

Unbundled bills offer better transparency

This month's electric bill has a new format, designed to give you more information.

You probably noticed a new bill format in the electric bill you received this month.

I've been discussing these changes with you for some time, so I thought now would be a great time to recap everything.

For the last few years, alternate retail energy suppliers (ARES) have been targeting customers of the two investor-owned utilities in Illinois to try to sell them energy.

Most of you probably received those solicitations as well - inadvertently.

Currently there is excess electricity available in the marketplace because demand is much lower than the supply. That has temporarily brought wholesale electric prices down a bit and allowed the ARES to offer seemingly low rates.

What they don't always tell you, though, is their rates are **ONLY** for the actual energy portion of the electric bill. There are many other components of the bill.

We realized that it was difficult to understand that when our old bill format lumped everything together. Your new bill format unbundles both our distribution costs and the electric supply portion so you can get a better feel for where - and how - your electric dollars are being spent each month.

Your old bills had a facility charge and a lumped-together energy charge. We have changed the name of the facility charge to base charge, and then broke out the energy portion to better show you the various pieces involved in getting you safe and reliable electricity each month.

Our electric distribution system accounts for about 40 percent of your monthly bill. The distribution portion includes the base charge and delivery.

About 60 percent of our expenses come from our wholesale power provider for our electric supply. Your new bill will further break that out by showing you the actual energy charge, along with transmission and our long-term investment in power supply.

Please remember that there are no new charges on the bill - you have been paying for all of these items all along. They are now broken out and easier to see.

Pages 2 and 3 of the May *PowerLines* newsletter (which is included each month along with your electric bill) contains a detailed explanation of everything on the new bill. Be sure to check it out.

Respectfully,

Dave Champion



**MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT**

Attend Eastern Illini's

Thursday, June 13
3 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
PBL Junior/Senior High School
Paxton, Illinois

ANNUAL MEETING

\$25 Bill Credit | Kid's Activities | Free Meal | Board Election | Engaging Seminars