Clinton County Connection

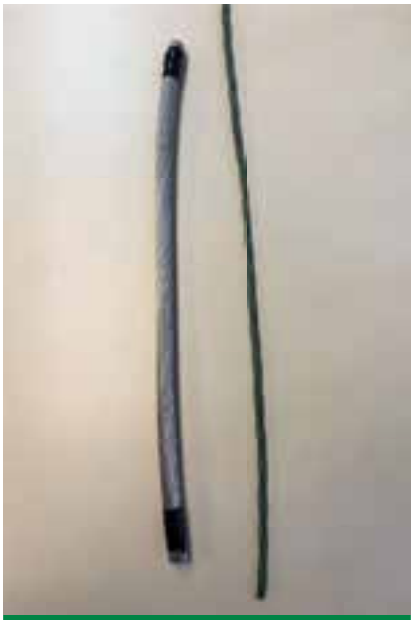
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Published by Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. • cceci@cceci.com • www.cceci.com

Construction work plan

Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) strives to maintain a level of reliability that keeps service interruptions to a minimum. To help meet this goal, CCEC follows a comprehensive construction work plan. Typically, each work plan is designed to be completed over a four-year period and includes upgrades and maintenance that focus on keeping the system as reliable as possible. A construction work plan is created based on an analysis of the electric system using an engineering model and ensures capital investments are made when and where they are needed. During the four-year timeframe, the work plan takes into account energy growth due to new services being added to the system, as well as increased energy consumption by existing services located in the CCEC service territory.

Construction work plan projects consist of a wide variety of items, including new service line extensions, distribution line installations, conversions and upgrades, new substations or substation upgrades, service upgrades, sectionalizing equipment, regulator equipment, capacitor equipment, pole replacements, transformers and meters. Historically, CCEC's annual budgets have included approximately $1.5 million for projects included in the construction work plan. However, due to recent inflationary pressure, CCEC will need to invest more than $1.5 million in future years in order to accomplish the same amount of work.



The 336 ACSR wire (left) will be replacing the 4 A Copperweld (right) in some areas as part of CCEC's construction work plan.

CCEC is currently in the third year of a four-year construction work plan spanning from 2023 through 2026. This year we will be working on three major projects which are part of a multi-year plan to upgrade three-phase lines between substations to a larger wire size. The larger wire will help maintain proper voltage whenever we experience an interruption in transmission service or if we need to deenergize a substation to allow our crews to safely tend to maintenance or repairs within a substation and need to backfeed from another substation. The ability to transfer load, or "backfeed," between substations greatly increases reliability for the CCEC membership and ensures maintenance and repairs can be done in a safe and timely manner. The larger wire will also perform better under heavy loading conditions such as ice and wind.

CCEC crews will be starting on the first project in April. This will consist of rebuilding and upgrading approximately 1.25 miles of line from old copper conductor (2/3 stranded) to new aluminum conductor (336 ACSR). The project will begin at the intersection of Tank Road and Court Road west of Albers, continuing 1.25 miles south along Tank Road to the intersection of Tank Road and State Route 161. This section of line is fed from our Albers Substation. The engineering part of this project is nearing completion and will be followed by material acquisition, then construction.

Continued on 18B ▶

"Construction work" continued from 18A

The second project will begin after completion of project #1 — sometime in May 2025. This project will have a very similar scope of work as the first project; however, this rebuild will only consist of 0.75 miles of line. The project will begin at the intersection of Billhartz Road and State Route 161, continuing south along Billhartz Road to the intersection of Billhartz Road and Haselhorst Road. Completion of this section of line will finalize the entire 9.3 mile rebuild from our Mascoutah Substation to our Albers Substation. In total, these 9.3 miles of line will have been completed in three years with the replacement of 205 utility poles and crossarms, and the installation of 196,416 feet of aluminum wire.

The third project will be completed later this summer and will consist of rebuilding and upgrading approximately 2.75 miles of old copper line and again replacing it with 336 ACSR. This project will take place in the northeastern part of Clinton County — more specifically, at the intersection of Meridian Road and Louse Creek Road, then continuing south 2.75 miles to the intersection of Meridian Road and Ducomb Road.

In an effort to minimize service interruptions, CCEC crews are trained to work on energized lines. However, there will be times when it will be necessary to disconnect your service to allow crews to perform their work safely and efficiently. We will strive to keep interruptions to a minimum and attempt to provide you with advanced notice whenever possible.

Most of the work on these projects will be completed from the road. Our crews will do their best to impact traffic flow as little as possible. If you see our crews working along the road, please slow down and move over to give them room to work. We appreciate your patience and consideration to keep our crews safe while we complete projects that improve the reliability of the distribution system for the benefit of the CCEC membership.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Jared Kampwerth at 800-526-7282 or kampwerth@cceci.com.

Considering Solar?
Call us first

As interest in "green" energy and ways to save money on utility bills continue to grow, some cooperative members may be considering the installation of a solar array.

Since these types of systems have the capability of returning electricity back to the electric grid, there are some major safety considerations to sort through before a system is installed.

Before deciding to buy a solar array, examine the economics to determine if such a system will lower your monthly electricity costs. If you do decide to install a solar array, contact our office as early as possible in the process.

A CCEC representative will provide information on our interconnection process and policies, as well as answer any questions you may have. That way, you and your installer will have the information needed as you progress with your system.

For more information on CCEC policies and requirements, please contact our office Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 800-526-7282.

Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Prioritizing safety

Clinton County Electric Cooperative recognized for outstanding workplace practices

Safety is paramount in the electric industry. To advance safety education and practices, lineworkers, supervisors and warehouse personnel from electric cooperatives across Illinois gathered in Springfield for the annual Safety and Energy Conference held Jan. 29-30. The event was hosted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC).

The conference emphasized the importance of safety and leadership in the energy industry, providing participants with training and resources to ensure their well-being on the job. Sessions included discussions on active leadership, staying focused and safe practices in the workplace.

During the conference, safety awards were presented to honor both individual and cooperative-wide commitments to fostering a safe work environment. Mike Faust, foreman at Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC), received a 2024 Safety Leadership Award for his exemplary efforts.

The Safety Leadership Award acknowledges individuals who excel in promoting a culture of safety and demonstrate leadership beyond typical safety performance standards. Recipients are nominated by their peers, with nominations detailing the nominee's impact on safety practices.

From left to right: Technical Services Supervisor Ahren Langhauser, Leadman Doug Vonder Haar, Field Services Technician Mike Korte, Apprentice Lineman Sam Kuhl, Foreman Mike Faust and Operations Superintendent Brian Taylor.

CCEC was also recognized for its outstanding safety performance over the past year, receiving 2024 awards for Best Loss Time Rate and Best Incident Rate. These awards underscore a cooperative's dedication to maintaining a safe working environment, exceeding industry safety expectations, and cultivating a proactive safety culture.

The Best Loss Time Rate Award is given to the cooperatives with the lowest number of lost work time due to workplace injuries, relative to the number of hours worked. It reflects a cooperative's effectiveness in preventing serious incidents that could keep employees off the job.

The Best Incident Rate Award recognizes the cooperatives with the lowest overall number of recordable workplace incidents, including minor injuries. It highlights a commitment to maintaining a consistently safe work environment for all employees.

As the electric industry continues to evolve, safety remains a top priority. It ensures that the workforce can continue to serve communities efficiently and without harm. The AIEC celebrates the electric cooperatives and individuals that prioritize safety, consistently demonstrate leadership in safe practices, and foster a strong safety culture.

Safety Tip

Before starting any digging project, call 8-1-1 or visit Call811.com to have underground utilities marked. Hitting buried lines can cause serious injuries, service disruptions for you and your neighbors and costly repairs. Stay safe by knowing what's below before you dig!

SafeElectricity.org

Lineworkers are wired for service

In the quiet hours before dawn breaks, while many of us are still nestled in our beds, lineworkers begin their day, often clad in flame-resistant clothing, safety goggles, rubber gloves and thick, heavy boots.

They are the individuals who epitomize dedication to service in its purest form. As we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 14, this is an important moment to reflect on the essential role they play in our daily lives.

Amid towering utility poles and power lines, lineworkers exhibit a strength that goes far beyond the physical. Whether battling inclement weather, troubleshooting technical problems or navigating treacherous heights, lineworkers demonstrate resilience and a quiet determination to keep our lights on, our homes comfortable, and our communities connected.

Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) crews travel across our six-county service territory, building, maintaining and repairing parts of our local system. Their extraordinary skills ensure our homes remain connected to the grid, businesses stay operational, and emergency services remain accessible — a lifeline that connects us all.

In moments of crisis, when the lights go out and we find ourselves in the dark, lineworkers emerge as beacons of hope. Their swift response restores normalcy, offering reassurance in times of uncertainty. Whether repairing storm-ravaged power lines or ensuring continuity during emergencies, their unwavering commitment illuminates life when we need it most.

CCEC lineworkers also answer the call beyond the boundaries of home. Our crews travel to fellow co-ops, near or far, when widespread outages occur and additional support is needed. Cooperation among cooperatives is one of our seven guiding principles, and no one embodies this core commitment better than lineworkers.

This month, as we celebrate the remarkable men and women who ensure reliable power, let's recognize their unwavering dedication to the local communities they serve.

The next time you flip a switch, please take a moment to remember those who make it possible — lineworkers, who are wired for service and dedicated to illuminating life.

THANK A LINEWORKER APRIL 14