

**McDonough
Power
Cooperative's**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

The Wire

McDonough Power Cooperative • Macomb, Illinois 61455

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**Thursday, August 26th at
The Crossing in Macomb**

Members attending will
receive a \$10 bill credit.

McDonough Power Cooperative 2010 Annual Meeting

Please join us to find out what's going on at your cooperative.



**Registration begins at 6 p.m.
Business meeting at 7 p.m.**

**We will draw for prizes at the
end of the business meeting.**

You must be present to win.

**Pork chop sandwiches, chips, cookies & soda
– served 6 –7 p.m.**

**Visit our innovative display to find out what
makes your home more energy efficient.**

**Our office will be closed on Monday,
September 6th in observance
of Labor Day.**

**Kettle
Corn**

ILLINOIS COUNTRY LIVING August 2010

16a

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McDonough Power Cooperative

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Office hours:
7 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Weekdays

DIRECTORS

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Steve Lynn, Vice Chairman

Steve Youngquist, Secretary

Stan Prox, Treasurer

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**All Co-op Electric
Outages 837-1400**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections



Why keep power lines in harm's way?

By Megan McKoy-Noe

High winds and icy conditions can cause tree limbs to fall on power lines, triggering outages. Although McDonough Power lineworkers are on call around the clock and respond quickly to problems, some folks ask a simple question: Why keep power lines in harm's way?

There are two ways electricity can be delivered to a home: through overhead or underground power lines. Although underground lines may seem attractive during storms since the lines are not exposed to extreme weather, the technology doesn't always make sense for electric co-ops focused on affordability.

In Georgia, for example, installing power lines underground costs double the amount per foot compared to overhead. In Iowa, building underground lines averages between \$85,000 to \$100,000 per mile while overhead line construction runs about \$60,000 per mile. In mountainous or rocky areas, where linemen sometimes resort to using dynamite to install utility poles, the price tag may be even higher.

Most underground lines nationally are found in subdivisions where developers request and pay for the option for aesthetic reasons or to comply with local statutes. A high concentration of homes in these areas helps spread out the expense. According to Hi-Line Engineering, a Georgia-based utility consulting firm, nine out of 10 new subdivisions are served by underground cable.

But the bulk of the nation's cooperative energy (including that provided to subdivisions) continues to be delivered via overhead lines—16 percent of the 2.5 million miles of distribution lines owned and maintained by electric co-ops across the nation are found underground (although the amount grows by approximately 1 percent annually). Co-ops are not-for-profit, selecting distribution methods with two goals in mind: keeping electricity affordable and reliable for consumers.

There are pros and cons to both forms of power distribution. For instance, underground facilities are more reliable during storms and generally require less right-of-way maintenance because there are no trees, brush, and other vegetation

How is your power delivered?

Electric cooperatives own and maintain 2.5 million miles of distribution lines across America. The majority are overhead lines, while 16 percent are underground.



to clear away.

However, faults in underground power lines are not easy to track down and fix. A North Carolina study found that outage restoration times averaged 92 minutes for overhead lines versus 145 minutes for underground lines. In 2005, Hi-Line Engineering compared the increased cost of underground lines against their benefits in Virginia. The results: underground savings did not outweigh the heavy initial cost of installation.

"If a tree falls on a line, you can normally drive down the line, see the problem, and get to work restoring power," explains Mike Smith, McDonough Power Engineering and Operations Manager. "The same holds for repairing broken insulators and crossarms — if you see it, you can fix it. But underground lines are tough to troubleshoot. You can't find a problem with your eyes — you have to search harder for it, tracking it down based on where the power flow stops. Then a line crew has to dig a hole to reach the spot before repairs can be made." **6328C6-702B**

For most co-op consumers, affordable overhead lines will remain the norm, at least for now. To find out more about how McDonough Power is looking out for you, visit www.mcdonoughpower.com.

Megan McKoy-Noe writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Source: NRECA, Hi-Line Engineering, Flint Energies, Maquoketa Valley Rural Electric Cooperative

Co-op Connections card puts value in your wallet

McDonough Power's commitment to you goes beyond providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity.

We're always looking for ways to provide value to our members and the communities we serve, especially during tough economic times. McDonough Power's Co-op Connections® member wallet cards and key fobs provide you with a real money-saving tool. The program connects you with discounts on everything from hotel stays to prescription drugs.

Looking for a deal on an oil change? What about a discount for your next visit to the spa? A wide variety of merchants throughout our community accept Co-op Connections cards, including All About You, Western Illinois Credit Union, No Place Like Home, and Cerar's Barnstormer just to name a few. Be sure to present the card at the register to receive your discount! **5333C1-1212C**

We hope local businesses participating in our Co-op Connections Program benefit from increased traffic from McDonough Power members. Businesses can sign up for the program at no cost. For a complete list of all participating businesses in our area, simply log on to our website www.mcdonoughpower.com and follow the Co-op Connections link.

The card also gives you access to online savings at more than 90 national retailers like Barnes&Noble.com, Hertz Rental



Cars, Best Western hotels, and ProFlowers.com. You can check out these great national discounts at www.connections.coop.

One of the most valuable features of the Co-op Connections card is the pharmacy discount. While not insurance, the discount can deliver savings of 10 percent to 60 percent on prescription drugs. The logo and information on the back of your card is recognized at more than 60,000 national, regional, and local pharmacies.

The pharmacy discount has been widely used by co-ops that are members of Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives, resulting in combined savings of nearly \$20 million on prescriptions.

Want to find out more? Log on to www.locateproviders.com to search for

pharmacies in our area honoring the card. Use code 22203 as the group number under the "Groups" login section. Next, enter your zip code. **7229C9-718B**

As a Touchstone Energy Cooperatives member, McDonough Power strives to serve you according to four core values: integrity, accountability, innovation, and commitment to community. Our Co-op Connections card program is one of the ways we live up to those values.

We're eager to answer any questions you have about the card and how to take advantage of the discounts it provides. Call us at (309) 833-2101 to find out more, or log on to www.mcdonoughpower.com.

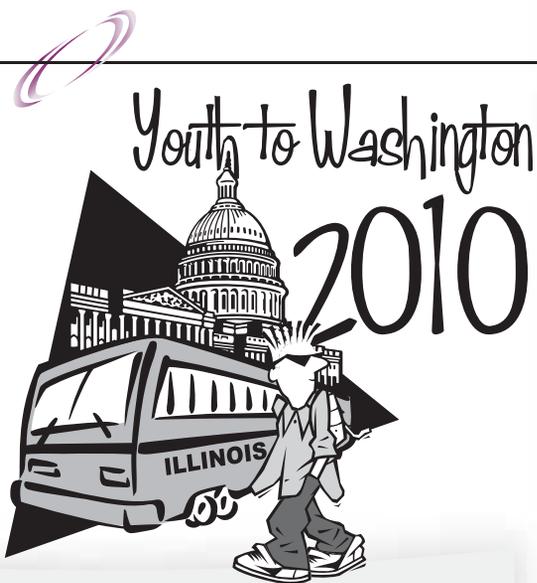


Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Consider using ceiling and other fans during the cooling season. They provide additional cooling and better circulation so you can raise the thermostat and cut down on air conditioning costs. ENERGY STAR-certified ceiling fans do even better, especially those that include compact fluorescent light bulbs.

Source: Alliance to Save Energy



Dear McDonough Power Co-op,
 Thank you so much for sending me on the Youth to Washington Tour. I really can't thank you enough. The friends and the memories I made are unforgettable. The knowledge I gained and the things I learned really opened my eyes to what this country is really about. I will never forget the places I went and things I saw: the Holocaust Museum, Iwo Jima, the Vietnam & Korean War Memorials, cruised the Potomac River, and meeting with our congressmen. Again, thank you for letting me have the experience of a lifetime.

-Laura Deveraux

Hello! This trip to D.C. was absolutely incredible. I met many interesting people ranging from our Congressman to a WWII veteran who was at both Pearl Harbor and Iwo Jima. In addition to that, I have a greater understanding of the governmental process and a greater appreciation for this country. Thank you for the opportunity. The friends I have made will be lifelong acquaintances and I hope to see them again. I will remember this week for the rest of my life and am grateful for your generosity.

Take care,
 Shazia Siddiqi



From left are Laura Deveraux, Rep. Phil Hare and Shazia Siddiqi

Laura Deveraux and Shazia Siddiqi from Macomb represented McDonough Power Cooperative in Washington, D.C., during the annual "Youth to Washington" Tour, June 11-18. This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois, began 51 years ago to introduce rural youths to our democratic form

of government and cooperatives.

The students met with Rep. Phil Hare and were among 66 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip. The Illinois students joined 1,496 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 World War II Memorial, the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, the National Archives, the Newseum and a number of other historical sites.

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MAP LOCATION GAME

Every month we will have four map location numbers hidden throughout The Wire. If you find your map location number, call our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.