



Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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Cost of Service Based Rates:

At the July 26, 2016 meeting of the Clinton County Electric Board of Trustees, the trustees approved implementing Cost of Service Based Rates. We have been informing the membership of this possibility for well over a year. Full implementation will take three years to accomplish with the first step of the process, Phase 1, beginning with the April, 2017 billings.

Please note, this is very important, total revenues received from the membership WILL NOT CHANGE. However, that

being said, virtually every member's billings will change. Some members will experience small increases, whereas others will experience small decreases. As in the past, the general direction in regard to rates will be: (1) decreasing the Energy Charges while (2) increasing the Facility Charge.

Next month's ICL will feature a detailed presentation on the effect of implementing Cost of Service Based Rates. For more than the past year, the Cooperative has been informing the membership of our

timeline for this change. A quick review of the timeline: (1) in 2015 performed and analyzed the Cost of Service Study, (2) in 2016 inform the membership and make a final decision concerning the specific rate levels, and (3) begin to implement rates in April of 2017.

During this entire process our primary goal has been, "Fair & Reasonable." Management and the Board feels that goal will be accomplished with the new Cost of Service Based Rates.



In observance of Labor Day, the office will be closed on Monday, September 5.

In observance of Veterans' Day the office will be closed on Friday, November 11.

In observance of Thanksgiving the office will be closed on Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25.

Electrical safety warning for Pokémon Go players

Clinton County Electric Cooperative and other utilities are reminding players of Pokémon Go to stay away from electric substations, power plants and other electric equipment. The new smartphone-based augmented reality game sends players to real world places to “catch” Pokémon.

Pokémon turn up everywhere — from grocery stores to hospitals. But they’re also appearing at electric substations, drawing players into dangerous situations.

Electric utilities cannot control where the Pokémon appear, and

players should make sure they catch their Pokémon from a safe distance. Any game or activity that distracts people from the possible dangers



around them and potentially brings them in proximity to our electric equipment and lines is a major concern for all us.

Remember these important electrical safety tips from Clinton County Electric Cooperative as you try to #CatchEmAll:

- Never touch electric equipment, including transformers and power lines.
- Never touch a downed power line. Assume all lines are energized and dangerous.
- Never climb utility poles.
- Never enter an electric substation.

The differences between overhead and underground power lines

By Tom Tate

There are two methods of installing the power lines that carry electricity to your home, overhead and underground. Clinton County Electric Cooperative members sometimes ask why we use one versus the other, or more to the point, why all power lines are not installed using the underground construction method. Isn't one method better than the other? These are great questions, and the answer is that each method has its place.

Overhead line construction starts with the setting of utility poles. Poles can be set in nearly any type of terrain, even rocky. In the case of heavy rock, special equipment is used to auger out the hole.

If placement occurs in boggy or wet terrain, many techniques are available to set poles securely. Once the poles are in place, wires can be strung and then equipment — like transformers, fuses and reclosers — are installed. Power can now flow.

Underground line construction requires digging a trench that is deep enough to keep the lines well away from surface activities. Where the terrain is extremely rocky, underground lines may not be an option. Next, wires are laid in the trench directly or placed in conduits for protection. The trench is filled in, and the surface is restored to its original condition. Padmount transformers and additional equipment

are installed as needed, now the system is ready to deliver electricity.

Let's take a look at some the advantages and disadvantages of each construction method, beginning with overhead.

Determining if power lines should be overhead or underground boils down to what is best for the situation. Underground lines might be ideal in situations where there is a desire to keep the poles and wires out of sight, such as a residential neighborhood, park or historical area. There are many cities and towns that construct only underground lines for a variety of reasons.

Overhead systems work well when appearance is not a

major concern. Examples include extremely long line distances across country, where the voltages are higher than the limitations set for underground lines.

The ultimate mix of underground and overhead construction used by Clinton County Electric

Cooperative provides you, our members, with the highest possible quality of service at the lowest possible price. Cost, appearance, reliability, maintenance and future upgrades will drive which is the better approach, overhead or underground.

Tom Tate writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

OVERHEAD & UNDERGROUND POWER LINES

THE PROS AND CONS

OVERHEAD

PROS

- Lower cost
- Quicker construction
- Easier to spot damage and faults
- Less expensive to repair and upgrade
- Can be built in any terrain
- Any voltage can be placed overhead

CONS

- Susceptible to wind, ice and snow
- More vulnerable to damage from trees and vegetation, which requires right of way trimming
- Vulnerable to blinks when animals and branches contact lines
- Susceptible to damage from vehicle collisions
- Less attractive

UNDERGROUND

PROS

- Not vulnerable to damage from tree branches
- Does not interfere with views
- No right of way (tree trimming) required
- Less susceptible to damage from vehicle collisions
- Not impacted by wind, ice and snow
- Less vulnerable to blinks when animals and branches contact lines

CONS

- More expensive to build
- Susceptible to flooding
- Difficult to locate faults
- Expensive to repair
- Fed by overhead lines at some point, making the lines vulnerable to outages and interruptions
- Limitations on voltages that can be buried underground
- Can be vulnerable to dig-ins

Take Control of Your Electric Account with SmartHub

Clinton County Electric is proud to offer yet another customer service enhancement called SmartHub. It can help you take control of your electric account like never before.

SmartHub has several features that make managing your account as easy as possible. Whether through the web, or your smart-phone or tablet (Android or iOS), you'll be able to pay your bill, view your electricity use, contact customer service and much more.

As soon as you log in, you'll be able to view your billing history and make a payment with just a couple of clicks...or taps, if you're using the app. You'll be able to see your current bill, along with bills from the previous month or even the previous season, if you want to compare costs. You can see how your usage is trending over time, which will allow you to take steps to reduce your consumption and lower your bill.

Making payments through SmartHub is fast and easy. The first time you make a payment either through the Web or through your mobile device, you'll be able to securely store your payment information for future transactions. The next time you need to pay your bill, it will only take a couple of clicks.

You'll also be able to manage your account notifications with SmartHub. By logging in to SmartHub on the Web, you'll be able to select how you want to be notified

about your bill, including email and text messaging.

Reporting a power outage is also quick and easy from the SmartHub mobile app. There's no need to call the office, just let us know you've lost electricity with a few taps. You can also contact Clinton County Electric Cooperative with a request, a

question, or for customer service. SmartHub's contact feature makes it quick and easy.

Access SmartHub by visiting www.cceci.com or by downloading the app on your mobile device through the Apple App Store (iPhone or iPad) or Google Play Marketplace (Android phone or tablet).

