



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**August 2013**

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Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Monday - Friday

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### Mission Statement:

Improving the quality of life  
of our member-owners.

#### James B. Riddle

Executive Vice President/  
General Manager

### Board of Directors

Kevin Liefer, President  
Randall Campbell, Vice President  
Ken Jarrett, Secretary-Treasurer  
Larry Ebers  
Allen Haake  
Paul Hicks  
Gilbert Kroening  
Steven Prest  
Paul Pyatt

### Office Closing

Labor Day,  
Monday, September 2

### What to do if the power goes off

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers to ensure none of them have tripped.
2. Look at your meter. If you can read the numbers on the LCD display, there is power to the meter; you will need to check further for a breaker that has tripped or a fuse that has blown. If there are no numbers present on the display, there is no power to the meter.
3. To report an outage, call 800-606-1505
4. Make sure you have the name as listed on the account and if possible, the account number.



## Clean Air Act Concerns

On Wednesday, June 26, at Georgetown University, President Obama announced a broad new federal mandate to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from electric power plants. The President has instructed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to apply the Clean Air Act (CAA) to carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from power plants. While we wish to be good stewards of our environment, the electric cooperatives of Illinois and across the nation have serious concerns with this plan and its approach.

### No Affordable Technology Available

Studies by MIT and the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) have provided ample data showing the monumental technological challenges and costs of reducing carbon emissions. Presently, there is no commercially viable technology that can be used on new power plants or to retrofit existing plants to capture carbon.

As you may recall, there have been plans for development of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technology in central Illinois (FutureGen) for many years. While the scope of the project and the partners involved have changed, the basic concept is the same; develop a process to capture CO<sub>2</sub> while burning coal for electricity and then store it underground. It is presently anticipated this project will begin functioning in 2017, although that time schedule has been pushed back numerous times.

The Administration's plan, however, via issuance of a Presidential

Memorandum to the EPA, calls for the issuance of EPA's final standards, regulation or guidelines no later than June 1, 2015, with a requirement for the States to submit to EPA by June 30, 2016, their plans for implementation. These standards could be in effect before experimental technology even becomes operational.

This will lead to the premature closing of numerous coal fired power plants. Few companies, if any, will take a gamble on costly technology that is unproven.

### Improper Use of the Clean Air Act

In our opinion, using the CAA for the purpose of addressing carbon emissions and climate change is an overreach of historic scale. The law was never intended to be used to regulate carbon or CO<sub>2</sub>. U.S. Rep. John Dingell, one of the Act's principal authors, has said using the CAA to regulate greenhouse gases would result in a "glorious mess."

The Act was originally passed in 1970 to deal with smog and soot, primarily in congested areas and cities. Section 112 of the Act provides a list of hazardous air pollutants the Act was concerned with and neither carbon nor carbon dioxide is listed.

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### Jim Riddle

Executive  
Vice President/  
General Manager



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

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## Solution Focused

Electric cooperatives nationwide support an “all of the above” energy strategy to provide reliable, affordable power 24/7/365. For many years now, we have supported a strategy that encompasses carbon capture and storage, electric vehicles, energy efficiency, renewable, clean energy, distributed generation and nuclear power.

While Illinois electric cooperatives utilize wind and solar electric power, relying on those as a sole source of 24/7/365 energy will not work. The sun does not shine all day long nor does the wind blow when needed. If we depend on power all day, every day, then wind and solar alone cannot power our nation. We still need base-load or schedulable (we can control when it runs) generation.

The Administration’s plan calls for increased use of natural gas for electric generation as it currently has a low cost due to new production (fracking) and reduced usage due to the economic downturn. I think most of us learned in Economics 101 and

with supply and demand studies that the best way to increase the cost of something is to use more of it.

We believe in renewable energy when it benefits our members; Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), our power supplier, has 28 MW of hydro-power generation and 10 MW of wind generation. We will continue to search for other projects that provide you with clean yet affordable energy.

We have promoted the efficient use of electricity at cooperatives here at Egyptian and nationally for many years. I recently found a photo from the “tent” days of annual meetings with an insulation display in it. Even in those days we urged members to be energy efficient, and we still do today. In this newsletter, you will find articles concerning new energy efficient building codes. Whether you support government telling us the best way to build or not, reality is it is the right thing to do. Building or retrofitting our homes to make sure they use the minimum amount of energy to heat and cool them

not only makes them better for the climate, they are more comfortable to live in and more economical. While we embrace such responsible environmental regulations, the President’s new proposals to regulate Green House Gases could result in unintended consequences that could adversely affect our members.

## What to Do

At this point, we do not know what the EPA final rules will be. The fact is, we cannot wait to see what rules they develop. It will be too late at that point. We desire to work with the Administration AND Congress to develop an energy policy that ensures we are good stewards of our environment while providing reliable and affordable electricity to our members. I urge you to send a letter or email to your Congressional delegates and let them know you feel it is their responsibility to establish policy and guidelines for us to live by and that you wish for reliable and affordable electricity to be a major consideration in that effort.

## 2013 Youth to Washington

**K**elsey Smith of Pinckneyville, Alicen Torres of Elkhart and Katie Kerkhove of Chester represented Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association in Washington, D.C., during the annual “Youth to Washington” Tour, June 14-21. This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois since the late 1950s, is an introduction for rural youth to our democratic form of government and cooperatives.

The students met with Congressman William Enyart and were among 65 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip. The Illinois students joined more than 1,520 young leaders from across the country. In addition to the Capitol, they also visited Arlington National Cemetery, the Washington National Cathedral, several Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the



*Pictured from left: Smith, Torres, Kerkhove Congressman Enyart.*

World War II Memorial, memorials to Presidents Lincoln, Jefferson, Washington and Roosevelt, the National Archives, the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, the Newseum and a number of other historical sites.

Sophomores and juniors in high schools in Jackson, Perry, and Randolph counties that are within the service area of Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association are eligible to participate in the annual program.

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

## New Energy Codes are the Law

On January 29, 2010, Public Act 096-0778 became effective in the state of Illinois. The act amended the Energy Efficient Commercial Building Act to include residential buildings (single family homes and apartment buildings three stories tall or less), requiring compliance with the most current published edition of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). This Code is updated and published every three years; the 2012 edition became effective on January 1 of this year.

While some believe they do not have to comply with the IECC as they are not building within a community with a code enforcement program, that is incorrect. Bruce Selway with the Energy Office of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) indicates the Act still applies. "The Law does require design and construction professionals to follow the latest published edition of the IECC. While communities and counties with compliance programs must mandate compliance, all other construction must still comply with the Code."

There are some individuals in the energy efficiency/building science field that believe compliance will occur in the courts. The likely scenario is that a non-compliant home built after January 1, 2013, will be in a sales transaction with a new owner. Nearly all banks require a home inspection today before they make a loan on the home. A wary home inspector notices that the home does not meet the IECC 2013 codes. The bank, not willing to make an investment in a non-code compliant home, denies the loan and essentially the sale. Having lost a sale and potentially the ability to now

sell the home, the homeowner seeks a remedy through the courts against the contractors involved in building their home. The contractors involved are required to bring the home into compliance, costing them considerably. Meanwhile down at the local coffee shop, local building contractors hear the story about their cohort and finally realize they too could be liable for past omissions and decide they should build all homes in the future to comply with the Code.

To some it may seem that requiring homes to be energy efficient (the IECC 2012 was written to achieve a 15 percent improvement in energy efficiency over the IECC 2009 code) is just big government telling us what to do. To those in the energy auditing/efficiency/building science business, it's just making the residential construction trades do what they should be doing in the first place. These are folks that have to find out why a home has high energy consumption and high bills and inform the owner of all the needed fixes.

The real problem though is us as consumers. We typically look for the lowest cost. When ABC construction gives us a bid to build a new home that will meet energy code, but has a higher cost than XYZ construction

and we take the lower bid, we have essentially told ABC to not build efficient homes because they'll lose the bid if they attempt to do so. The same goes with heat and cooling contractors. We choose the lower price, even though the higher bid includes sealing all of the ducts that are in the attic and will more than pay for itself over the life of the new system. Once again we are basically telling them to not install a system correctly because if they do, they won't get the bid.

As our nation strives for a cleaner environment (see Mr. Riddle's article in this issue), energy costs will rise. As consumers, we have two choices. We can pay the increased costs and complain about it, or we can make our new or existing homes more energy efficient and use less energy.

Complying with IECC energy codes for new homes will ensure our homes are as efficient as possible without going to extremes. The measures required for compliance result in homes that are more comfortable and consume less energy. Having an energy assessment done on an existing home will identify the key causes of high energy consumption. Following through and completing the recommendations will ensure we use less energy.

### Report outages from your cell phone

Register today at [www.eeca.coop](http://www.eeca.coop)

Go to the 'Outage by Text' page under the MyService tab



Follow EgyptianCoop on Twitter to keep informed of outage status & important things you should know about your electric cooperative!

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



# Key Items in IECC 2012

## Fenestration (Doors and Windows)

- Window, door and skylight U-factors and Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) must be determined from a National Fenestration Rating Council rating that is independently certified and set forth on a label on the product or from a limited table of product default values in the IECC.
- Windows, skylights and sliding glass doors must also be labeled in a manner to show they meet the IECC's air infiltration requirements.
- Up to 15 square feet of glazed fenestration is permitted to be exempt from the U-factor and SHGC requirements. One side-hinged opaque door assembly up to 24 square feet is exempted from the Fenestration U-factor requirement.

## Insulation

- Insulation R-values are minimum acceptable levels and must be determined according to FTC rule.
- The insulation for basement walls must be from the top of the wall down 10 feet below grade or to the basement floor, whichever is less.
- Floor insulation must be installed to maintain contact with the underside of the subfloor decking.
- Access doors from conditioned spaces to unconditioned spaces (e.g., attics and crawl spaces) will be weather stripped and insulated to a level equivalent to the



insulation on the surrounding surfaces.

- R-5 shall be added to the required slab edge R-values for heated slabs.
- All corners and headers shall be insulated and the junction of the foundation and sill plate shall be sealed.

## Ducts

- Ducts must be pressure tested and verified to have total leakage of no more than 4cfm/100 sq. ft. living area (or 3 cfm if air handler is not installed) if any portion of the duct system is outside the building envelope (e.g., attics or crawl space).
- Supply ducts in attics will be sealed and insulated to a minimum R-8. All other ducts shall be sealed and insulated to minimum R-6.

- Building framing cavities shall be used as ducts or plenums.

## Air Sealing

- The building envelope is required to be properly sealed and tested, and verified as having an air leakage rate no higher than 5 ACH50. Recessed lighting must be sealed and air-tight.

## Systems

- HVAC systems must be properly sized in accordance with ACCA Manual S based on building loads calculated with Manual J or other approved methodologies.
- Temperature controls must be installed, including a programmable thermostat where required.

Window/ Door U-Factor	Skylight U-Factor	Glazed Window SHGC	Ceiling R-Value	Wood Framed Wall R-value	Floor R-Value	Basement Wall R-Value	Slab R-Value and Depth	Crawl Space Wall R-value
0.35	0.55	0.40	49*	20 OR 13+5**	19	10/13 ***	10, 2FT	10/13 ***

\* If raised heel energy trusses are used to remove 'insulation pinch' at eaves, an R-38 may be installed.

\*\* R-20 for 2 x 6 walls, for 2 x 4 wall, R-13 cavity insulation plus continuous R-5 foam insulation on the exterior.

\*\*\* First number for continuous wall insulation, second number is for studed cavities.

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