



Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

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Cost of service update

At our last Annual Meeting, held on March 19, 2015, Clinton County Electric Cooperative announced they would be hiring an outside firm, the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC), to perform a Cost of Service & Rate Design Study. A Cost of Service Study basically tells us which rates are generating enough revenue to cover their entire cost to serve and which rates are not. Clinton County Electric has three basic billing components, the Facility Charge, Energy Charge and PCA (Power Cost Adjustment). The Rate Design Study uses the results of the Cost of Service Study and determines the dollar amount for each of those billing components to ensure everyone is paying their “fair share.”

I am writing this article towards the end of July and the AIEC is virtually done with the Cost of Service Study. On the other hand, the Rate Design Study is

just beginning. Therefore I have no concrete information to provide to the membership today. However, this is our plan:

- 1) The AIEC will deliver both studies to the cooperative sometime in early October.
- 2) The AIEC will present studies to the Board of Trustees of Clinton County Electric at their Regular Board Meeting in November, 2015.
- 3) The board will review both studies in detail during their December Strategic Planning Meeting. At that meeting, the board will decide what direction to move in regards to the Facility Charge, Energy Charge and PCA for all of our rates.
- 4) The results of this study will be presented to the membership at our next Annual Meeting, which will be held on March 17, 2016.
- 5) The entire April *Illinois*

Country Living publication will also be dedicated to this subject.

I hope this sheds light on our process of reviewing the topic of future rates.

Please remember, all initiatives we embark upon always have our members’ best interest in mind. Providing our members with safe, reliable, reasonably priced electricity while providing excellent service will continue to be our goal. As always, if you have any comments or questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me at Johnson@cceci.com.



Mike Johnson

Upcoming office closings

In observance of Labor Day, the office will be closed on Monday, September 7

In observance of Veterans Day the office will be closed on Wednesday, November 11

In observance of Thanksgiving the office will be closed on Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27

Revisions to our water heater program

DOE raises minimum efficiency requirements for water heaters

In April, 2010 The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), as part of the National Appliance Energy Conservation Act (NAECA), issued Final Rule energy efficiency mandates for Residential Water Heaters. These new requirements, effective April 16, 2015, increase the minimum efficiency for all water heaters manufactured within the United States.

In order to meet certain efficiency standards, some water heaters

are no longer being manufactured. All water heaters 55 gallons or smaller have an increased minimum efficiency rating which has caused an increase to both the cost and actual size of the heater. If space is a concern, you may have to install a water heater with a smaller storage capacity since a unit with similar storage capacity may be larger in physical size than the existing water heater.

Due to the new requirements, CCECI no longer sells 80 gallon

water heaters. Also, due to the vendor's price increase, the cost for a 50 gallon water heater has increased from \$100.00 (including tax) to \$150.00 (including tax). The dimensions of the new 50 gallon water heaters are 60 ¼" tall and 21" in diameter.

Info from AO Smith –
www.hotwater.com

Remember the "four Rs" of electrical safety

Electricity can do amazing things for you and your family, but if mistreated it can cause a shock or start a fire. Remember to observe the "four Rs" of electrical safety every day:

- **RESPECT** the power of electricity.
- **READ** and follow the operating instructions that come with every electrical product.
- **REPLACE** or repair worn, frayed electrical cords and damaged equipment.
- **RELOCATE** appliance cords so they are not walked on or tripped over.





Keeping harvest safe

The rush to harvest can often lead to farmers working long days with little rest. That mixture can sometimes lead to accidents. Clinton County Electric Cooperative wants to make sure our farmers are always safe around power lines.

One of the biggest hazards for farmers is posed by power lines. Typically, power lines in rural areas have a minimal clearance of 18.5 feet. To stay safe around overhead power lines, Clinton County Electric urges farm operators and workers to:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10

feet from lines at all times, in all directions.

- Inspect the height of the farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always remember to lower extensions when moving loads.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, call CCECI immediately at 1-800-526-7282.
- Do not use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around grain bins.
- Always hire qualified electricians for any electrical issues.
- Do not use equipment with frayed cables.

If contact is made with a power line, stay on the equipment. Make sure to warn others to stay away, and call 911. Do not leave until the utility crew says it is safe to do so. The only reason to exit is if the equipment is on fire. If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together, without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, “bunny hop” to safety as you leave the area.

Always remember to periodically look up and be aware of your surroundings. If you can't safely pass under a power line, choose a different path. For more farm and electrical safety information, visit SafeElectricity.org

Tree planting safety

Trees clean our air, provide shade and beauty, and make our yards and homes more comfortable. Where you plant your tree is very important and must be thoughtfully planned out.

When planting trees, you may be tempted to plant where they would look the best or provide the most shade, but that could be a mistake. Not only could you damage an underground utility line when you plant it, but as your tree matures its roots may grow into your utility lines and disrupt your service, requiring you to remove what you've planted. Or, a tree planted too close to your home could damage your foundation.

Smart digging is no accident:

always call 811 before you dig. Know the growth habits of the tree you are planting, and how its roots will grow when mature. For instance, the root systems of willow trees are particularly aggressive and should be planted well away from any underground impediment.

Think above you too. Make sure your new tree will not grow tall enough to interfere with overhead lines either. All states require those who plan on digging to call ahead to get their utility lines marked before digging, and while your desired spot might make a great location for a swing, it may be directly above an underground utility line.

By calling 811 a few days before you dig, you'll make sure your tree will provide all the benefits you want while still protecting your property and family. One easy phone call to 811 gets your underground utility lines marked for free. Remember, know what's below. Always call before you dig.



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

