



Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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"Clean Power Plan" update

I am sure most of you have heard or read something during the past few months concerning the EPA's Clean Power Plan rule. I asked Don Gulley, CEO of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), to pen a short article to help the membership of Clinton County Electric better understand the potential impacts of their future power bill. Below is that article. --Mike Johnson

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has issued a new rule called the "Clean Power Plan" to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from America's coal-fired power plants. The rule will be negligible in its overall global impact as the targeted reduction requirement will be more than offset by coal-fired plants built in China. The rule targets plant emissions beginning in 2022, requiring states to meet targets by 2030 through a state developed State Implementation Plan. Absent a state plan, the EPA will likely impose a more stringent Federal Implementation Plan (FIP). Costs will go up – replacing lower cost energy resources with higher cost resources (less reliable solar and wind) and paying for stranded investment at the same time.

Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), the Generation



& Transmission Cooperative that supplies power to Clinton County Electric Cooperative, has invested in state-of-the-art environmental control technology to meet and exceed current EPA requirements. Technology to control and capture carbon dioxide is not economically feasible. The potential for stranded investment and higher costs for replacement power is a serious threat to SIPC Member Owners which will also have a significant negative economic impact on southern Illinois. SIPC supports and is working closely with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association to challenge the rule

and is also working with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to protect the interests of Member Owners in development of the State Implementation Plan.



Don Gulley
President/CEO of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative

Strong electric poles are the “backbone” of reliability!

You probably don't pay much attention to the utility poles found throughout Clinton County Electric Cooperative's service territory, but did you know these tall structures are the backbone of our distribution network?

Strong, sturdy utility poles ensure a reliable electric system, which is why we routinely inspect the roughly 19,300 poles found on our lines. Throughout the year, our contractor (Osmose Utilities Service) checks poles for decay caused by exposure to the elements and treats them to prevent future decay. Our goal is to extend the normal life of a wooden pole. Currently our Pole Inspection/Treatment Program inspects every pole on a 10 year rotation cycle. If a pole shows signs of decay that pole is treated with a product that is designed to extend the life of that pole an additional 10 years. The contractors provide their own vehicles and do not wear Clinton County Electric clothing, but they should have identification that shows they are working for Clinton County Electric. You will generally see them working for us in either April or May of a given year. Poles that fail inspection and cannot be treated are replaced

by Clinton County Electric's construction crews. It costs Clinton County Electric approximately \$65 to treat a pole compared to \$1,200 to replace it.

Occasionally, poles need to be replaced for other reasons besides decay and old age. Weather disasters, power line relocation, car crashes and farm machinery accidents are potential causes for immediate replacement.

Here is a quick breakdown of how crews replace a utility pole:

When a pole needs to be replaced, crews will start the process by digging a hole, typically next to the pole being replaced. The depth of

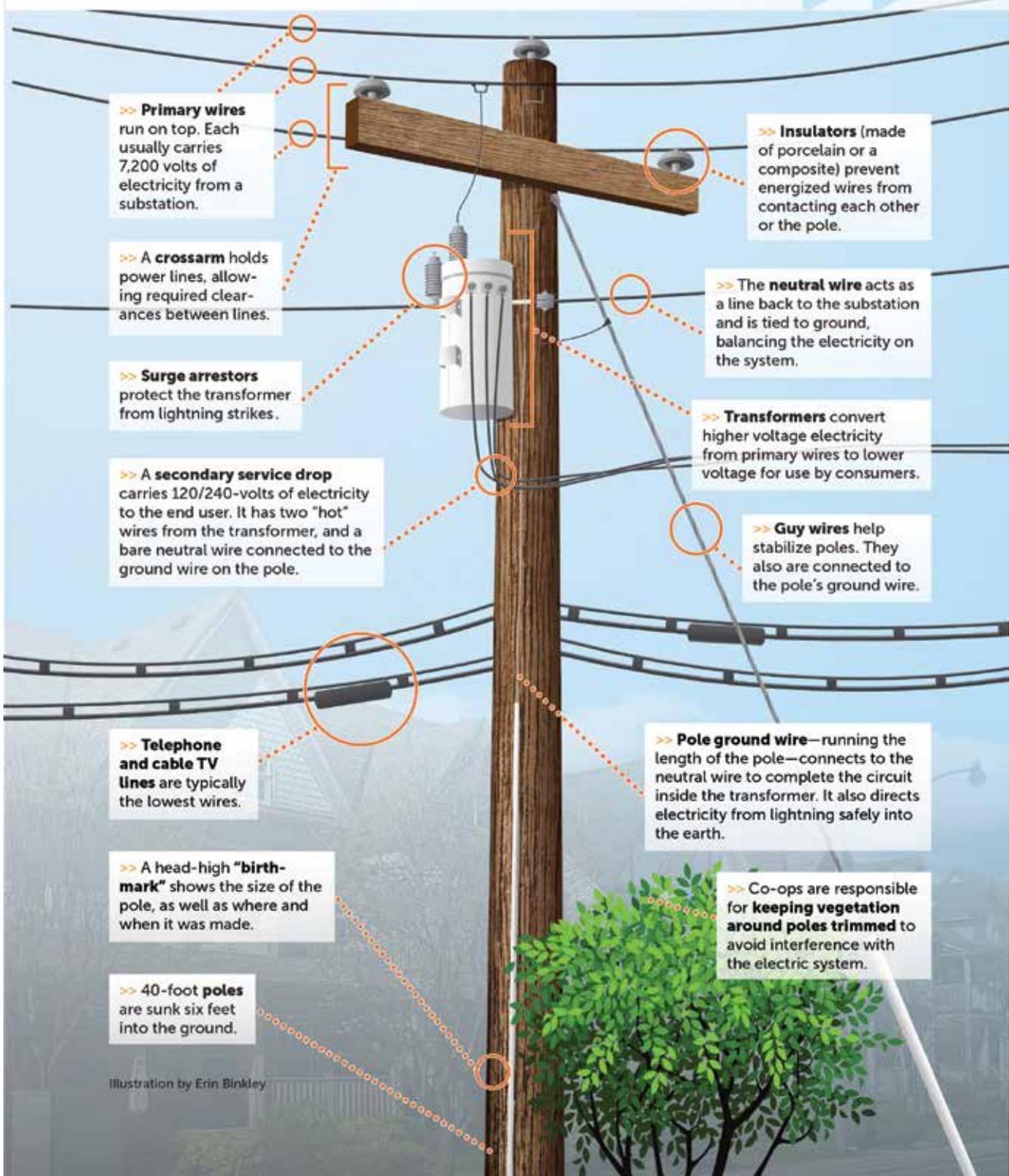
the hole must be 15 percent of the new pole's height. Next, the new pole must be fitted with bolts, cross arms, insulators, ground wires and arm braces – all of the necessary parts for delivering safe and reliable electricity. Then, crews safely detach the power lines from the old pole. The new pole is then raised and guided carefully into position, and the lines are attached, leaving the new pole to do its job.

So, the next time you come across a Clinton County Electric Cooperative crew replacing a pole, use caution and know that this process ensures a more reliable electric system for you, our members.



>> What's on that pole?

This illustration shows basic equipment found on electric power distribution poles. Not all poles have all this equipment on them. They vary according to location and the service they provide.



>> **Primary wires** run on top. Each usually carries 7,200 volts of electricity from a substation.

>> A **crossarm** holds power lines, allowing required clearances between lines.

>> **Surge arrestors** protect the transformer from lightning strikes.

>> A **secondary service drop** carries 120/240-volts of electricity to the end user. It has two "hot" wires from the transformer, and a bare neutral wire connected to the ground wire on the pole.

>> **Telephone and cable TV lines** are typically the lowest wires.

>> A head-high "**birth-mark**" shows the size of the pole, as well as where and when it was made.

>> **40-foot poles** are sunk six feet into the ground.

>> **Insulators** (made of porcelain or a composite) prevent energized wires from contacting each other or the pole.

>> The **neutral wire** acts as a line back to the substation and is tied to ground, balancing the electricity on the system.

>> **Transformers** convert higher voltage electricity from primary wires to lower voltage for use by consumers.

>> **Guy wires** help stabilize poles. They also are connected to the pole's ground wire.

>> **Pole ground wire**—running the length of the pole—connects to the neutral wire to complete the circuit inside the transformer. It also directs electricity from lightning safely into the earth.

>> Co-ops are responsible for **keeping vegetation around poles trimmed** to avoid interference with the electric system.

Illustration by Erin Binkley

Applications are being accepted for 2016 Youth Day and Youth Tour

Clinton County Electric Cooperative will again sponsor up to 12 area sophomores or juniors to attend Youth Day in Springfield to be held on April 13, 2016, sponsored by the cooperative and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Two students will be selected to go to Washington D.C. from June 10-17, 2016 for an all-expense paid tour.

WHO MAY ENTER?

Youth Day in Springfield and Youth Tour to Washington D.C. are open to high school sophomores and juniors that are children of Clinton County Electric Cooperative members. (Children of Clinton County Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees or employees may attend at their own expense.)

YOUTH TO SPRINGFIELD.

Up to 12 students will participate with more than 125 other youths from other Illinois electric cooperatives in Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day in Springfield set for April 13, 2016. The day's activities in Springfield will include touring the State Capitol



complex, visiting with legislators and a luncheon. Transportation to Youth Day in Springfield will be provided by the Cooperative.

WASHINGTON TOUR.

Of the 12 students attending Youth Day in Springfield, two will have the opportunity to participate in the Washington D.C. Youth Tour. The two local winners will join about 70 other Illinois students who are winners of similar contests sponsored by other Illinois electric cooperatives. They will travel on air-conditioned buses, leaving on June 10

and returning June 17. While in Washington D.C., they will visit such attractions as the White House, U.S. Capitol, Smithsonian Institution, Arlington National Cemetery, Lincoln Monument and many other national monuments and places of interest.

Applications are available at www.cceci.com/youthprograms. Completed applications need to be returned to the cooperative office no later than **March 4, 2016**. Feel free to contact Carrie Trame at Trame@cceci.com with any additional questions.



The cooperative office will be closed on Thursday, December 31 & Friday, January 1 in observance of New Year's.