

Adjustment of rates for Clay Electric members

At the annual meeting held September 8, 2011 it was announced that no more than a seven percent (7%) increase in rates would be made beginning January 1, 2012 to cover the wholesale power increase plus an additional amount for the new rules from Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). After all the numbers were finalized the increase will be six and seven tenths percent increase (6.7%) which includes the additional cost associ-

ated with the new rules from EPA.

The changes that will be made to the rates are based on a Cost Of Service (COS) study that has been conducted by the engineering department at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. The adjustment will be applied to all rates and will be approximately the same increase for each rate.

The old and new rates are shown below for Rate 1 and a few examples are listed to give an idea as to how

your bill might be affected. If you need help in determining what the effect will be on your bill, please contact the office. Prior to bills being sent out February 2012 you will be sent a letter giving more detailed information regarding the specific rate that your account is billed on.

The new rates will take effect January 1, 2012 and will be reflected in the February 2012 bill.

	Old Rate 1	New Rate 1	
Facilities charge	\$30.00	\$30.00	
First 1000 kWh	.11452 per kWh	.12488 per kWh	
All kWh over 1000	.08167 per kWh	.08907 per kWh	
Table of Usage and Costs (Rate 1)			
	Old Rate \$	New Rate \$	Difference
Facility Charge	30.00	30.00	0.00
Monthly kWh usage			
250kWh	58.63	61.22	2.59
500kWh	87.26	92.44	5.18
750 kWh	115.89	123.66	7.77
1000 kWh	144.52	154.88	10.36
1500 kWh	185.36	199.42	14.06
2000 kWh	226.19	243.95	17.76
3000 kWh	307.86	333.02	25.16

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Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

November 28, 2011

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Bill Croy, Neil Gould, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Richard Rudolphi, Danny Schnepfer and Greg Smith. Also present were Executive Vice President/General Manager John Meng, Cooperative Attorney Melanie Pearce, Bookkeeper Ginger Williams, Duane Mercer and Earl Ridlen of London Witte Group. The invocation was given by Greg Smith.

Heard a presentation by Duane Mercer and Earl Ridlen concerning the commissioned Capital Credit Study. Williams, Mercer, and Ridlen then left the meeting.

Discussed the Capital Credit Study.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held October 24, 2011.

Accepted 15 new members for service.

Canceled 7 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$42,046.81.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of October, 2011.

Approved the financial and maintenance reports for the month of October, 2011, along with information on FEMA payouts received and allocated, as presented by Gen. Mgr. Meng.

Heard a report by Trustee Logan regarding the recent AIEC Board Meeting along with the Executive Summary.

Heard a report by Trustee Herman concerning the recent SIPC Board meeting, including information on financials, revenue, expenses and margins.

Discussed the upcoming NRECA Annual Meeting arrangements.

Reviewed, Discussed, and Approved the 6.7% rate increase as presented.

Heard a report by Gen. Mgr. Meng concerning the recent mar-

keting campaign for Alternative Retail Electric Suppliers (ARES).

Discussed and Approved the employee approved Health Reimbursement Arrangement provided by NRECA.

Approved the proposed Construction Work Plan Study as presented.

Heard a report on a new wire reel trailer which came in under budget.

Approved the re-pricing of a CFC note.

Reminded of time change of the December 19th regular board meeting.

Heard a report by Gen. Mgr. Meng as to the repairs to a digger truck.

Disbursed the health newsletter "Embody Health"

Adjournment.



Clay County Water Update

Clay County Water, Inc. continues to work on obtaining the necessary easements required for the Phase 3 project. Even if you do not intend to connect to the water, please be considerate of your neighbors that would like to connect. We will be bidding the project out in the very near future.

The Phase 3 project includes about 50 miles of water line located in Southeast Xenia, South Stanford, South Harter, South Clay City Townships and a few other short line extensions in the area.

If you have not been contacted, or would like to sign up for water service to your location, please call. Do not put this off any longer.

We plan on opening bids for the project by early February, 2012 and start construction as soon as weather allows in the spring or early summer of 2012.

Doug Hockman 662-6666, Sue Pettit 662-4305,
Bob Pierson 662-7471, Kye Hemphill 662-4590,
Bill Seelman 662-8479, Dwight Edgington 678-2782
Kevin Henry 618-838-6123, or Hank Hilmes 662-2388.

Urge caution when using backup generators

Professional installation an important safety step

During long-term power outages many rely on portable generators for emergency power. The growing popularity of portable electric generators has resulted in millions being placed in homes and small businesses across the nation. But it's estimated only a small percentage are hooked up correctly. Safe Electricity urges consumers to understand the proper safety steps that must be taken.

If installed and operated correctly, use of standby or portable electric generators poses little danger, but improper installation or use could be dangerous to you and threaten the lives of your family, friends, neighbors and electric utility crews trying to restore service.

"Consult and discuss your purchase options with a reliable vendor, your electric supplier and contractors," advises Jay Solomon, University of Illinois Extension Engineering Educator. "A qualified vendor or electric professional will know existing safety codes and the utility's safety requirements, and can help you select the best equipment for your needs and situation."

Properly connecting the generator into the system is a critical step for safe and effective use. A licensed professional should install a permanent, standby electric generator and can help with proper equipment for safely using a portable generator.

Have a qualified electrician install a transfer switch. The transfer switch breaks the path of electricity between the power lines and your main electrical panel. This is the best way to protect you, your neighbors and repair crews from 'back feed.' Back feed occurs when an improperly connected generator begins feeding electricity "back" through the power lines. This can seriously injure anyone near lines, especially crews working to restore power.

"Safety for the operators and users

of a generating system in the home and utility crews cannot be over-emphasized," says Solomon. "A qualified electrician should be consulted to ensure proper installation and electrical grounding requirements, circuit overload protections and local codes are met."

Some homeowners choose smaller, portable generators to power essential electrical equipment during outages. Safe Electricity offers these tips for the safe operation and use of portable generators:

- **Read and follow all manufacturer operating instructions to properly ground the generator.** Be sure you understand them before hooking up the generator.
- **Maintain adequate ventilation. Generators emit carbon monoxide.** Never operate a generator in your home, garage, or other enclosed building. Place it in a dry, outside location.
- **Never plug a portable electric generator into a wall outlet or connect directly to a home's wiring.** This can energize utility power lines and injure you or others working nearby. Electrical back feed also can damage the generator and home electrical equipment.
- **Turn off generator and allow cooling before refueling.** Gasoline and its vapors may ignite if they come in contact with hot components or an electrical spark. Store fuel in a properly designed container in a secure location.
- **Protect your appliances.** Turn off or disconnect all appliances and lights before you begin operating the portable generator. Once the generator is running, turn your appliances and lights on one at a time to avoid overloading the unit.
- **Use proper extension cords.** Use only safety-tested, shop-type electrical cords designed and rated for heavier, outdoor use to connect appliances. Many generators are

equipped with twist-lock connects to reduce the chance of accidental disconnections due to vibrations.

- **Shut down generator properly.** Before shutting down a generator, turn off and unplug all appliances and equipment being powered by the generator.
- **Remember maintenance between uses.** It's important to drain the gasoline from the generator while it is being stored. It's also a good idea to inspect the fuel and oil filters, spark plug, oil level and fuel quality and start the generator on a regular basis before an emergency situation happens.

Safe Electricity suggests that these safety guidelines and basic operating instructions be posted in the home and with the generator.



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7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.



Who will map your future?

You can find out on the Youth to Washington trip

OK. So you aren't really into politics. As a junior in high school, you're thinking about college and where you're going to come up with more than \$100,000 to pay for higher education. You're also trying to decide what you want to work at the rest of your life to make that college experience pay off.

Oddly enough, the very people who may have answers to those questions are wearing the title of state legislator or seated in chambers of the U.S. Congress in Washington D.C.

Before you know it, you will be voting in your first election and the weight of the country's decisions will partially belong to you. Will you support a Congressman who wants to pass Cap & Trade? Will you be in favor of farm subsidies? Oh, and when you get the opportunity to meet your Congressman, in addition to these questions will you ask: What has Congress done to make higher education more affordable and will I be able to find a job when I graduate?

Electric and telephone cooperatives in more than 40 states believe that young people deserve a first-class opportunity to educate themselves in the government process. Each year, the cooperatives across the nation sponsor more than 1,500 high school students to make the trek to Washington to get that personal initiation, and they have a lot of fun in the process.

It all begins in Springfield on March 28, 2012 during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperative Youth Day where nearly 300 students will visit the State Capitol and spend much of the morning meeting with legislators. You will tour the Supreme Court and spend the afternoon touring local sites.

To be considered for this trip, see your guidance counselor for details.

This year marks the 53rd trip to the nation's capital and promises to be as exciting as ever. Students learn the principles required to keep cooperative members working together for

the cooperative's success by establishing their own "chip and pop" cooperative while on the bus trip.

While in Washington during the week of June 15-22, in addition to meeting with Congressman from Illinois, students are treated to tours of historic sites, given the opportunity to make life-long friends and receive information to help determine career paths.

Hopefully, at the conclusion of the tour, you will understand the only crystal ball in Washington is the one you help develop through your participation in government and public service. The future of the country depends on the youth of today getting involved.

To learn about this opportunity, contact your Guidance Counselor or Doug Hockman at Clay Electric Cooperative 618-662-2171. You may also check out the Youth Tour through the Association Of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) at www.aiec.coop for additional details.