



Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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Proposal Will Affect Rural America

In a speech on June 25, 2013 at Georgetown University, President Obama announced a broad new federal mandate to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from electric power plants. That means, the President will instruct federal regulators to apply the Clean Air Act to reduce carbon dioxide released from power plants. This will have extensive implications on coal-burning facilities, and could likely result in a new “backdoor” tax upon all consumers of electricity. Illinois’ electric cooperatives are especially concerned about the President’s proposal, since rural and low income Americans tend to pay a higher percentage of their household budget for electricity. As a member of SIPC (Southern Illinois Power Cooperative) this proposal could have a significant impact on our end users since over 80% of the energy generated from SIPC comes from coal assets.

Personally, I believe the President’s proposal has the potential to greatly affect cooperative served families and businesses in rural Illinois. Rural communities have endured rough economic times for the better part of a decade, and they’ve made incredible sacrifices.

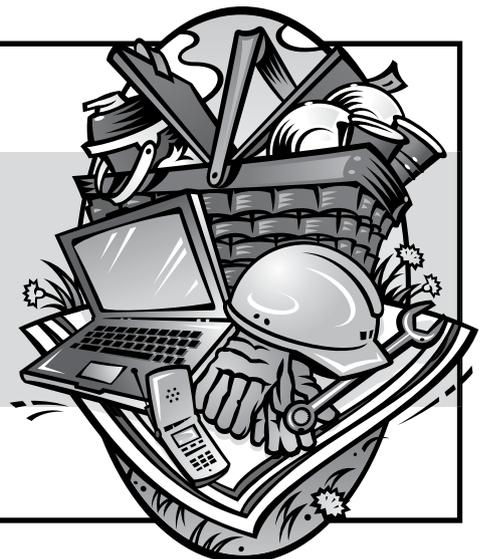
Clinton County Electric respectfully believes now is not the time to implement a new “backdoor” tax.

Electric cooperatives support an “all of the above” energy supply strategy. This is an energy strategy that includes nuclear, coal, natural gas, wind and solar energy projects. Electric cooperatives also strive to make energy efficiency improvements to diversify energy portfolios. Clinton County Electric is an environmental steward and realizes there are costs associated with this. However, we believe there needs to be a balance between greenhouse gas emission standards and what abiding by those standards will cost our owners/members. We are simply asking for a reasonably priced solution to this global issue.

Ultimately, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives are about providing safe, reliable, affordable energy to their members. We only exist to enhance the quality of life for our members. The President’s proposal will make electric power more expensive, causing our families and businesses to sacrifice even

(Continued on page 16d)

**In observance of Labor Day,
the office will be CLOSED on
Monday, September 2nd**



Lighting Lessons

As federal efficiency standards phase out traditional incandescent light bulbs, electric cooperatives are testing which lighting technologies work best for their members. Clinton County Electric Cooperative Inc. is no different and has long championed compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), the first cost-effective, energy-saving alternative to traditional bulbs.

In the past Clinton County Electric has given away CFLs at our annual meetings. We see them as a quick, low-cost way for our members to save on their electric bills.

By 2014, household light bulbs using between 40-W and 100-W will need to consume at least 28 percent less energy than traditional incandescent lights. Because incandescent light bulbs use 90 percent of their energy producing heat, upgrading saves Americans an estimated \$6 billion to \$10 billion in lighting costs every year.

More lighting changes will roll out in coming years. The federal Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 require light bulbs become 70 percent more efficient than classic bulbs by 2020. Light-emitting diodes (LEDs) already exceed this goal.

Lighting accounts for roughly 13 percent of an average household's electric bill. Hardware store shelves are filled with light bulb options. So what works best for cooperative members?

Electric cooperatives teamed up with the Cooperative Research Network (CRN), the research and development arm of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, on light bulb testing.

"We found most residential consumers still prefer to use CFLs over more expensive, but more energy efficient, LED's" remarks Brian Sloboda, CRN senior program manager specializing in energy efficiency. "The price of LED's for home use has substantially dropped, so we may begin to see more LED's as it becomes more economically feasible to buy them."

GE's hybrid halogen light bulbs combine CFL and halogen technology, creating a product that lasts eight times as long as traditional incandescent light bulbs. The 60-watt replacement uses only 15 watts, while the 75-watt replacement uses 20 watts.
-Source: GE



A helpful addition to lighting products is the Lighting Facts Label. Much like nutrition labels found on the back of food packages, this version shows a bulb's brightness, appearance, life span, and estimated yearly cost. The Lighting Facts Label was created by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to help consumers understand the product and buy the most efficient light bulb.

Consumers' energy-efficient lighting options include:

- **Halogen incandescent:** Use 25 percent less energy, last three times longer than regular incandescent bulbs
- **CFLs:** Use 75 percent less energy, last up to 10 times longer
- **LED's:** Use between 75 percent and 80 percent less energy, last up to 25 times longer

Federal light bulb standards have the potential to save members billions of dollars each year. For an average American house with about 40 light fixtures, changing just 15 bulbs can save about \$50 a year per household, according to DOE.

A word of warning when purchasing new types of bulbs: the old saying "you get what you pay for" rings true. "Some manufacturers exaggerate claims of energy savings and lifespan, and cheaper models probably won't last as long as higher-quality bulbs," Sloboda cautions. "If you look for the ENERGY STAR label that means

The new Lighting Facts Label, created by the U.S. Department of Energy, is similar to nutrition labels on food packaging. It shows a bulb's brightness, appearance, life span, and estimated yearly cost. Source: GE

Lighting Facts Per Bulb	
Brightness	510 lumens
Estimated Yearly Energy Cost	\$7.83
<small>Based on 3 hrs/day, 11¢/kWh Cost depends on rates and use</small>	
Life	1.8 years
<small>Based on 3 hrs/day</small>	
Light Appearance	Warm Cool
Energy Used	65 watts
Contains Mercury	
For more on clean up and safe disposal, visit epa.gov/cfl .	

the bulb exceeds minimum efficiency standards as tested by the federal government."

One way to benefit from this fast-changing technology is to purchase a more energy efficient light bulb the next time one goes out.

To learn about lighting options, visit energysavers.gov/lighting. For shopping tips visit ftc.gov/lightbulbs.

CCECI's successful pole inspection/ treatment/replacement program

Shell Rot

Most electric distribution systems are constructed using Southern Yellow Pine poles. The decay of a Southern Yellow Pine pole will typically start on the outside or "shell" of the pole near the groundline and extend to a depth of 18". An example of shell decay can be seen in this photograph. Ninety percent of pole decay and 90% of pole strength is located at the groundline. Four elements must be present for decay to exist: temperature, oxygen, moisture and a food source. If any one of these elements can be controlled, extended pole life can be made possible.



Enclosed Pocket Decay

If shell rot is left untreated, the decay will progress through vertical cracks or "checks" where enclosed decay pockets will form. As this photo illustrates, it is possible for enclosed pocket decay to occur without significant shell rot being present. Enclosed pocket decay is detected by drilling or "boring" the pole near the groundline to determine if internal decay is present. Depending on the severity, enclosed pocket decay can be treated using a fumigant, water-soluble preservative or liquid treatment to stop the wood destroying fungi.



Heart Rot Decay

If decay continues to progress, multiple enclosed pockets will form, unite and lead to heart rot decay, as can be seen in this photo. Heart rot is detected in the same manner as enclosed pocket decay. Heart rot is an advanced form of decay and in most cases will require replacement of the pole rather than treatment.



Shell Rot – Decay Removed

Shell rot decay is detected by excavating to a depth of 6" to determine if any decay is present. If any decay is present, the excavation will be extended to a depth of 18". As illustrated in this photo, the decayed wood is removed and measurements of the pole are taken both above and below groundline to determine the remaining strength of the pole. Based on the requirements of the National Electrical Safety Code, if less than 66% of the strength remains, the pole is "rejected" and will be replaced through a pole replacement program. However, if more than 66% of the strength remains, a preservative paste is applied from the groundline to a depth of 18" and covered with a protective wrap. By applying the preservative and wrap, it effectively removes the "food source" from the four elements required for decay and adds 10-15 years to the service life of the pole.





In observance of
Veteran's Day,
the office will be
CLOSED on
Monday,
November 11th.



In observance of
Thanksgiving,
the office will be
CLOSED on
Thursday,
November 28th
& Friday,
November 29th.

Your Power is Out, What to do?

What should you do when you have the misfortune of your power going out?

First, remain calm and then if possible, check with a neighbor to see if you're the only one in the area without service. If you are, check your electrical box for a tripped circuit breaker or blown fuse. If any breakers are in the "off" position, flip them back to "on". A blown fuse should be replaced with a new fuse of the same amperage. If you are a member who has their meter on a pole or outbuilding, you may have a main breaker or fuse below or near your meter as well. In that case, it is necessary to check and make sure that breaker is not tripped or that fuse blown.

If this doesn't solve your problem or if you've noticed your neighbors are without power too, it is probably time to contact Clinton County Electric Cooperative. There are two ways you can report a power outage. The first is to call 1-800-526-7282. Clinton County Electric personnel staff the phones during normal working hours (7:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.) and our afterhours call center, Cooperative Response Center, answers the phones when we aren't available.

When calling to report a power outage, please be prepared to offer our operator your name, service address and possibly your telephone number. The operator will ask you what time you lost power and to describe the nature of the problem. For instance, you may have noticed a flash of light near the transformer or heard a loud pop before your lights went out. Those are clues that can assist our linemen in their restoration effort.



The second is to text in your outage. In order to be able to do this, there are 3 easy steps to follow. Call the cooperative office to make sure we have your cell phone numbers recorded in our system. This is very important. Simply texting our two main phone numbers will not work. After you have given us your cell phone numbers, go to our website www.cceci.com and register for the service. You can do this by clicking on the button that looks like a smart phone. The registration process is simple and takes less than two minutes. Then you will be given a "texting number." Add this number to your contact list on your cell phone and you are ready to text us in the event your power goes out.

We are all very dependent on the convenience of electricity, so of course our goal is to restore your service as safely and quickly as possible.

President's letter (Continued from page 16a)

more, on top of all the other uncertainty in our national economy. Without question, electric bills will be larger for rural Americans who can least afford to pay them.

The electric cooperatives of Illinois look forward to working with our nation's leaders to make sure we deal with climate change in a way that promotes jobs and growth to rural Illinois. Keeping electric energy safe, reliable and affordable for

consumers is a high priority as we work to improve our nation's energy policy.

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