

# Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



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## Across the Manager's Desk



**Mike Johnson**  
President/COO

First of all, on behalf of the Board of Trustees and the rest of the employees, I want to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

With the New Year right around the corner, you may be wondering what's going to happen to your electric bill in 2010? That's a fair question, considering all the discussion in the past concerning coal prices, coal transportation cost and pending Climate Change legislation. The Board of Trustees approved two management proposals concerning 2010 rate levels; (1) no change in the "base rates," and (2) increasing the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) to \$.00300 per kWh. Base rates would be defined as the facility and energy charges. For our residential consumers, that would mean that the facility charge will remain at \$22 per month and the energy charge will remain at \$.0995 per kWh for the first 2,000 kWhs and \$.072 for those kWhs used over the 2,000. Increasing the PCA from its current level of \$.00222 per kWh to \$.00300 per kWh will increase the typical residential bill by \$1.46 per month or approximately .685 percent.

In 2010 your cooperative will be concentrating on Safety, Reliability, Cost and enhancing Communication with the

membership. Your cooperative will be re-establishing an Open House during the summer time at the cooperative's headquarters and also providing Area Meetings in the late fall at various area locations. In addition, your cooperative will be looking at increasing the frequency of our publications to membership in a way that will open up the dialogue between the member and the cooperative.

These are challenging times for you the member as well as for your electric cooperative. We will do everything in our power to maintain a safe, reliable product at a reasonable cost. 2010 will no doubt bring potential Climate Change legislation back to the forefront, which, in its current draft, will have devastating effects on rural America. We will do our best to inform the membership on the status of that legislation as it moves its way through the political process.

On a personal note, I just want to thank all the people I have had the opportunity to meet during my first six months as President/COO of Clinton County Electric Cooperative. Everyone has been extremely supportive. I look forward to meeting many more of you at your cooperative's Annual Meeting that will be held on March 18, 2010. Thank you for taking the time to read this article and please e-mail me at [Johnson@cceci.com](mailto:Johnson@cceci.com) or call me at 618-526-7282 if you have any questions, comments, concerns or if you just want to get to know me.

## No Award Granted for Clinton County Electric Cooperative Stimulus Funding Request

As reported in our September 2009 *Connections*, on Aug. 4, 2009, Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CCEC) filed an application with the United States Department of Energy (DOE) for a Smart Grid Investment Grant (SGIG) under Section 1306 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA) as modified by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). This application was for an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system estimated to cost about \$1,700,000 that will be deployed throughout our entire service territory. The application requested a grant amount of \$846,849. On Oct. 27, 2009 CCEC was notified by the United States Department of En-

ergy that our application for funding was not selected for award. I am personally and professionally disappointed with the awarding results. Not only Illinois, but rural America in general, got very little of the 3.4 billion dollars awarded. Most of the dollars went to large investor-owned utilities, municipal utilities and what I would call urban electric cooperatives. The State of Illinois was awarded only one project and that was to the City of Naperville. Their project was similar in nature to ours but about 10 times the size at about 20 times the cost. Clinton County Electric still plans on implementing this technology in the future, however, no time frame has been established.

## Stand-By Generators

Clinton County Electric will "...furnish its members with adequate and dependable electric service..." but, should Mother Nature interfere, we welcome the SAFE use of back-up generators by members on our system. Members should have their transfer switches installed by professional electricians to ensure the SAFE operation of back-up generators. Tips for the installation of generators are available at the cooperative office, so please contact us for a copy of the recommendations before purchasing or installing a stand-by generator, or call one of your local dealers.

## Certified Comfort Home

Clinton County Electric has a FREE booklet available to its members to assist them in designing an energy-efficient home. The booklet is divided into several sections that explain construction standards and building components that affect efficiency of the structure. Items such as insulation, fireplaces, framing, moisture control and the amount of window area are discussed. A rating sheet completed prior to construction will help you determine the efficiency of your home. Little additional cost is involved to build to the standards and the energy savings will be enjoyed for a lifetime. Come by for your free copy before you build. The Certified Comfort Home booklet is also available on our Web site.



## Budget Payment Plan

Members of Clinton County Electric can also participate in the co-op's Budget Payment Plan. This plan starts in August of each year (for kWhs used in July). Members must fill out an application, agreeing to the following stipulations:

1. You must have a "zero" balance on your account to start.
2. All budget payments must be made in full by the 25th of each month.
3. The July bill is the "CATCH UP MONTH" - payment in full must be made prior to the due date.
4. Co-op will determine what the monthly budget payment will be from year to year.
5. If, in any month, the member does not make the budget payment **IN FULL** by the bill due date or if the member requests to be removed from the Budget Payment Plan, the next bill will become the "CATCH UP MONTH" and the member will not be eligible to participate in the Budget Payment Plan for a minimum of one (1) Budget Payment Plan cycle (July through June of the following year's usage).
6. All penalties, charges or conditions per co-op rate schedules, by-laws, policies and agreements, as they exist or may be amended or changed, are applicable to the Budget Payment Plan participation.

The budget amount is normally determined by an average of the past year's usage. Every year in July the cooperative re-evaluates each Budget Payment account to determine if the budget amount should be lowered, increased or stay the same.

If you are interested, call our office for more details.

## Water Heater Program

Clinton County Electric has 50-gallon and 80-gallon water heaters in stock for sale to Clinton County Electric members at the low, low price of \$50 (50-gallon) and \$80 (80-gallon), tax included. In an effort to provide one of the safest and most efficient water heaters on the market, the cooperative is subsidizing the cost for its members. The name of the unit is Rheem Fury and retails in excess of \$225. Each unit comes with a six-year warranty on the glass-lined tank and a one-year warranty on the elements and thermostats. The program is designed for new home construction as well as replacement of faulty existing electric or gas units.

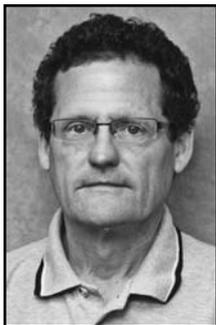
Pick-up and installation of the unit are at the mem-

ber's expense. The cooperative does not want your old water heater. You must dispose of it yourself.

You must agree to install and operate this water heater as your main source of hot water for a minimum of 10 years at a location served by CCEC. The water heater should be installed within 10 days of pickup. The cooperative keeps a supply of parts (elements and thermostats) and also keeps a record of the warranty.

The cooperative reserves the right to perform periodic inspections for the purpose of verification of the installation of the water heater.

## Annual Meetings – Why Should You Attend?



**Mike Johnson**  
*President and COO  
of CCEC*

Annual Meetings are an important part of the function and livelihood of your cooperative. And you should attend your annual meeting because of the last two words of the previous sentence, it's "your cooperative."

Being part of a cooperative means you have a voice in what happens. A cooperative is a not-for-profit organization that is owned and run by the people who receive the products and services it provides. And because your cooperative is locally owned, you have the opportunity to get to know

the people who control the policies of your cooperative. Many of your board members have served the cooperative for many years. It often takes that much time for them to really know enough about the cooperative to provide good leadership. Your board members attend a monthly board meeting, as well as several state and national meetings and training sessions. Important decisions are made at these meetings. Your board members are there to represent your ideas, thoughts and feelings.

At your annual meeting, not only can you meet and speak with your board of directors, you can also ask questions, voice your concerns and learn about new services and products your cooperative has to offer.

As an added incentive this year, you will have the op-



portunity to meet CCEC's new president and COO Mike Johnson.

By attending and participating in your annual meeting you are able to understand and learn about any changes within your cooperative. There have been many important changes throughout the past few years and it's vital that you, as a member-owner, understand what's happening.

People have always said that knowledge is power. Attending your annual meeting gives you the power. So plan on attending CCEC's Annual Meeting to be held on March 18, 2010. Not only will the cooperative benefit by your attendance, but also you will walk away from the meeting knowing you are important to us.

## ACH – Payment by Automatic Bank Transfer

Clinton County Electric also offers to its members the ACH way of paying your bill. This is where we draw money, with your permission, from your bank account to pay your monthly electric bill. The payment is made automatically each month.

CCEC does not charge you for this service; however, you should check with your financial institution to determine their charges, if any.

If you are interested, you simply need to fill out the Authorization Form, including all the information asked for, and be sure to attach a check marked VOID or a deposit slip from your bank account. Then sign the form and mail it to CCEC and we will do the rest.

After we receive your Authorization Form, we will put the information on your billing file. Once that is done, we are required to do a pre-notification to your bank to double check the information for accuracy. Once the information

has been verified – it could take up to two billing cycles to complete this process – your bill will state "BANK DRAFT DO NOT PAY."

The cooperative withdraws the amount of your bill on the 25th of each month – the date all bills are due.

If there are insufficient funds in your bank account, the returned payment is subject to established charges for a returned check. If two payments are returned during a 12-month period, your ACH will be terminated.

Your benefits? You don't have to write another check to us; you save a stamp to mail your payment or you save the time and expense of delivering it to our office; and you don't have to worry about when the payment is due. The payment is automatically taken care of and will always be paid on time, thus no late payment fees.

Interested? Call the office if you have more questions or if you want us to mail you an Authorization Form.

## Update On Climate Change Legislation\*

On June 26, 2009 the U.S. House of Representatives passed HR 2454 legislation dealing with the extremely important climate change (global warming) issue. Among other things, the bill would mandate “caps” in emission levels of carbon dioxide, and establish a “Cap & Trade Program” for carbon dioxide emissions allowances to help meet those caps.

Following House passage of HR 2454, the Senate began consideration of the climate issue in earnest. While about five or six Senate committees have jurisdiction, most of the early attention focused on deliberations by Senate Environmental and Public Works (EPW) Committee. Despite a boycott by Republican members, that committee quickly approved legislation in early November that was even more stringent than what the House had passed. The procedural moves used to speed committee approval of the bill, however, were not universally applauded. Partly as a result, most of the attention is now focused on attempts by Senators John Kerry (D-MA), Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Joe Lieberman (I-CT) to come up with a new legislative approach in the Senate on climate change. This new proposal, or approach, was originally planned to be unveiled prior to the beginning of the Copenhagen international climate summit on Dec. 7, but has now been delayed.

Any Senate floor consideration of climate legislation has also now been pushed back. Originally slated for debate immediately following resolution of the controversial health-care reform issue, climate legislation is now not expected to be considered until after debate of financial markets legislation. At this point, it is anticipated that any Senate floor action on climate legislation will not take place until spring of 2010.

Meanwhile the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has become very much a part of the climate legislation debate. Among its other recent actions, the agency on Dec. 7, 2009 released an “endangerment finding,” indicating that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases (GHGs)

threaten the public health and welfare of the American people. “While the endangerment finding was not technically addressing electric utilities, the finding puts a ‘foot in the door’ for EPA to promulgate sweeping new regulations without Congressional oversight that could impose strict limits on carbon emissions from power plants, driving up electric bills.” That warning comes from Glenn English, CEO of the Arlington, VA.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), which represents the interests of the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned and governed electric cooperatives.

Electric cooperative leaders have consistently asked for legislation that is Fair, Affordable and Achievable. Cooperative members’ participation in the “Our Energy, Our Future” grass roots climate campaign has played an important role in getting this message across to our federal legislators in Congress - especially on the extremely critical issue of affordability.

Quite often, some proponents of climate legislation point to studies that show an “average” cost increase to homeowners of \$80 to \$111 per year, or quote the Congressional Budget Office’s estimate of an “average” cost of a postage stamp a day. Scott Ramsey, President and CEO of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative, responds, “It troubles me to hear individuals speak in terms of average impacts to electric bills. The problem with such statements is that calculations often include the averages from states with little or no coal and natural gas-fired power generation. For southern Illinois consumers, their annual increase in electricity cost could be between \$240 and \$1,300 depending on the cost of carbon allowances,” says Ramsey - all the more reason why it is critical that cooperative’s and their members continue to stay engaged in this debate.

\*Staff members of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives assisted in the writing of this article.

## Geothermal/High Efficiency Heating and Cooling Rate

CCEC’s NON-CONTROLLED All Electric Space Conditioning rate is designed to lower your heating and cooling costs. This rate is available to all members of the co-op for residential and commercial space conditioning, during the 12 calendar months. The account MUST BE all-electric. The special rate, 7.2 cents, for all geothermal heating and cooling is also available for air-to-air heat pumps with a seasonal energy efficiency rating (SEER) of 13 or greater.

# RECIPES

Recipes taken from the December 2009 issue of Illinois Country Living Magazine

## Slow Cooker Baked Apples

8 apples	1/2 tsp. nutmeg
1/3 C. raisins	2 T. margarine
1/3 C. chopped pecans	1/2 C. apple cider
1/3 C. packed brown sugar	1 T. lemon juice
1 tsp. cinnamon	

Peel the top 1/3 of each apple. Remove and discard the cores. Mix together raisins, pecans and brown sugar. Fill apple cavities with raisin mixture. Place apples in a slow cooker. Sprinkle with cinnamon and nutmeg and dot each apple with margarine. Add cider and lemon juice and cook on low for 8 hours.

## Crock Pot Creamed Corn

1 (2 lb.) bag frozen sweet corn
1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese
1/2 stick butter
6 T. water
2 T. sugar

Place all ingredients into a crock pot on low heat. Cook 4-6 hours, stirring occasionally to get everything mixed.

## Transworld Network Gives Notice Of Termination

Since Jan. 26, 2004, Clinton County Electric has enjoyed a business relationship with Transworld Network (TWN), where we offered TWN's long distance telephone services to our members.

As a part of that relationship, TWN has paid commissions to our affiliate, Southern Services, LLC. Southern Services is equally owned by the same cooperatives that own our Generation and Transmission Cooperative, Southern Illinois Power Cooperative.

TWN has notified us that it is terminating our business relationship on Jan. 26, 2010. TWN has informed us that it will continue to provide long distance service to our members, however, commencing on Jan. 27, 2010, our members will be dealing directly with TWN. Therefore, effective Jan. 27, 2010, Southern Services, LLC will no longer earn commissions on those long distance services. Accordingly, beginning Jan. 27, 2010, Clinton County Electric Cooperative will no longer be able to assist you with any long distance issues or concerns. At this time Southern Services, LLC will not offer any competing long distance services.

Each member of Clinton County Electric Cooperative receiving long distance service from TWN will receive a formal letter from us concerning the termination of business relationship with TWN and Southern Services, LLC.

## Top 10 List For Power Line Safety

Here are the top 10 reasons not to ever interfere with anything caught in a power line:

10. You know better.
9. Fireworks should not be seen in your county again until July 4th.
8. It's not a "cool" thing to mess with.
7. You have a promising future ahead.
6. Whatever is caught in the lines is NOT as valuable as your life.
5. You'd like the use of both arms and legs.
4. You'd like to see your next birthday.
3. You don't want to hear your wife say, "I told you so."
2. You don't like hospital stays.

And the number one reason ... drum roll please...

1. You don't like the nickname "Sparky."

## Holiday Closings

The cooperative office will be closed Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) afternoon and Christmas Day (Dec. 25) and also New Years Eve (Dec. 31) afternoon and New Years Day (Jan 1). Remember, our linemen are on 24-hour call for any emergencies. Please drive carefully and have happy and safe holidays.

## Bylaws specify nomination procedure

Section 4.06. Nominations. It shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees to appoint, more than ninety (90) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which Board trustees are to be elected, a committee on election and credentials consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than nine (9) members with at least one (1) member from each district from which a trustee is to be elected. No employee, trustee, Officer, known candidate, or close relative (as hereinafter defined) of any of the above may serve on such committee. The purpose of the committee is to review the qualifications of petitioning nominees and to conduct the election of trustees. To be nominated by petition, a candidate for trustee must file a petition for nomination signed by at least twenty-five (25) members, but not more than fifty (50) members. Signatures may come from the entire Cooperative membership. A joint membership constitutes only one member. Nominations by petition must be picked up and filed not more than ninety (90) days or less than forty-five (45) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which trustees are to be elected. The Election and Credentials Committee, or subcommittee of same must meet to determine if the candidates meet the qualifications for trustee. Upon establishment of the fact that a nominee for trustee lacks eligibility under these Bylaws, it shall be the duty of the Election and Credentials Committee to disqualify such nominee. If there are no nominations by Petition for trustee in any district in which a trustee is to be elected, it is the duty of the Board of trustees to appoint a member to serve in that position. At least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting of members, the Election and Credentials Committee shall certify a list of nominees for trustee to the secretary. The secretary shall then post at the principal office of the Cooperative, at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting of members, a list of the nominations for trustee to be elected, listing separately the nominee(s) for each trustee district. The secretary shall also be responsible for mailing, with the Notice of Meeting or separately, but at least five (5) days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of Board members to be elected and the names and addresses of the nominees. No nominations may be made from the floor. Nominees' names from the same district may be rotated on the ballot so that each nominee's name is on the ballot in the same position as equal number

of times as possible. Notwithstanding anything in this section contained, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of trustee. The Election and Credentials Committee shall elect its own chairman and secretary at its initial meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the committee to establish or approve the manner of conducting any ballot or other voting, to pass upon all questions that may arise with respect to registration of members in person, to count all ballots or other votes cast in any election or in any other manner, to rule upon the effect of any ballots or other votes irregularly or indecisively marked or cast, to rule upon all questions that may arise relating to member voting in the election of trustees and to pass upon any protest filed with respect to election or to conduct affecting the result of the election. In exercising the responsibility, the committee shall have available to it the advice of counsel provided by the Cooperative. In the event a protest or objection is filed concerning any election, such protest or objection must be filed not more than three (3) business days following the adjournment of the meeting in which the voting is conducted. The committee shall thereupon be reconvened, upon notice from its chairman, not less than seven (7) days after such protest or objection is filed. The committee shall hear such evidence as is presented by the protestor(s) or objector(s), who may be heard in person, by counsel, or both, and any opposing evidence; and the committee, by a vote of a majority of those present and voting, shall, within a reasonable time but not later than thirty (30) days after such hearing, render its decision, the result of which may be to affirm the election, to change the outcome thereof, or to set aside. The committee's decision (as reflected by a majority of those actually present and voting) on all matters covered by this Section shall be final. The committee may not affirmatively act on any matter unless a majority of the committee is present.

**For a list of Election and Credentials Committee members, date of meeting, a petition or any other information concerning the nominations procedure, please contact: Mike Johnson, President, Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., 475 N. Main Street, Breese, IL 62230, (618) 526-7282.**

## Minutes from the 71st Annual Meeting of Members

Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Breese, Illinois  
Held Thursday, March 19th, 2009

The 71st Annual Meeting of Members of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held at the Central High School gymnasium, Route 50 West, Breese, Ill. on Thursday, March 19th, 2009, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Joseph Voss, chairman of the cooperative, at 7:30 p.m.

Ronald L. Becker, Secretary-Treasurer of the Cooperative, acted as secretary and kept the minutes thereof.

Chairman Voss reported there was a quorum present.

The invocation was given by Vernon Mohesky, a trustee from District No. 2.

Upon motion by Jim Endres, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the rules of the meeting were accepted by the membership as proposed.

Chairman Voss then introduced special guests present at the annual meeting.

Secretary-Treasurer Becker read the official notice of the meeting and informed the members that proof of mailing of the meeting notices and number of members is evidenced by receipt of mailing from the U.S. Postal Service.

Upon motion by Richard Holubek, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the minutes of the 70th Annual Meeting of Members of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. were approved as they appeared in the December 2008 issue of the Cooperative newsletter, Clinton County Connections.

Chairman Voss then addressed the membership thanking everyone for attending the 2009 Annual Meeting of Members. He commented on the Capital Credit checks given out at this year's meeting; on the financial condition of the cooperative; and stated that "even though Clinton County Electric is one of the smallest co-ops in the state and, even with the rate increase in February of this year, we have the second lowest co-op residential retail rate in the state." He also reported that Clinton County Electric also has an excellent outage restoration record and we are one of the top two in the state with an excellent safety record. Chairman Voss concluded his report by thanking the employees for their dedication, the board of trustees for their guidance and the Advisory Committee for their valuable input. Chairman Voss also announced that President/COO Jim Riddle was leaving Clinton County Electric at the end of March and thanked him for his 21 years of dedicated and diligent service to the co-op.

Secretary-Treasurer Ron Becker then presented the annual financial report of the cooperative, ending Dec. 31,

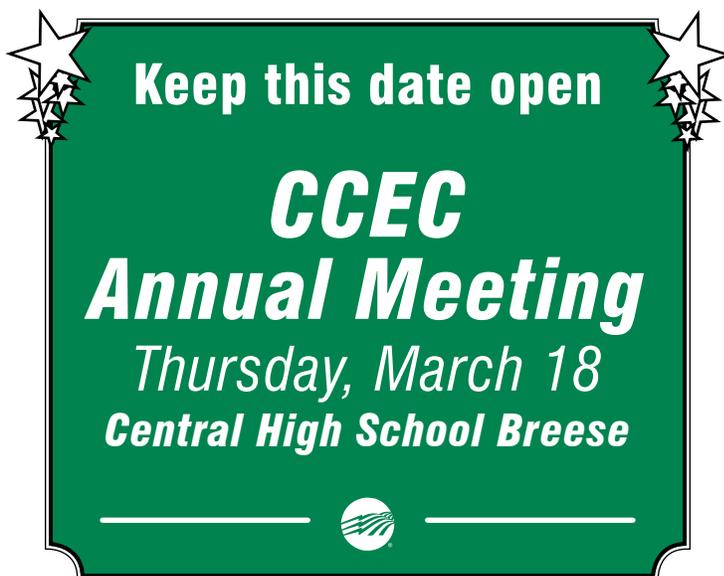
2008. Becker told the membership that Clinton County Electric is valued at \$15.7 million.

He also informed the members in attendance that out of every dollar members pay for electric service, 73 cents goes for the cost of power; 9 cents for operation and maintenance of our electric system; 5.5 cents for depreciation, amortization and taxes; 5.5 cents for administration and general expenses; 4 cents for interest charges; and 3 cents for accounting, collecting, information and sales expense.

Chairman Voss then introduced the President/COO of the Cooperative, Jim Riddle. Riddle discussed the need for the recent rate increase and stated that CCEC's rates will be evaluated twice a year to determine if they are too low or too high and will be adjusted through power cost adjustments, if necessary. He also stressed the importance of mailing in the "Our Energy, Our Future Cards" regarding carbon legislation. He told the members that CCEC continually strives to find ways to reduce costs and improve service for our members. Riddle concluded his report by thanking the employees, the Board of Directors, the Advisory Committee and the members for their support throughout his 21 years of employment with CCEC.

Norman Conrad, General Counsel for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, addressed the audience regarding federal climate change legislation. He also stressed the importance of letting our legislators know of our opinions regarding this matter.

Upon motion by Jim Tebbe, seconded and a vote taken thereon, all of the reports given by the officers and president thus far were accepted.



**Keep this date open**

**CCEC**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 18**  
**Central High School Breese**



**The Trustees and Employees of Clinton County Electric wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.**



Ronald Becker



Cary Dickinson



Tim Hanke



Kevin Kampwerth



Randy Renth



Vernon Mohesky



Richard Timmerman



Joseph Voss



John White



Gary Albers



Craig Benhoff



Harry Buller



Ron Deien



Allan Deiters



Mike Faust



Douglas Vonder Haar



Mike Johnson



Bob Kroeger



Ralph Kuhl



Ahren Langhauser



Sue Laux



Cathy Markus



Dale Nordike



Mary Jane Richter



Adam Robke



Brian Taylor

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