried mailing the checks, but the addresses have changed and the checks have come back to us. If you know any of these former members,

or any of their relatives, please contact us, or have them contact us at P.O. Box 40, Breese, IL 62230 or call 526-7282. If the former member is deceased, a check can be issued to heirs.

Ronald & Shirley Alberts  
Alton & Co. Inc.  
Anna AK. Anderson  
George & Norma Barnhart  
Richard S. Baumann  
Beaver Creek Pipeline  
Jeffrey & Sheila Becherer  
Chris Bechtoldt  
Robert Berry  
Twyla & Kathleen Berry  
Henry & Sandra Bertrand  
Gene & Jean Biermann  
Betty Bork  
Dennis & Beatrice Braswell  
Alvin J. Brewer  
Edna Brooks  
Thomas & Barbara Bryant  
Carlyle Lake Water Slide  
John & Sheila Casserly  
Don & Nancy Champ  
John E. Jr. & Sheila Clark  
Richard Cordes  
Dennis Deluca  
Darrell R. & Vera F. Diverley  
Earl & Trudy Dotson  
John & Evelyn Dour  
Donna M. Drees  
O. Fred Eckels  
Flat Branch c/o Patricia Eckels  
Leo & Linda C. Edwards  
Larry Erlinger  
Charles & Deborah Eubanks  
Otis Jr & Anchalee Farmer  
Mary Lou Fauke  
Steven E. Fear  
Fish & Feather Bait Shop  
Flat Branch c/o Patricia Eckels  
Focht AB Contracting

Henry Fohl  
Charles Foltz  
Joseph T & Dorothy Gagio  
Ronald & Marilyn German  
Lyle Gilliatt  
Howard & Anita Hagan  
Kenny Hapke  
Henry & Joann Himstedt  
Robert & Janie A. Hinson  
Ernest W. Holt  
Laine Houghton  
Thomas Hutchinson  
Illinois Valley Paving  
Daniel & Joellen Kapp  
Keleher Const. Co.  
Wm. G. Knowles Const. Co.  
Bryan Knutt  
Charles Korte  
Albert & Frances Krouse  
Roy Lampert  
David C. Maciejewski  
George W. Maki  
Chris A. Manfucci  
David & Jeanette Martin  
Leo G. Mathis Jr.  
Toya L. Mathis  
William Mcollum  
H.F. & Michelle A. McCumber  
Stanley & Irma Meador  
Tom Minugh  
Terri S. Monroe  
Michael A. & Peggy G. Moore  
Richard E. Morris, Sr.  
Stephen Myers  
Nine LTD  
Michael & Deborah O'Brien  
Lonnie & Mary O'Haver  
Mary Olson

August & Wilhelmina Petizer  
Mark & Patty Probst  
Don M. Raymond  
Thomas M. Reigle  
Kent L. & Tina M. Ripperda  
Randall & Ashley Ritzheimer  
Charles & Peggy Rusick  
Juanita Schmitt  
Michael L. & Helen A. Schreiber  
Louis P. Schuitema  
Alan & Renee L. Secrest  
Robert & Maudie Sheroky  
Robert & Timi Shigley  
Gaylord M. Smith  
Norman & Ann Snyders  
James A. Spihlmann  
Ed & Jan St. Gemme  
Thomas E. Stenerson  
Mildred Stokes  
Lester & Dorothy Strange  
Rebecca D. Thomas  
Triple J. Trading Post  
R.E. Van Cloostere  
Oliver M. Voelkel  
John J. Wahl  
Robert Whaley  
Michael & Cynthia Williams  
Jack & Rita Wilson  
Bruce & Carol Woodrum  
David & Bonnie L. Yaeger  
Ronald & Evelyn Young  
Loretta Zachry  
Robert Zimmermann

# RECIPES

Photos and recipes taken from *Illinois Country Living*

## Breakfast Pizza (right)

- 1 lb. bulk pork sausage
- 1 (8-oz.) pkg. crescent rolls
- 1 C. frozen hash browns
- 1 C. Cheddar cheese, shredded
- 5 eggs
- 1/4 C. milk
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. pepper
- 2 T. grated Parmesan cheese (opt.)

Cook sausage and drain. Separate crescent rolls and place on an ungreased 12-inch pizza pan with points toward center. (You can also use a 9x13-inch pan.) Press over the bottom and up the sides to form a crust. Put sausage on top of crust. Put potatoes on top of sausage. Top with cheeses. Beat together the eggs, milk, salt and pepper. Pour over the cheeses. Bake at 375° for 25-30 minutes.



Photo by Catrina McCulley Wagner

## Frosty Orange Pie

- 1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 1 (14-oz.) can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 (6-oz.) can frozen orange juice concentrate, thawed
- 1 (8-oz.) ctn. frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 large graham cracker crust

Beat cream cheese and condensed milk until smooth. Beat in orange juice concentrate. Fold in whipped topping. Spoon into crust. Cover and freeze for up to three months.

## Apple Raisin Slaw

- 2 med. apples, cut up
- 1 T. lemon juice
- 1/2 small head cabbage, cut up
- 1/4 C. raisins
- 1/4 C. mayonnaise
- 1/4 tsp. salt

Mix apples with lemon juice. Add the rest of the ingredients. Mix lightly. Refrigerate.

## For A Healthier And Happier Life

- People who walk for three hours a week are able to prevent fat gain, according to one study. And those who walk for 5 hours a week are able to lose fat.
- 52 percent of U.S. teens say they worked during the past school year.
- Sleeping an additional 30 minutes every night will make a huge difference in how you feel. The extra rest will boost your mood, energy level, immune system and metabolism. It also can improve your memory and job performance.
- Regular exercise can help increase your HDL (good) cholesterol. Doing moderate activity, such as riding a stationary bicycle most days of the week, can raise it up five points.
- Grilling is a great way to cook without adding a lot of extra fat. Plus, roasting vegetables such as bell peppers and eggplant on an open flame dramatically deepens their flavor.
- Up to 62 percent of American children ages 9 to 13 don't get enough sleep, and 70 percent wish they could get more rest. In addition to daytime sleepiness that can affect school performance, lack of sleep also can impair children's immune functions, making them less able to fight infections.
- Snacking on dill pickles is a good way to fill up without placing on the pounds. They have just one calorie per slice.
- Merely closing your eyes for a few seconds and taking a deep breath will give you a boost of energy.
- The more you laugh, the more you release endorphins, which are natural painkillers. To lighten up, rent a funny movie or share jokes with family, friends or co-workers.
- Drinking water increases your metabolic rate, a study found. Drinking 64 oz. a day could help you burn off 35,000 calories a year, and that's 10 pounds.
- To stop worrying, soak a wash cloth in ice water and apply it to the nape of your neck for 10 minutes. The cold will constrict blood vessels and slow circulation to the part of the brain related to stress.

## Safe Electricity offers tips for weathering prolonged power outages

A number of circumstances can cause power interruptions, and damage from severe summer storms can cause outages that last days. When a power outage occurs during hot weather, take steps to maintain safety and comfort until power is restored.

“Many summer power outages are due to severe storms with high winds that topple utility poles and power lines,” says Molly Hall, director of Safe Electricity. “It’s important to stay clear of downed power lines, and during cleanup efforts, be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard.”

Assume that any dangling wires you encounter are electrical and treat all downed or hanging lines as if they are energized. If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel or electric utility.

Also when driving, be careful at intersections where traffic lights may be out. Stop at all railroad crossings, and treat road intersections with traffic signals as a four-way stop before proceeding with caution.

If power to your home is out for a prolonged period, know and understand important safety precautions and steps to cope with heat until power is restored:

- Remember to call your electric utility immediately to report the outage.
- Dress in loose, lightweight clothing, and stay on the coolest, lowest level of your home.
- Use natural ventilation to cool homes, and consider purchasing battery-powered fans.
- Drink plenty of water. Avoid heavy meals, caffeinated and alcoholic drinks.
- Keep fridge or freezer doors closed. A freezer that is half full or full can keep foods frozen 24 to 48 hours. Foods should stay safe in an unopened refrigerator up to four hours. If an outage lasts longer than four hours, remove and pack meat, milk and dairy products in a cooler with ice.



- Use safe, alternative food preparations. A barbecue grill is an excellent way to prepare food, but a charcoal grill should never be used indoors. Always grill outside.

- Check on friends and relatives—especially children, seniors, and those with medical conditions or disabilities. These people may need to seek emergency cooling shelters.

- Keep a first-aid kit in your home and one in your car. Make sure that it includes scissors, tweezers, safety pins, aspirin, eyewash and rubbing alcohol or hydrogen peroxide.

- Close all drapes and blinds on the sunny side of your residence.

- Take your family and pets to a cool basement location if you have one. Or consider going to an air-conditioned public place during warmer daytime hours.

During an outage, Safe Electricity also recommends turning off electrical appliances and unplugging major equipment, including air conditioning, computers and televisions. This will help protect equipment that could be damaged by electrical surges, and prevent circuit overloads when power is restored. Leave one light on to indicate that power has been restored. Wait a few minutes then turn on other appliances and equipment one at a time.

If you use a standby generator, make sure a transfer safety switch is used or connect the appliance(s) directly to the generator output through an isolated circuit before you operate it. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the power lines, what’s known as “back feed.”

“Back feed creates danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power,” warns Hall.

For more information on electrical safety, visit [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org). Spanish versions of electrical safety information are also available on this Web site. Safe Electricity is an electrical safety public awareness program created and supported by a coalition of several dozen organizations, including electric utilities, the University of Illinois and other entities committed to promoting electrical safety.

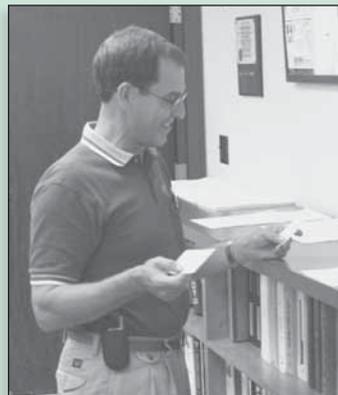
**“I don’t think I have seen a storm like this in the almost 30 years I have been here.”**

*Harry Buller, Superintendent of Operations*

As many of you know, a severe thunderstorm went through the western portion of our coverage area on the afternoon of July 21st, 2006. The storm downed trees, damaged homes and businesses, and caused major power outages. More than 2,500 of CCEC’s accounts were without power after the storm rolled through. All residences had power restored by 3 p.m. Saturday, but the lines to some clubhouses were harder to repair and access, which slowed the power restoration efforts.



A three-phase line west of Germantown was torn down from an old chicken barn being blown into it. As you can see, high winds and flying debris leaned the pole over and ripped the wire from the top of the pole.



Superintendent of Operations Harry Buller went through the 800-plus reports of outages and damage reports. Harry and other office staff members answered the phones until 1 a.m. on Saturday morning, when they turned the reigns over to our answering service. The storm caused CCEC’s linemen and engineering department to have a 17-plus hour workday before going home to rest.



Rose Acre Farms, south of Breese, lost its 150-foot grain leg in the storm. The large grain leg toppled over to the east and smashed one of its backup generators as well as part of one chicken barn. It is estimated that their mill will be back to normal operation in March of 2007.



Lead Lineman Mike Rainey climbs a pole in the dark on the east side of Bartelso to try to restore power to members. Not able to be seen in the picture are numerous tree limbs on the ground which had torn down the power line from the pole Mike was climbing. Most of the outages were caused by trees that tore down power lines.



These are two examples of the intense force of the storm. The house pictured is on the north side of Germantown.

As you can see, it damaged the garage door, windows and siding. The shed above is located about a half mile south of our Albers Substation. It sustained major structural damage but remained standing to allow its owners to remove most of its contents intact.



Two of the three voltage regulators in Albers Substation survived the intense winds produced by the storm. The A Phase regulator was blown off of its stand by the high winds. The regulators weigh around 2200 pounds each and contain 115 gallons of mineral oil to keep them cool during operation. Notice the corn that surrounds the substation was almost flattened by the wind.

## Financial Information

### BALANCE SHEET As of June 30, 2006

#### ASSETS (What We Own):

Total Utility Plant	\$ 18,858,626
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	7,535,090
Net Utility Plant	\$ 11,323,536
Cash & Temporary Investments	0
Investments in Associated Organizations	625,955
Accounts Receivable	270,724
Materials & Supplies	398,537
Prepayments & Other Deferred Expenses	1,712,284
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 14,331,036</b>

#### MEMBERS' EQUITY & LIABILITIES

##### (What We Owe):

Members' Capital Credits	\$ 6,220,287
Other Equities	220,455
Long-Term Debt	7,146,339
Consumer Deposits	105,826
Other Liabilities & Deferred Income	638,129
<b>Total Members' Equity &amp; Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 14,331,036</b>

### STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS For the Six Months Ended June 30, 2006

#### INCOME:

Sale of Electricity & Other Services	\$ 5,364,863
Other Income	23,680
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 5,388,543</b>

#### EXPENSES:

Cost of Electric Power	\$ 3,764,335
Operations & Maintenance Expenses	456,229
General & Administrative Expenses	515,887
System Depreciation	276,174
Interest Expense	215,864
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 5,228,489</b>

**NET MARGINS** \$ 160,054

## Clinton County Connection

Published by Clinton County Electric Cooperative



#### Board of Directors

Joseph A. Voss, Chairman	Carlyle
Cary Dickinson, Vice Chairman	Hoffman
Ronald Becker, Secretary-Treasurer	Trenton
John White	Carlyle
James Tebbe	Breese
Kevin Kampwerth	Carlyle
Randy Renth	Mascoutah
Tim Hanke	Carlyle
Richard Timmermann	Germanatown

#### Staff

James B. Riddle	President
Ralph Kuhl	Manager of Administrative Services
Bob Kroeger	Engineer
Harry Buller	Manager of Operations
Susan M. Laux	Editor

Published by Clinton County Electric Cooperative

The Clinton County Connection  
Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
475 North Main Street, P.O. Box 40  
Breese, Illinois 62230 (618)526-7282  
Office open Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



The CLINTON COUNTY CONNECTION (USPS 008-212) is published bi-monthly for \$2 per year by Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., 475 North Main Street P.O. Box 40, Breese, IL 62230. Periodical rates postage paid at Breese, IL and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CLINTON COUNTY CONNECTION, 475 North Main Street P.O. Box 40, Breese, IL 62230.