



Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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Mike Johnson

One last look at the rate change

Clinton County Electric implemented a rate change effective with its members' January 2013 consumption. Please note this is a **RATE CHANGE** and not a **RATE INCREASE**. Overall revenues coming into the Cooperative did not increase. I have addressed this topic quite a few times over the past few months, but thought we should take one more look at this important topic.

Most of this article will center on our Rate 1, Single Phase Residential & Farm Rate, since over 80% of our billings are billed on this rate. I will be referencing the graph below during this article.

First, a short description of the graph; the left axis shows the percentage increase or percent decrease in the members' monthly energy bill and the bottom axis represents kWh consumed monthly.

The rate change was a combination of increasing the facility charge, while decreasing the energy charge. The rate strategy implemented in late 2011 focused on increasing the facility charge. The ultimate goal is to have the facility charge recover the total fixed costs incurred in providing power to your home/business. In 2012, the facility charge increased from \$22.00 to \$28.00 per meter, per month. Effective with the most recent 2013 Rate Change, the facility charge was increased to \$34.00 per meter, per month. Please note, **this**

pattern will continue. I would expect to see increases in the facility charge over the next couple of years. We have not performed a formal "Cost of Service Study" for a few

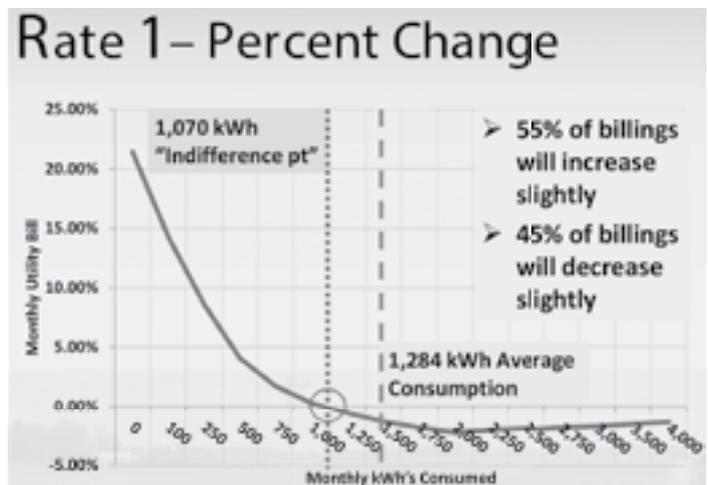
years, but an educated approximation suggests the facility charge should be near \$50.00 per meter, per month.

Looking at the graph you will see those members who consume less than 1,070 kWh per month will see a slight increase in their monthly electric bill. That increase is directly related to the increase in the facility charge. Those members that consume more than 1,070 kWh per month will see a slight decrease in their monthly electric bill. That decrease is due to (1) increase in facility charges (2) decrease in energy charges.

The average member served on Rate 1 consumes 1,284 kWh per month. That average member will experience approximately a 1% decrease in their monthly bill.

To see how your monthly bill will be effected please go to page 9 of this magazine and it will instruct you how to calculate that information.

Visit our website at www.cceci.com to view your account information and to pay your bill.



One comment you may have is, "this rate change does not seem to promote energy efficiency or conservation." At first glance

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CCECI sponsored area students at Youth Day

The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives sponsored the “2013 Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day” on April 17, 2013 in Springfield, IL.

Brianne Hellmann, Emily Fuhler, Jessica Schaeffer and Katie Foppe, all children of Clinton County Electric Cooperative members, were selected based on their applications to attend Youth Day in Springfield. They joined more than 200 high school students from around the state for the day’s activities which included touring the Capitol Building, State Supreme Court, Old State Capitol Building and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.

The students were privileged to meet with State Senator Kyle McCarter along with State

Representative Charles Meier while at the Capitol Building. Various speakers throughout the day, including past State Senator and current President/CEO of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives Duane Noland, talked about the importance of a Cooperative, as well as each of them being able to make a difference by engaging themselves in the happenings of their communities.

Two of the students in attendance were chosen by a panel of judges to participate in the “Youth to Washington” tour. This is an all expense paid, week-long trip to Washington D.C. taking place this month. The 2013 winners of the Washington D.C. trip from Clinton County Electric were Brianne Hellmann, daughter of

Larry & Jan Hellmann and Katie Foppe, daughter of Bill & Denise Foppe. Brianne and Katie will be outstanding representatives for Clinton County Electric as they are traveling to Washington D.C. this month with approximately 80 other students representing cooperatives throughout Illinois.

Children of cooperative members who are sophomores or juniors in high school are eligible to apply for the Youth Day in Springfield, giving them a chance to participate in the annual “Youth to Washington” trip. For more information, visit our website at www.cceci.com or watch for information in our December and January issues of this newsletter.

State Senator Kyle McCarter took time to meet and greet the students representing Clinton County Electric Cooperative at the 2013 Youth Day in Springfield. Pictured from left to right are Brianne Hellmann, Katie Foppe, Clinton County Electric Customer Service Representative Carrie Trame, State Senator Kyle McCarter, Clinton County Electric Billing Coordinator Brenda Knolhoff, Emily Fuhler and Jessica Schaeffer.



State Representative Charles Meier answered questions from the students representing Clinton County Electric Cooperative at the 2013 Youth Day in Springfield. Pictured from left to right are Clinton County Electric Customer Service Representative Carrie Trame, Emily Fuhler, Jessica Schaeffer, State Representative Charles Meier, Katie Foppe, Clinton County Electric Billing Coordinator Brenda Knolhoff and Brianne Hellmann.



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Linemen perform live line demonstration



Foreman Gary "Goober" Albers talks with the 500 students attending the Corps of Engineers' 2013 Earth Day festivities held at Carlyle Lake on April 24. Behind him, Lineman Craig Benhoff prepares for the day's electrical safety demonstrations.



Clinton County Electric is an advocate of safety. In this picture the linemen roast hotdogs to illustrate what happens if a human touches a live wire. The linemen then stressed the importance of staying away from and keeping others away from down power lines and proceed to tell an adult who will in turn notify the proper authorities.



Lineman Craig Benhoff demonstrates what happens if an animal were to come in contact with a grounded breaker. Animals that come in contact with grounded breakers are often the cause of power outages.

This demonstration shows the hazards of operating large equipment around power lines. The linemen also took this opportunity to teach the kids how to react if they were ever in a vehicle that comes in contact with a power line. Foreman Gary "Goober" Albers then demonstrated the proper technique of exiting the vehicle by jumping as far away as possible and hopping, making sure both feet touch the ground at the same time, to prevent electrocution.



President's letter (Continued from page 16a)

that is true and will continue to be true until the facility charge is priced to where it recovers all of the fixed costs incurred in delivering power to your home/business. Until that happens, some of the fixed costs will continue to be collected through the energy charges.

Please remember, all initiatives we embark on always have our members' best interest in mind. Providing our members with affordable, reliable electricity while providing excellent service will continue to be our goal. As always, if you have any comments or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me at Johnson@cceci.com.

**The Cooperative office
will be closed Thursday,
July 4th in observance of
Independence Day
and Monday, September
2nd in observance of
Labor Day.**



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Call or click before you dig:

If you are planning to do it yourself or hire a professional, smart digging means calling 811 before each job. If you prefer clicking, you can visit www.Illinois1call.com, click "Online Request" and follow the step-by-step instructions. Homeowners often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked, but every digging job requires a call or a click – even small projects like planting trees and shrubs. The goal in contacting JULIE before digging is to reduce the risk of striking underground utility lines and potentially causing environmental or property damage, costly delays or personal injury.

Underground utility lines are unintentionally damaged at the rate of once per minute. Homeowners and professional excavators who fail to notify JULIE or other state One Call Centers before digging cause approximately 40 percent of all damages, making it the top cause of these dangerous and costly incidents. The percentage jumps to 60 percent for landscaping and fence-building projects.

One easy phone call to 811 starts the process to get your underground utility lines marked for free. When you call 811 from anywhere in the country, your call will be routed to your local One Call Center which is JULIE in Illinois. Operators there will ask

you for the location of your digging job and contact all affected utility companies on your behalf. Those companies will then send a professional locator to mark your lines within a few days. The same exchanging of information takes place when visiting the website www.Illinois1call.com to request line-locates.

The colors of the paint and flags represent a universal color to what is buried below ground.

- Red – Electric
- Orange – Communications, Telephone/CATV
- Blue – Potable Water
- Green – Sewer/Drainage
- Yellow – Gas/Petroleum Pipe Line
- Purple – Reclaimed Water
- White – Premark site of intended excavation

Once your underground lines have been marked, you will know the approximate location of your utility lines and can dig safely, because knowing what's below protects you and your family. (Please note, it is the responsibility of the owner to inform the excavator of any underground power lines that are not owned by Clinton County Electric Cooperative). For more information or to request a line-locate online, please visit www.Illinois1call.com.

Scholarship winners

In the past, Clinton County Electric has awarded a single \$500 scholarship to a qualified senior from each of the area high schools. This year however, two students from Carlyle, Central, Christ Our Rock Lutheran, Mascoutah, Mater Dei and Wesclin High Schools had the opportunity to receive one of two \$500 scholarships offered by Clinton County Electric. Congratulations to the following sons and daughters of Cooperative members who were awarded \$500 scholarships last month on behalf of Clinton County Electric:

Carlyle High School: Leah Brandmeyer, daughter of Randy and Rose Brandmeyer; Tyler Wheelan, son of Jeff and Sheryl Wheelan

Central High School: Paige Varel, daughter of Ben and Carla Varel;

Amanda Wiesemeyer, daughter of Debra Wiesemeyer

Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School: Joshua Nordike, son of Jamie Nordike and Michelle Nordike; Amara Lyons, daughter of Jeffrey and Rama Seats

Mascoutah High School: Edmund Bruning, son of William and Regina Bruning; Morgan Thouvenin, daughter of John and Lisa Thouvenin

Mater Dei Catholic High School: Shelby Toennies, daughter of Kevin and Kathy Toennies; Jennifer Luebbers, daughter of Jeff and Vivian Luebbers

Wesclin High School: Nathaniel Kunz, son of Mike and Jackie Kunz; Kami Moorhead, daughter of Kevin and Karmin Moorhead