

Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Published by Clinton County Electric Cooperative

Volume 17 Number 3 • email - cceci@cceci.com • Web page - www.cceci.com • September 2009



Who is this guy?



Mike Johnson
President/COO

You may be thinking the picture to the left has changed from past years, and you would be right. Hello, my name is Mike Johnson. I am your new President/Chief Operating Officer at Clinton County Electric Cooperative. I began my tenure on July 7, 2009. Let me tell you a little about my professional life. I started working in the electric utility industry in January of 1980 fresh out of college. My first job was for Interstate Power Company in Dubuque, IA and during the next fifteen or so years I held various financial management positions within the company. In the late 1990's Interstate Power Company, IES Industries and Wisconsin Power &

Light entered into a three way merger agreement and formed Alliant Energy. I worked for Alliant Energy as a Controller for one of their business units for a couple of years before deciding it was time to move on. I began my electric cooperative adventures with Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative in Anamosa IA. Then I moved to Nevada to work for Valley Electric Association and finally to Colorado to work at Poudre Valley REA. Generally I was responsible for the financial management of those cooperatives, but I always had the desire to pursue a leadership position. I want to thank the Board of Trustees for giving me the opportunity to serve the membership of Clinton County Electric Cooperative as its President/Chief Operating Officer.

I would also like to tell you something about my personal life. I have two grown daughters who both live in Iowa. On May 27 my oldest daughter Sarah

and her husband Kevin welcomed the birth of my first grandbaby, a baby boy by the name of Gavin Michael. Although I may be a tad biased, I think he is the cutest baby ever. My youngest daughter, Kelly, works and resides in Dubuque, IA. In my spare time I enjoy bike riding, racquetball, walking and my new favorite pastime of spending time with my grandson. Well that's enough boring stuff about me, let's discuss the Cooperative and the electric industry as it is today.

Today is a challenging time for electric cooperatives across the nation, and Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) is no different. We are faced with escalating wholesale power costs that are driven by increasing coal costs, increasing rail transportation costs and the ever increasing cost of environmental and legislative mandates. CCEC is in a good position to face those challenges and to succeed in the future. There are three reasons for CCEC's past success. One, your Board of Trustees has the knowledge and experience to govern and guide the Cooperative well into the future. Two, the employees of CCEC are some of the hardest working people I have ever seen in the industry. Not only that, but they really do care about you, the member. The third is Mr. James Riddle, your past President. Mr. Riddle's dedication and commitment to the membership for over twenty years has strengthened this organization's financial position, as well as its infrastructure.

Thank you for taking the time to read this article. Please email me at Johnson@cceci.com or call me at 526-7282 if you have any questions, comments, concerns or just to get to know me. Please read the article on page 7, and please get "engaged" with our postcard communication program to our Senators.

Clinton County Electric Cooperative Requests Stimulus Funding

On August 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 is 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. CCEC should be notified by Thanksgiving if the grant will be funded by DOE.



An AMI system will offer members the following benefits:

- Improved outage response time through continuous monitoring of electric meters
- Ability to verify restoration status and better locate the source of each outage
- Ability for members to “manage” their electric billings
- Recording power blinks or momentary interruptions at your meter so we can work to reduce future interruptions
- Ability for CCEC to offer expanded payment plans, i.e. prepaid billing options
- New demand-side management options, including load management, load aggregation and rate options, which should lower the member’s billing and carbon footprint
- Member access to their own usage data through the internet, virtually “real time”
- Assist Customer Service Representatives (CSRs) to address billing complaints. CSRs will be able to “ping” a meter and relay that information directly to the member
- Elimination of billing errors through better monitoring and greater detail of electric usage
- Ability to provide member with detailed consumption history

There will be many benefits to the Engineering & Operations area of CCEC as well that should be transparent to the members. This system will be a tremendous enhancement to our member service and will basically change every aspect of how we do business today.

Filing this application was a huge effort for a small organization like ours. The Cooperative would like to thank those team members who made this possible, Harry Buller, Bob Kroeger, Ralph Kuhl and Ahren Langhauser. That was a great team effort!

October is Energy Awareness Month

October is Energy Awareness Month – and a great time to explore new ways to use less energy in your home, office or vehicles, and also to learn how to save money on energy costs.

As we head into fall, here are some simple steps you can take to make your home more energy efficient – and save money on your energy bill.

- Weather-strip your exterior doors;
- Clean or change your furnace filter MONTHLY for better performance;
- Cover single-pane windows with plastic during cold weather;
- Seal gaps around windows and doors with caulk and use caulk or spray foam to seal any holes where pipes or TV/Cable wires enter or exit your home.

Illinois Farms

New census figures released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) show the number of Illinois farms grew 5 percent from 73,027 in 2002 to 76,860 in 2007. However, Illinois lost more than half a million acres in farmland over the past 5 years.

2007 statistics also show that Illinois remains the national leader in sales of grains, oilseeds, dry beans and dry peas and in pumpkin acreage. Illinois also has the most horseradish acres. It ranks second in the nation in corn for grain acres and soybeans for beans acres. Illinois is fourth in the nation in hog and pig sales and inventory. And Mason County Illinois (close to Springfield) is the number one county in the nation in popcorn acres.

Fun Facts about Clinton County (according to the U.S. Census Bureau, 2007)

- Clinton County was organized in 1824 out of Washington, Fayette and Bond Counties. It was named in honor of the seventh governor of New York State, DeWitt Clinton, who helped build the Erie Canal.
- Total area of 503 square miles
- Of which 474 sq. miles is land and 29 sq miles is water.
- Clinton County has 15 townships
- It has six school districts
- 62% German ancestry

Did you KNOW???

There are 18 mines in operation in Illinois, the newest being Royal Falcon in Jackson County.

(Jackson County is located in the southernmost tip of Illinois)

A total of 3,467 people are employed in the mines

Nearly 33 million tons of coal were harvested from these mines in 2008

A Little Current Can Kill You

Electricity always seeks the shortest path to the ground. It tries to find a conductor, such as metal, wet wood, water – or your body. Your body is 70% water. So if you touch an energized bare wire or faulty appliance while you are grounded, electricity will instantly pass through you to the ground, causing a harmful – or

fatal – shock.

The amount of electricity used by one 7.5-watt Christmas tree bulb can kill you in a fraction of a second if it passes through your chest. Even if it isn't fatal, electrical shock can easily cause serious falls, burns, cuts or internal bleeding.

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.

Capital Credit Checks

Last spring the cooperative mailed out capital credit checks. The following checks were returned to us by the U.S. Postal Service marked “unknown.” If you know any of these former members,

or their relatives, please contact us, or have them contact us, at P.O. Box 40, Breese, IL 62230, or call 618-526-7282, or e-mail cceci@cceci.com.

NAME	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS
Betty O. Breidecker	Columbia, IL 62236
David C. Danielson	2900 Rocky Ford Rd, Trenton, IL 62293
James K. & Cherri Hodge	P.O. Box 323, Odin, IL 62870
Larry Juenger.	539 Sara Dr, Centralia, IL 62801
Walter & Frances Langford	3500 Cockrill Dr, Mc Kinney, TX 75070
John P. Mansini Sr	103 Laundry St., Apt B, Troy, IL 62294
David Mitchell	R.R.1, Box 324 Newbern, TN 38059
Pampered Camper/Oliver J. Joyce.60 Club Grounds North Dr, Florissant, MO 63033
Charles E. Potts	Carlyle, IL 62231
Edward K. Pulver	P.O. Box 315, Carlyle, IL 62231
Clarence & Rita Ripperda	309 N Verson St, Marine, IL 62061
Duane M. & Julia Stanley	15650 N McCauley Ln, Mount Vernon, IL 62864
Harold L. Strotheide	Salem, MO 65560
Dan O. & Arline E Voelkel.	RR.2,Box 629W, Galena, MO 65656
Russell K. Wernsman	R.R. 8, Box 18, Centralia, IL 62801

CCEC Employees in Action



Engineer Bob Kroeger and Operations Assistant Ahren Langhauser stake out new pole locations near the intersection of State Route 161 and Shattuc Road. The engineering department is always updating their work plans to keep up with constant maintenance that is needed on the electric distribution system.

Leadman Lineman Allan Deiters installs fault indicators on a line near New Baden. The indicators will assist the linemen in finding faulty equipment that has been making the power flicker in this area.

2010 IEC Memorial Scholarships

Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. Manager Mike Johnson has announced that for the fourteenth consecutive year the Illinois electric cooperatives will award academic scholarships to high school seniors. One of the winners in 2009 was Jared Eggerman from Carlyle High School.

Four scholarships will be awarded to students who are the sons and daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A fifth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee. The sixth and seventh scholarships are reserved for students enrolling



full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

Candidates are judged on the basis of grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities and a short essay that demonstrates their knowledge of electric cooperatives.

For more information, contact Ahren Langhauser at CCEC (618-526-7282) or ask your high school guidance counselor or download an application at www.cceci.com.

Deadline to apply is January 1, 2010. All applications must be returned to CCEC by January 1, 2010.

Youth to Washington Tour and Youth Day in Springfield

Clinton County Electric will again sponsor up to 12 area sophomores or juniors on a day in Springfield to be held in the spring of 2010 sponsored by the co-op and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Of these 12, two will be selected to go to Washington DC in June of 2010 for an all-expense paid tour.

All applicants must be sons or daughters of Clinton County Electric Cooperative members. If you meet that criterion, then

you must be a high school sophomore or junior and attending one of the many high schools in the cooperative service area.

For more information, call Clinton County Electric's Ahren Langhauser @ 618-526-7282. Come in and pick up an application, or call the co-op and we will mail you one. They are also available on our Web site. Applications must be returned to the co-op no later than January 31, 2010.



Foreman Gary Albers and Apprentice Linemen Craig Benhoff and Tyler Koerkenmeier install a pad mounted transformer near Carlyle. More than 85% of the new services installed on CCEC's system are fed by underground cables and equipment.



Foreman Doug Vonder Haar and Apprentice Linemen Adam Robke and Mike Faust tamp fresh dirt around a new pole that has been set. They have been doing extensive upgrades to some older lines near the Shattuck area over the past several weeks.



Mechanic Ron Deien and Field Serviceman Dale Nordike continue spraying powerline rights of way throughout the summer. The spraying helps prevent costly tree trimming as well as nuisance outages due to overgrown trees growing into the powerlines.

RECIPES

Recipes taken from the September 2009 Issue of Illinois Country Living Magazine



Blueberries and Cream Salad

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 2 (4-serving) pkgs. sugar free cherry Jell-O | 1/4 C. chopped pecans |
| 1-1/2 C. boiling water | 3/4 C. plain fat-free yogurt |
| 1 C. diet Mountain Dew | 1/4 C. nonfat dry milk powder |
| 1 (8-oz.) can crushed pineapple, undrained | 1 tsp. vanilla extract |
| 1-1/2 C. fresh blueberries | Sugar substitute to equal 2 T. sugar |
| | 1 C. Cool Whip, light |

In a large bowl, combine dry Jell-O and boiling water. Mix well to dissolve. Stir in Mountain Dew and pineapple. Add blueberries and 2 T. pecans. Mix gently to combine. Pour mixture into an 8x8-inch dish and refrigerate until firm, about 3 hours. Combine yogurt and dry milk powder. Stir in vanilla extract and sugar substitute. Fold in Cool Whip and spread mixture evenly over set Jell-O. Sprinkle remaining 2 T. pecans over top. Refrigerate for at least 30 minutes. Cut into 8 servings.

Overnight Butterscotch Rolls

- 1 (1-dozen) pkg. frozen rolls
- 1/3 pkg. butterscotch pudding (not instant)
- 3/4 stick butter
- 1/2 C. brown sugar
- 2 T. white corn syrup
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon

Place frozen rolls in a Bundt pan; sprinkle with 1/2 package of dry butterscotch pudding. Melt butter; stir in brown sugar, syrup and cinnamon until dissolved. Pour mixture over the rolls. Allow rolls to rise overnight in the oven. In the morning heat oven to 325° and bake for 25-30 minutes.

Holiday Closings




The Cooperative office will be closed on Wednesday, November 11th to honor all our veterans and to remember all our fallen heroes. We will again be open for business on Thursday, November 12th.



The cooperative office will also be closed Thursday and Friday, November 26th & 27th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Remember our linemen are on 24-hour call for any emergencies. Please drive safely.

Keep this date open
CCEC
Annual Meeting
Thursday, March 18
Central High School Breese



Rural America - We Need to Get in the Boxing Ring and Start Fighting Back Fair, Affordable and Achievable Legislation

On or about August 28th, we mailed to each member a letter requesting you to get “engaged” in the legislative process regarding pending Climate Change legislation. The mailing also included two postcards stating that our Senators need to fight for a bill that is Fair, Affordable and Achievable. Those postcards were addressed to our Illinois Senators. The letter requested you to take the time to sign and return those postcards to National Rural Electric Cooperative’ Association (NRECA), our national advocacy group. NRECA will hand deliver those postcards directly to our Senators.

NRECA challenged all of the Illinois Electric Cooperatives to a goal of 100,000 postcards to be presented to each of our Senators in support of Fair, Affordable and Achievable Climate Change legislation.

We have not accomplished our goal at this time and we need everyone’s help. Please call the office at 526-7282 if you lost your postcards and we will mail you replacement postcards, or stop by the office and sign additional cards if you are nearby. Tell your friends and family members who are not members of Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) to stop by the office and sign postcards because this is not a CCEC issue, nor is this an Illinois issue. It is a critically important national issue that needs everyone’s help. This is not the time to be apolitical in regards to this important piece of pending legislation.

Dear Senator _____ :

I urge you to work with the electric cooperatives as you craft climate change and energy legislation. As the U.S. Senate debates this issue, I am asking you to fight for a bill that is:

- **FAIR** – Climate change legislation needs to recognize regional differences in how electricity is produced. I should not be penalized because of where I live.
- **AFFORDABLE** – Any climate change plan must keep electric bills affordable for all Americans.
- **ACHIEVABLE** – Climate change mandates must be realistic to ensure long-term success.

Given these tough economic times, keeping electric bills affordable must be a high priority. Please insist on legislation that’s fair and affordable.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

SIGNATURE _____

I authorize the Our Energy, Our Future™ campaign to deliver this message to Congress on my behalf. For our privacy policy, please visit www.ourenergy.coop.



Financial Information

Balance Sheet

As of July 31, 2009

Assets (What We Own):

Total Utility Plant	22,455,387
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	8,593,837
Net Utility Plant	13,861,550
Cash & Temporary Investments	0
Investments in Associated Organizations	1,478,384
Accounts Receivable	365,332
Materials & Supplies	508,598
Prepayments & Other Deferred Expenses	65,325
Total Assets	16,279,189

Members' Equity & Liabilities (What We Owe):

Members' Capital Credits	7,275,775
Other Equities	253,985
Long-Term Debt	7,774,855
Consumer Deposits	134,416
Other Liabilities & Deferred Income	840,158
Total Members' Equity & Liabilities	16,279,189

Statement of Operations

For the Seven Months Ended July 31, 2009

Income:

Sale of Electricity & Other Services	7,651,471
Other Income	69,623
Total Income	7,721,094

Expenses:

Cost of Electric Power	5,508,063
Operations & Maintenance Expenses	646,616
General & Administrative Expenses	596,347
System Depreciation	380,158
Interest Expense	296,276
Total Expenses	7,427,460

Net Margins	293,634
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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 quarterly 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.

U.S. Postal Service Statement of Ownership, Management, And Circulation

(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)
Publication Title - Clinton County Connection.
Publication No. - 008212.
Filing Date - September 4, 2009
Issue Frequency - Bi-Monthly.
No. of Issues Published Annually - 4.
Annual Subscription Price - \$2.00.
Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication - 475 North Main Street, Breese, Clinton, IL 62230.
Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher - 475 North Main Street, Breese, IL 62230. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor - Publisher, Clinton County Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 40, Breese, IL 62230. Editor - Susan M. Laux, P.O. Box 40, Breese, IL 62230, Managing Editor - Mike Johnson, P.O. Box 40, Breese, IL 62230.
Owner - Clinton County Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 40, Breese, IL 62230.
Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 percent of More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities - National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, 2201 Cooperative Way, Herndon, VA 20171.
Publication Name - Clinton County Connection
Issue Date for Circulation Data Below - June 2009

Extent and Nature of Circulation - Average No. of Copies Each Issue during Preceding 12 Months - Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date:
Total No. Copies - 4,850; 4,850.
Paid and/or Requested Circulation - Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, and Counter Sales 0; 0. Paid or Requested Mail Subscriptions - 4,765; 4,745.
Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation - 4,765; 4,745.
Free Distribution by Mail - 0; 0.
Free Distribution Outside the Mail - 0; 0.
Total Free Distribution - 0; 0.
Total Distribution - 4,765; 4,745.
Copies Not Distributed - Office Use, Leftovers, Spoiled - 85; 105. Returned from News Agents - 0; 0.
Total - 4,850; 4,850.
Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation - 100%; 100%.
This Statement of Ownership will be printed in the September issue of this publication.
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions and/or civil sanctions.

/s/ Susan M. Laux, Editor