

### Mission Statement:

Improving the quality of life of our member-owners.

### James B. Riddle

Executive Vice President/  
General Manager

### Board of Directors

Paul Pyatt, President  
Raymond Mulholland, Vice President  
Kevin Liefer, Secretary-Treasurer  
Randall Campbell  
Larry Ebers  
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### What to do if the power goes off

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. Check your meter pole or pedestal. If you have breakers, make sure they are "on" by first pushing to the 'off' position and then pushing them to the 'on' position. If you live in a mobile home, codes require a main disconnect near the meter. If you have a dusk-dawn light and it is working, you have a breaker or fuse out.
3. Check with your neighbors. If they are out of power also, the main line is most likely out.
4. During office hours: Steeleville 965-3434 or Murphysboro 684-2143 or (800) 606-1505 for either office. After office hours call (800) 606-1505.
5. Make sure you have the name on the account and if possible, the account number.

## Prairie State Update

If you've driven state Route 4 north of Marissa lately, you've probably noticed the large concrete stack east of the highway near Lively Grove. Or if you live in Randolph County, especially the northern portion of the county, you've probably noticed a lot of new faces in your community. Both of these are a part of the construction of the power plant and mine for the Prairie State Energy Campus. Prairie State is owned by eight public power agencies, including Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC, our generation cooperative) and Prairie Power, Inc. (a generation cooperative serving electric cooperatives in central Illinois).

Prairie State has promised to be one of the cleanest coal-fueled power plants in the nation. Emission control technologies that are being installed to ensure this include:

- Nitrogen oxide controls
- Selective catalytic reduction
- Dry electrostatic precipitators
- Sulfur dioxide scrubbers
- Wet electrostatic precipitators

When completed, Prairie State will have a capacity of 1,600 megawatt (MW) of electricity. In 2007, SIPC became a 7.9 percent owner of Prairie State, giving them access to 125 MW of the generation capacity of Prairie State. At present, SIPC has 293 MW of coal fueled capacity (base load generation) at the Lake of Egypt plant, along with 140 MW of natural gas combustion turbines (used for peaking purposes). Prairie State's Unit 1 is expected to begin producing 800 MW of electricity in November of

2011 and Unit 2 (another 800 MW) in the summer of 2012.

Prairie State is needed to meet the growing demands of Egyptian Electric Cooperative and the other electric cooperatives that are a part of the SIPC system. As surprising as it may seem with the economic downturn and the recent focus on energy conservation, our load and the load we put on SIPC has continued to grow (chart 1). In the next couple of years, we expect even more growth. In the Carbondale area alone, the new U.S. National Guard Armory and the new Transportation Education Center at the airport, as well as a new housing development on New Era Road, are causing us to build a new substation to meet the demand of these facilities.

Since the end of 2005, the demand our system puts on the SIPC power plant annually has grown from 708 MW to 820 MW. This past December, Egyptian Electric members had a peak demand of 90.7 MW. With the SIPC coal fueled capacity at 293 MW, we took up over 30 percent of SIPC's coal fueled generation (coal fueled generation is much less expensive than natural gas fueled). With six other distribution members on the SIPC system, you

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### Jim Riddle

Executive  
Vice President/  
General Manager



**Integrity : We are credible, trustworthy, honest and believable.**

# The Creepy Room

Nearly one half the members of Egyptian Electric Cooperative have a room in their house that 1) they seldom go into, if ever and, 2) it has several 8-inch by 16-inch holes through the walls directly to the outside. And although they seldom go into this room, spiders, snakes, mice and other varmints may frequent it on a regular basis. In the winter it's a nice warm home and in the summer, it's a cool spot. Quite often, a supply of water is available. If you haven't figured it out by now, I'm talking about that mysterious, creepy room we call a crawl space. Oh, by the way, I forgot to mention that in addition to those unwanted tenants that may be occupying your crawlspace, radon, methane and mold might be living there as well. I recently read an article in Home Energy magazine written by David Hales, a building systems and energy specialist at Washington State University, that brought to light many issues with crawl spaces that I've had concerns with for many years.

Historically, most crawl spaces have been vented to the outside. In fact, until recently, most building codes required venting. Before the advent of central air conditioning and the placement of duct systems in crawl spaces, this didn't present a major concern beyond energy efficiency, and with cheap energy, that wasn't really a concern either. Today, most all homes are air-conditioned and when there's a crawl space present, it seems that's where the ductwork goes. The problem in high humidity climates like southern Illinois is that the temperature of the air, when air conditioning, is around 52 degrees, well below the dew point. If the ductwork is not properly sealed and insulated, condensation occurs.

According to Mr. Hales, walls in below-grade crawl spaces get wet. As they cannot dry to the exterior,



they must dry to the interior. If Kraft-faced fiberglass batts are used, then the insulation cannot dry out and real problems can develop. We used to think this was generally a winter-time problem, but with high summer humidity and the crawlspace vented to the outside, it is actually a year-round issue.

One issue to keep in mind in southern Illinois is radon gas. Radon is an odorless, tasteless and invisible gas produced by the decay of naturally occurring uranium in soil and water and is a proven carcinogen. The EPA recommends action if the radon level in a home is over four pCi/L (picocuries per liter).

Hales found that 40 percent of the air in a home with a vented crawlspace originated in the crawlspace. Stack effect, warm air rising upward, sucks air out of the crawlspace into the home. A sealed crawlspace lowers this percentage, but also runs the risk of elevated radon levels as there is less dilution.

#### **So, how do you take the creep out of the creepy room? Here are some tips:**

- Make sure there is a continuous vapour barrier on the floor. Use 6-mil black polyethylene as a minimum, with it turned 6 inches up the sides and sealed to the walls. All seams should be overlapped 6

inches and taped.

- Slope the floor to a sump pump and pump to the outside if there is a high water table or periodic flooding.
- Make sure the exterior grade slopes away from the building and all gutter downspouts are drained away from the foundation.
- Don't vent dryers or bathroom vent fans to the crawl space.
- Remove all wood, cardboard or organic material from the crawlspace and do not use it for storage.
- Seal all perforations through the crawlspace sub-floor with caulk or expanding foam.
- Insulate the side walls and wood sills with 2 inch expanded polystyrene ("blue" or "pink" board), R-10, or have commercially applied open or closed cell foam sprayed on exterior foundation.
- Install a power vent in the crawl space sized to supply 1 CFM for every 50-square foot of crawl space area if radon levels have been found above accepted levels.
- Consider using insulated concrete forms (ICF) instead of traditional poured concrete or concrete block foundations.

Once a vapour barrier and foundation insulation have been installed, the 2009 International

**Accountability : We act in accordance with our core purpose and values.**

Residential Code allows for the crawlspace to be unvented and existing vents can be permanently sealed.

Building practices for crawl spaces have varied over the years from vented to unvented and although many would like a pat answer for the “best” practice, local conditions must drive the practice for each home. Drainage, soil conditions,

Radon levels and other factors should be considered when deciding how to construct and insulate a crawl space. The most important thing to keep in mind is that the safety of the occupants is of utmost importance while building sustainability and energy costs come secondary.

*For additional information, visit:*

<http://resourcecenter.pnl.gov/cocoon/morf/ResourceCenter/article/131>  
*Mechanically vented crawl spaces*  
[http://www.ornl.gov/sci/roofs+walls/foundation/ORNL\\_CON-295.pdf](http://www.ornl.gov/sci/roofs+walls/foundation/ORNL_CON-295.pdf)  
*Oak Ridge National Laboratory Foundation Handbook*

## Area Member Meetings

**Saturday, March 12, 9:00 a.m. World Shooting Complex, Sparta**

**Tuesday, March 15, 6:30 p.m. Campbell Hill Community Center**

**Saturday March 26, 9:00 a.m. Murdale Baptist Church, Carbondale.**

**Refreshments will be served at each location.**

## 2011 Federal Tax Credits for Consumer Energy Efficiency

**Note: Tax credits that were 30 percent up to \$1,500 EXPIRED on December 31, 2010. New credits were passed by Congress and signed into law by the President at these new levels.**

Item	Amount	Specifics
Air-air heat pumps	\$300	Minimum 15 SEER
Central air conditioning	\$300	Minimum 16 SEER
Gas, propane or oil furnace	\$150	Minimum AFUE 95
Biomass stoves	10% up to \$500	Minimum Thermal Efficiency of 75%
Gas, propane or oil water heater	\$300	Minimum Energy Factor 82%
Electric heat pump water heater	\$300	Minimum Energy Factor 2.0
Windows and doors	10% up to \$500, windows capped at \$200	Does not include installation
Insulation	10% up to \$500	Does not include installation
Geothermal heat pumps	30% with no upper limit	Minimum 14.1 EER
Small wind turbines	30% with no upper limit	Nameplate capacity less than 100 kW
Solar panels	30% up to \$500 per .5 kW of capacity	Must be principal residence

*For additional information, visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)*

**Commitment to Community: We show compassion, care and courtesy to our members and the communities we serve.**

can see there is a need of additional capacity in the very near future.

When the Board of Directors at SIPC looked at future growth projections in the early years of this decade, the need for additional capacity was becoming evident already then. As always in cooperative meetings, the discussion centered around providing the least costly alternative to meeting the growing needs of our cooperative members. One option discussed was adding more capacity at the existing plant. As the plant uses the lake to provide cooling water for the steam made by the plant, limits of how much the lake temperature might be increased at the existing site eliminated this option.

The option of building a new plant was discussed. Building a new small power plant in the 1960s before emission control systems were required was very feasible and allowed for construction of the original SIPC power plant and the Lake of Egypt. But with costly emission control systems required today, small plants are not cost feasible. Building a large plant for the members of SIPC alone would have been too risky and cost prohibitive. Fortunately, the Prairie State Energy Campus was looking to truly becoming a reality.

In 2007, the Board of Directors of SIPC made the decision to purchase the last remaining capacity of Prairie State that was unsold, 125 MW. On October 1, 2007, groundbreaking for the plant took place. This fall, five years later, the plant will be generating electricity for the members of Egyptian Electric and our fellow SIPC distribution cooperatives.

Power plants are not inexpensive. The U.S. has seen the price of steel and concrete increase dramatically due to the competition for these products overseas. Climate concerns have necessitated the installation of

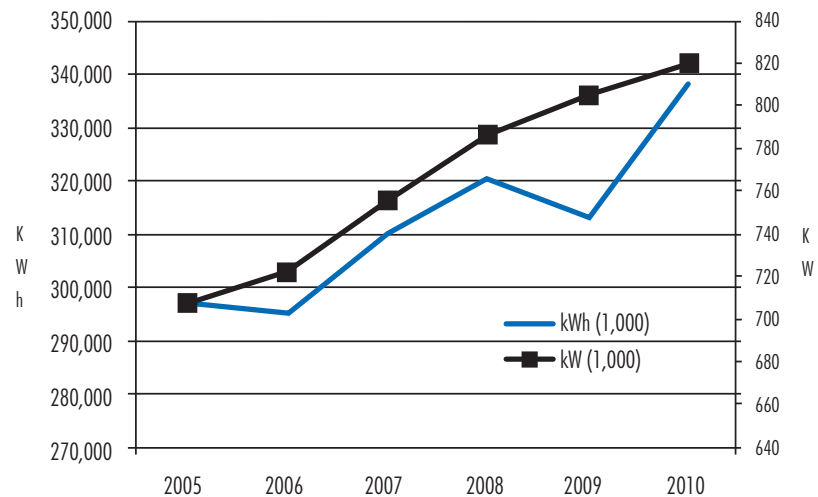


Chart 1

more technology at higher costs.

Prairie State will provide the energy we need to meet your growing demands at the most reasonable price. Many steps have been taken to ensure construction costs are reasonable. Prairie State and Bechtel Power Corporation have entered into an engineering, procurement and construction agreement that provides a fixed price for the total cost of constructing the power plant. This agreement provides the owners of Prairie State with greater price and economic stability.

In addition to the power plant, Prairie State will operate its own underground coal mine across the road from the power plant. Access to a continuous supply of coal at cost and without transportation costs will ensure Prairie State is a reliable, stable and low-cost source of power for the Prairie State owners for quite some time with reduced environmental impact.

Recently, your board of directors and I took a tour of the underground mine. Although the underground portion of the mine is technically under construction at this time, it is about as close to a working mine as it can get. I was amazed at how clean and safe an

operation it is. Safety is paramount in everything they do. They even have a wireless tracking system that will report to the top the location of each miner that is below. Should a catastrophe occur, rescue teams will know right away where everyone is and will be able to concentrate rescue efforts appropriately.

As you can imagine, adding additional capacity to any generation system is expensive and leads to increased costs. Prairie State Energy Campus will ensure that you, our members, have access to the electricity you need now, tomorrow and in the future in the most cost effective and environmentally responsible way possible.

On March 12, 15 and 26, we will be holding area member meetings. On July 21, we will have our Annual Meeting. At each of these meetings my intentions are to have a frank and candid discussion with you as to what cost increases we can expect in the future due to Prairie State. I'll also discuss concerns we have with possible EPA regulations and the impact they could have on us and all utilities nationwide. See you then. For additional information on Prairie State, visit [www.prairiestateenergycampus.com](http://www.prairiestateenergycampus.com).

**Teamwork: We work together to provide excellent service.**