

Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



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Across the manager's desk

What is Going To Happen To My Electric Rate?



One of the things that we pride ourselves on most as a member-owned electric cooperative is that we value upfront and honest dialogue with our members. Our concern is, and will continue to be, good service and rates that are adequate and fair.

As I reflect on the past and present, then look to the future, it's of dire concern of what effect the current energy market and economy will have on the electric rates we must charge members

of our cooperative. I must say, in all honesty, that the outlook is not bright. Coal costs, diesel costs, materials costs, not to mention possible negative legislation, are all adding to the cost we pay for the power we sell to you. We all see it and feel when you drive up to the gas pump, buy a gallon of milk or pay a doctor's bill.

I have been working on the rates we charge to you and will let you know the results as the analysis unfolds and costs hopefully become more concrete.

What I will tell you is if an increase is needed, it will only be for what is necessary to stay financially stable. One of the great things about a co-op is that our motivation is not large profits for shareholders, but is fairness for the members.

Also, in this newsletter, please read the article asking you to contact your legislators to insure that, if enacted, reasonable legislation on climate change takes into account:

- 1.) A plan to make sure we have the electricity we'll need in the future;
- 2.) Full funding for research required to make emissions-free electric plants an affordable reality; and
- 3.) How much all of this is going to increase your electric bill, and what will they do to make it affordable.

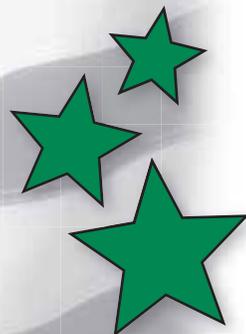
We have a daunting task ahead of us. We will all need to work hard to make sure your future electric rates remain reasonable and affordable.

Happy Birthday America

Office Closing

In honor of Independence Day, our office will be closed
on Friday, July 4.

Please drive safely and enjoy a safe July 4th.



Linemen Perform Live Line Demonstration



Students got a very visual lesson on how trees can be dangerous when touching energized electric lines. In the example pictured above, a green tree limb was set on top of live equipment and began to spark and burn.



Lineman Brian Taylor demonstrates what may happen if a bird were to become grounded while sitting on an energized electric line.



CCEC provided an educational exhibit as part of the Corps of Engineers' Earth Day festivities at Carlyle Lake on May 25. More than 350 area grade school students observed the demonstration, and witnessed first-hand the dangers of coming into contact with an energized power line.

CCEC Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the following students for having won the Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. scholarship from their respective schools:

Carlyle High School - Curt Peppenhorst
son of Larry & Sharon Peppenhorst

Central High School - Amanda Grapperhaus,
daughter of Valerie Grapperhaus

Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School - Kathline Bolin,
daughter of Tim & Tammy Bolin

Mascoutah High School - Erin Mueth,
daughter of Eric & Mary Mueth

Mater Dei Catholic High School -
Emily Foppe, daughter of Bill & Denise Foppe

Wesclin High School - Alicia Litteken,
daughter of Larry & Jane Litteken

Clinton County Electric Cooperative

Sample letter to Federal legislators

U.S. House

(depends on co-op member's address as to which one they would write)

The Hon. John Shimkus
Member of Congress
240 Regency Centre
Collinsville, IL 62234

The Hon. Jerry Costello
Member of Congress
144 Lincoln Place Court, Suite 4
Belleville, IL 62221

U.S. Senate

The Hon. Dick Durbin
U.S. Senate
525 South Eighth St.
Springfield, IL 62703

The Hon. Barack Obama
U.S. Senate
607 East Adams St.
Springfield, IL 62703

Dear Senator (or Representative) (last name):

As a member/owner of Clinton County Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Breese, Illinois, I am writing regarding federal climate change legislation. My understanding is that there are at least nine such bills currently pending before the U.S. Congress. Almost all of the electricity I receive from our co-op is generated from a coal-fired plant which utilizes clean coal technology, and I favor cost-effective proposals to lessen greenhouse gas emissions. On the other hand, I strongly oppose -- and urge your opposition -- to any bill that would unnecessarily increase costs significantly, and which would include unrealistic timelines to reduce greenhouse gas emissions since the technology to achieve these carbon reductions is not yet available.

It makes sense that climate change legislation should focus on developing and using new technologies, and give appropriate incentives to co-ops and other utilities. In addition, I think legislation should cover the entire economy and not simply electric generation, and also address emissions from other nations. And, it is critical that any proposal also consider the economic costs of the plan and not cause significant negative impacts -- I have heard that some of the pending climate change legislation proposals would have exorbitant price tags. Cost is of particular concern to me as a member-owner of a not-for-profit rural electric cooperative, as any increased costs to our co-op flow directly to my neighbors and me in the form of higher electric rates.

Thank you in advance for your consideration on this important issue. I urge you to only support legislation that addresses the above concerns and which will protect our electric co-op from having to dramatically raise rates.

Sincerely,



Our Energy, Our Future A Dialogue With America

Productive dialogue begins by asking tough questions and requiring straight answers. Start by asking your elected officials these questions to get the dialogue headed in the right direction.

- ? Experts say that our nation's growing electricity needs will soon go well beyond what renewables, conservation and efficiency can provide; What is your plan to make sure we have the electricity we'll need in the future?
- ? What are you doing to fully fund the research required to make emissions free electric plants an affordable reality?
- ? Balancing electricity needs and environmental goals will be difficult. How much is all this going to increase my electric bill and what will you do to make it affordable?



Start The Dialogue

NAME _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE (_____) _____

EMAIL _____

I AM A MEMBER OF _____ CO-OP

SIGNATURE _____



America's Electric Cooperatives

For more information visit www.ourenergy.coop

Start the conversation with your elected officials now @ www.ourenergy.coop

Regular Maintenance Work Continues



On May 21, CCEC Linemen assisted Big D Electric in performing maintenance to a transmission line that feeds the two substations that provide power to the southeast corner of our service area. Big D Electric changed out a 65-foot pole near the intersection of Highline Road and Shattuc Rd, while CCEC crews changed out some defective hardware in CCEC's Shattuc #1 Substation.

Linemen Repair Line Over Kaskaskia



Journeyman Lineman Brian Taylor and Apprentice Lineman Mike Faust braved rushing currents, frigid water, and cold winds to board a boat below the spillway at Carlyle Lake and repair a damaged three phase line that mysteriously became tangled together on April 13th. The first and longest step in the repairs was to remove years of tangled fishing lines from the wires so they could be separated and re-hung. Pictured are Taylor and Faust fighting the currents and the knots of fishing line.

Apprentices Complete Climbing School

Apprentice Linemen Craig Benhoff and Adam Robke were instructed on their climbing skills during an electrical lineman climbing school held April 14-25, 2008, at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield. The school, which was hosted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, provided hands on training in pole climbing, hurt man rescue, power line building, equipment installation and pole replacement.



Craig Benhoff



Adam Robke

RECIPES

Raspberry Almond Shortbread Thumbprints

2/3 C. sugar	Glaze:
1 C. butter, softened	1 C. powdered sugar
1/2 tsp. almond extract	1-1/2 tsp. almond extract
2 C. flour	2-3 tsp. water
1/2 C. seedless raspberry jam	

Preheat oven to 350°. In a large bowl, combine sugar, butter and almond extract. Beat on medium speed until creamy. Add flour. Beat until well mixed. Cover and chill dough at least 1 hour. Shape dough into 1-inch balls and place 2 inches apart on cookie sheets. With thumb, make an indentation in the center of each cookie. Fill with about 1/4 tsp. of jam. Bake for 14-18 minutes. Cool completely. Drizzle with glaze.

White Chocolate Blueberry Muffins

1-3/4 C. all-purpose flour	3/4 C. milk
1/4 C. sugar	1/3 C. coconut oil
2-1/2 tsp. baking powder	1 C. blueberries with
3/4 tsp. salt	2 T. sugar
1 egg, beaten	1 C. white chocolate chips

In a large mixing bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Make a well in the center. In a separate bowl, combine egg, milk and oil. Add egg mixture all at once to the flour mixture. Stir just until moistened. Batter should be lumpy. Fold in blueberries with sugar. Line muffin cups with paper and fill cups 2/3 full. Bake at 400° for 20-25 minutes or until golden. Makes 12 muffins.

Helpful Home Remedies

Many common health care conditions are best treated with simple home remedies. The following remedies are free or inexpensive, safe and easy to administer. If your symptoms linger or worsen, call your doctor for advice. (Taken from Vitality magazine, 10/07 issue)

Allergies

- Rinse itchy eyes with cool, clean water.
- Relieve painful sinus passages by placing a washcloth soaked in warm water over your nose and upper cheek area.
- Don't smoke and avoid all secondhand smoke.

Minor Burns

- Apply honey to a piece of sterile gauze and put the bandage directly on the burn, honey side down. Change the dressing three or four times a day.
- Place cool, wet tea bags directly on the burn.
- Apply a cloth soaked in milk to the area.
- Gently run cool water or place cool compresses over the burn site for 10 minutes.

Colds

- Drink at least eight ounces of fluid every two hours.
- Drape a towel over your head, bend over a pot of very hot water and breathe.

Constipation

- Mix 1 teaspoon of apple-cider vinegar and one teaspoon of honey in a glass of water and drink.
- Eat more high-fiber foods such as whole-grain cereal, fresh fruits and vegetables, beans and legumes

- Try food-based natural laxatives such as coffee, walnuts, barley, apple juice, raisins and rhubarb.

Diarrhea

- Drink plenty of fluids - eight cups of plain water, weak tea with a little sugar, sports drinks such as Gatorade, flat ginger ale and over-the-counter electrolyte replacements such as Pedialyte for children.
- Eat easy-to-digest foods such as chicken broth, rice, noodles, bananas, potatoes, toast, yogurt and soda crackers.

Headaches

- Lie down and close your eyes for a half hour.
- Place an ice pack or heating pad wrapped in a thin cloth over your eyes or on the site of the pain.
- Reduce tension by relaxing and taking a deep breath or two.

Hiccups

- Breathe into a paper bag held over your mouth and nose (for adults only).

Itchy Skin

- Apply a paste made with three parts baking soda and one part water.
- Squeeze undiluted lemon juice on the itch and let it dry.

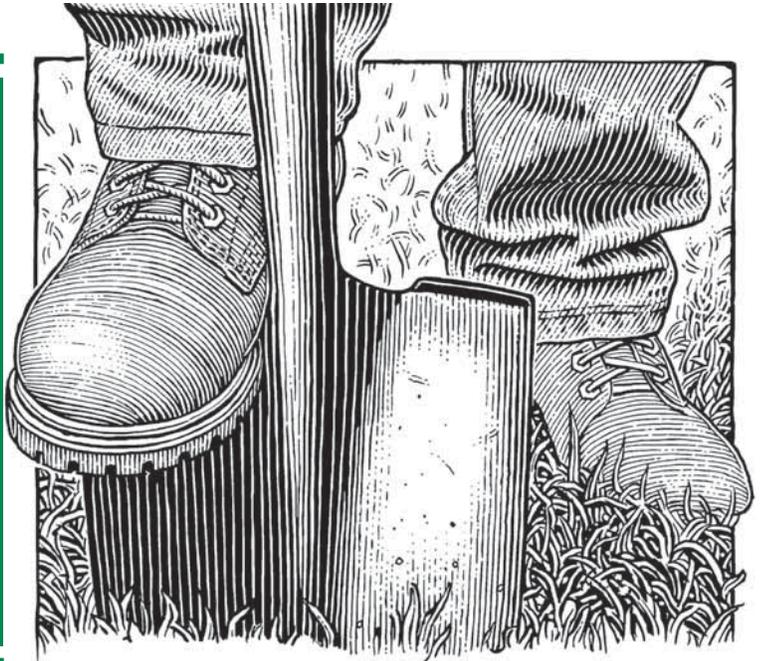
Sore Throat

- Sip a mixture of one tablespoon each of honey and lemon juice in one cup of warm water.
- Gargle with a saline solution made by adding half a teaspoon of salt to a cup of very warm water.

Can You Dig It?

Call 811 for the Answer!

*Call Before You Dig.
It's FREE and
It's the LAW!*



Because even relatively minor excavation activities like landscaping or fencing can cause damage to buried utility lines, always contact your state One-Call Center – 811 before engaging in any excavation, construction, farming or digging.

The first step to planning any outdoor beautification or home improvement is to call JULIE. JULIE representatives man the phones 24/seven and can be contacted either by dialing 811 or by 800-892-0123.

Common examples of do-it-yourself projects that require a call to JULIE before digging include putting up a fence; installing a swing set, mail box post or water features such as a pool, pond or fountain; building a deck or room addition; preparing a new garden or landscape area; planting trees, bushes or shrubs.

Allow 48 hours for your request to be processed.

JULIE will arrange for utility operators to have the underground lines at the project site marked, free of charge, so that homeowners can dig safely. JULIE neither owns nor marks any underground lines.

811 is celebrating its first anniversary as a federally-mandated number designated by the FCC to consolidate all local “Call Before You Dig” numbers and help save lives by minimizing damages to underground utilities. One easy phone call to 811 starts the process to get your underground pipelines and utility lines marked for free. When you call 811 from anywhere in the country, your call will be routed to Illinois’ One-Call Center, which is in Joliet, in northern Illinois. Once the underground lines have been marked for your project, you will know the

approximate location of your pipelines and utility lines. Then you can continue your project by digging with care and respecting the marks.

Safety Tips

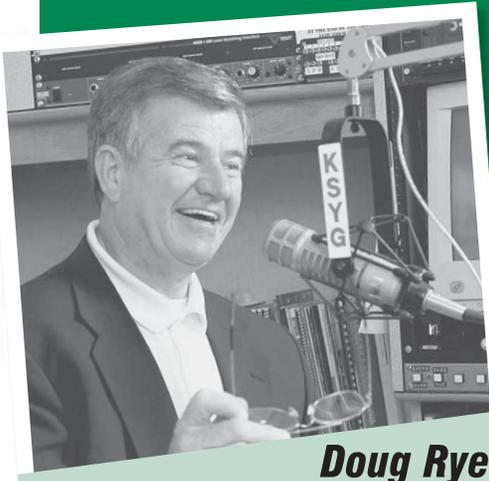
- Call JULIE (1-800-892-0123) or 811 before you dig.
- Wait the required amount of time (two working days).
- Respect the marks.
- Dig with care.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Doug Rye

Geothermal 101: How it Works



Doug Rye

OK, OK - you asked for it so I'm going to do it. It seems like about 3 million of you have asked me to explain how a geothermal system works. Well, maybe not 3 million, but it's a bunch of you and I'm honored that I have the opportunity to do it. Now, you've probably already figured out that I'm not smart enough to be real technical, but I do have some common sense. So I will use a common-sense approach to explain how the most efficient heating and cooling system available today can help you.

Actually you could get the Oct. 25, 1948, issue of *Life* magazine and get a great explanation. That's correct, 1948. Geothermal units are not new, but it has only been in recent years that they've gained in popularity. It just takes awhile for adults to embrace new ideas, especially if they cost more money. Notice that I said adults. When I show high school students how you can spend \$50 more per month on installing a geothermal unit and save \$75 per month on your utility bill, they simply say, "cool." No discussion or argument. They would take it in a minute.

OK, OK - here's how it works. All energy comes from the sun. Mr. Sunshine has provided a lot of BTUs for a lot of years and Mother Earth has absorbed and stored that energy. A closed-loop geothermal system simply removes those BTUs from Mother Earth in the winter and gives them back in the summer. At depths of five feet or more, the earth's temperature in Arkansas remains close to 57 degrees, as evidenced by a cave's temperature.

There are two basic ways to install a geothermal unit. If digging a trench is difficult, or if space is limited, geothermal contractors drill holes into the ground vertically to install small-diameter polyethylene pipe. If digging a horizontal trench is feasible, the pipe is installed in a horizontal trench.

A very small pump then circulates water from the earth to the geothermal unit and back to the ground in the closed-loop pipe. Actually, geothermal is not the best name for this unit. A better name is ground-coupled heat pump or water-to-air heat pump. A heat pump doesn't create heat; it just moves heat from one location to another using a compressor. Example: A window air conditioner blows cool air inside and hot air outside. If you turn the air conditioner around, it will blow hot air inside and cool air outside.

As it circulates 57-degree water in the winter, the geothermal unit, using the compressor to remove heat from the water, provides 105-degree air into the house. As the water goes back to the ground loop, it immediately starts absorbing BTUs from the earth. In

the summer, a reversing valve simply reverses the process and the compressor pumps BTUs into the ground loop. The water returns to the earth and immediately starts cooling off again. It's all about heat transfer. Here's another example - a blacksmith heats a horseshoe to red-hot. To cool it, he doesn't wave the horseshoe into the air. Instead, he simply dips it in water. It cools off a lot faster and takes a lot less energy.

Folks, I have been responsible for the installation of many thousands of geothermal units and I have had no disappointed customers. My wife and I have had geothermal heating and cooling for 18 years and, we simply would not have any other system. Geothermal gives good hot air in the winter and really cold air in the summer and uses less energy than any other central heating and cooling system. So don't be a tightwad. Buy the best there is - you, your family and your house deserve it.



Doug Rye, a licensed architect living in Saline County and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show, works as a consultant for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas to promote energy efficiency to cooperative members statewide. To order Doug's video, or for more information, call 1-888-Doug-Rye or e-mail him at dougrye@aecc.com. More energy-efficiency tips can also be found at www.ecark.org

Financial Information

BALANCE SHEET As of April 30, 2008

ASSETS (What We Own):

Total Utility Plant	21,334,120
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>8,055,301</u>
Net Utility Plant	13,278,819
Cash & Temporary Investments	34,578
Investments in Associated Organizations	1,195,735
Accounts Receivable	187,373
Materials & Supplies	487,129
Prepayments & Other Deferred Expense:	<u>228,455</u>
Total Assets	<u>15,412,089</u>

MEMBERS' EQUITY & LIABILITIES (What We Owe):

Members' Capital Credits	6,927,158
Other Equities	240,939
Long-Term Debt	7,403,756
Consumer Deposits	116,034
Other Liabilities & Deferred Income	<u>724,202</u>
Total Members' Equity & Liabilities	<u>15,412,089</u>

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the Four Months Ended April 30, 2008

INCOME:

Sale of Electricity & Other Services	4,154,570
Other Income	<u>297,619</u>
Total Income	<u>4,452,189</u>

EXPENSES:

Cost of Electric Power	3,243,591
Operations & Maintenance Expenses	407,202
General & Administrative Expenses	344,968
System Depreciation	215,023
Interest Expense	<u>163,556</u>
Total Expenses	<u>4,374,340</u>

NET MARGINS

77,849

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