

McDonough Power Cooperative 2011 ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25TH
at The Crossing in Macomb

1600 W. Jackson Street, Macomb

Join us to find out what's going on at your cooperative and meet new President & CEO, Mike Smith.

Registration begins at 6 p.m.

Business meeting at 7 p.m.

**Prize drawing at the end of the
business meeting.
You must be present to win.**

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



**Members attending will
receive a \$10 bill credit.**

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

**Kettle
Corn**



**Our office will be closed
Monday, September 5 for
Labor Day.**

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.





McDonough Power Cooperative

1210 West Jackson Street
P.O. Box 352
Macomb, Illinois
61455-0352

309-833-2101

www.mcdonoughpower.com

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

DIRECTORS

Michael Cox, Chairman

Steve Lynn, Vice Chairman

Steve Youngquist, Secretary

Stan Prox, Treasurer

Robert J. Dwyer

Steve Hall

Walter Lewis

Jeffrey Moore

Jerry Riggins

John D. McMillan, Attorney

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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections



McDonough Power Cooperative Becomes Greener Thru Prairie Power, Inc's Purchase of Renewable Wind Energy

McDonough Power Cooperative has become a "greener" cooperative through its membership in Prairie Power, Inc, (PPI). McDonough Power purchases its wholesale electricity from PPI, a generation and transmission cooperative located in Jacksonville, Ill. On Friday, June 24, PPI announced its purchase of 20 megawatts of renewable wind energy from the Pioneer Trails Wind Farm to be developed east of Paxton, Ill. The announcement occurred at a press conference held in Paxton. **5311B3-260A**

PPI and two other generation and transmission cooperatives serving 21 of the State's electric distribution cooperatives and their 540,000 consumer members, has entered into an 18-year power purchase agreement with Pioneer Trail Wind Farm, LLC, an affiliate of E.ON Climate and Renewables North America (EC&RNA). The agreement was coordinated through the National Renewables Cooperative Organization (NRCO), which was formed to promote and facilitate the development of economically viable renewable energy resources for its member cooperatives across the United States.

Duane Noland, President/CEO of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, said the purchase agreement illustrates the ongoing effort of Illinois electric co-ops to provide affordable and reliable energy to electric co-op members, and support innovative energy efficiency and clean renewable energy projects such as the Pioneer Trail Wind Farm. Noland said the agreement also helps the 21 electric distribution co-ops across the state that receive wholesale power from the three G&Ts by keeping rates affordable and diversifying the power supply. "Cooperatives also live by a principle of commitment to community and we know that this project will produce not only affordable energy, but also jobs and new revenue for the area."

"Our Pioneer Trail Wind Farm is expected to provide clean power to approximately 45,000 households in the central Illinois region using North American made turbines, blades and towers," said Steve Trenholm, CEO, EC&RNA. "This project projects to spend more than \$29 million dollars in local taxes, paying \$8 million in local salaries and more than \$50 million to landowners. We expect to employ about 200 people during construction and also expect to establish 8 to 10 permanent positions for the life of the wind farm."

David Champion, Jr., President/CEO of Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, a member cooperative of PPI, headquartered in Paxton, Ill., and whose service area the turbines will be constructed said "this purchase agreement demonstrates that the Illinois electric co-ops are not only working to keep bills affordable through innovative energy efficiency programs, but also looking for affordable power supply options." Champion said, "Prairie Power Inc., has been searching for commercially available, viable, renewable projects as a potential energy resource for its member cooperatives for some time. They had found that most of the alternatives were priced higher than our current and projected cost of power. By remaining diligent in their search, however, they found a project that is both good for the environment and cost effective for our members. Our participation in this project is made possible by the competitive pricing in this new contract."

Jay Bartlett, President/CEO of Prairie Power, said the state's cooperatives have taken a conservative but long term approach to renewable energy. He said, "Our member cooperatives are purchasing both the energy and renewable energy credits (RECs) produced by this project over a long period of time. This provides

Continued on 16c ▶



Reminder – Right-of-Way Maintenance began July 5 and will continue through the Summer

Last month we began our annual right-of-way management program to control vegetation under and around our electrical equipment. The program includes cutting, trimming and spraying of vegetation that will interfere with electric service. The program is ongoing and necessary to deliver safe, low cost and reliable electricity to your homes and businesses. Since the inception of our program the cooperative has seen a considerable decrease in outages caused by trees and brush.

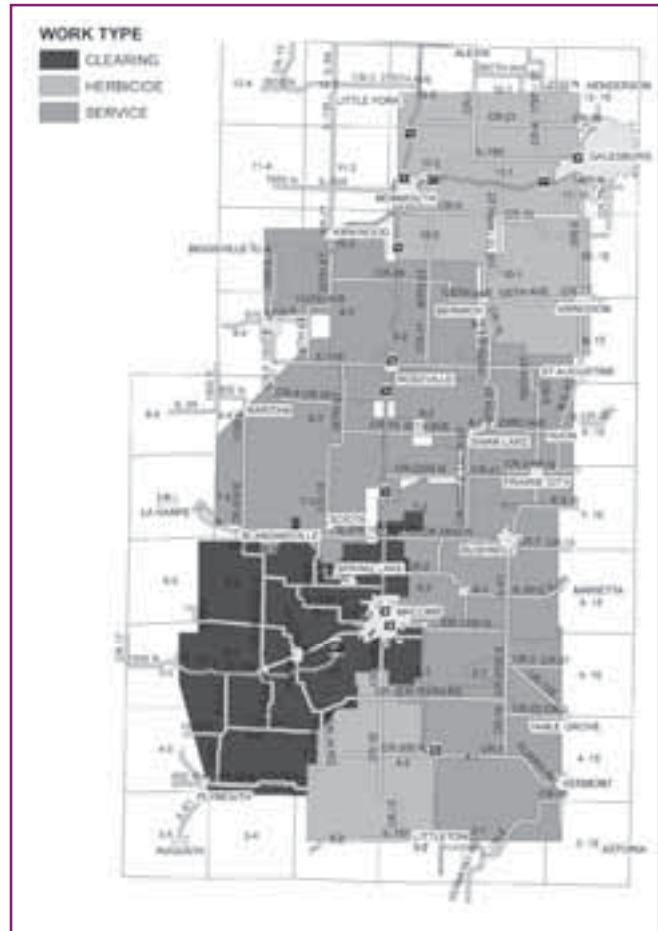
For the past few years McDonough Power Cooperative has contracted with our neighbor, Spoon River Electric Cooperative (SREC) to clear overgrown areas and spray sections previously cleared of vegetation to prevent re-growth. SREC personnel are licensed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture and are experienced in all aspects of tree pruning and herbicide application. Please refer to www.mcdonough-power.com for Material Safety Data Sheets concerning the herbicides that are to be used. **4410C7-1200B**

Where tree removal is necessary to protect your lines the whole tree will be taken down and cut up for your disposal. In clearing right-of-way, machines will be used to shred brush and larger logs will be left along the tree line. During tree pruning in accessible

locations, tree branches will be chipped and larger wood will be cut into logs and left for your disposal. All tree pruning will be done in accordance with American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A300 (part 11-2001) pruning standards. Right-of-way clearance is 15' on each side of the power line.

The 2011 right-of-way work plan is as follows:

- July 5 – spray began in the Industry and Fandon areas
 - Mid to late July – spot spraying in the Monmouth, Cameron and Ponemah areas
 - August 1 –clearing begins in the areas of Fandon, Colchester, South Macomb and North Macomb as well as spot clearing in the Industry area
- If you have questions or concerns regarding specific trees or chemical



use on your property please contact McDonough Power at (309) 833-2101 or visit our website at www.mcdonoughpower.com.

Continued from 16b

renewable energy system developers like E.ON, with a steady source of revenue to finance the construction of additional renewable energy projects in Illinois. We believe this is very good for our co-op members, the environment, and wind energy development in Illinois. We are looking for cost effective projects, like the Pioneer Trail Wind Farm, that ensure positive long term environmental and economic benefits, and assist us in maintaining affordable and stable rates for our member cooperatives and their consumer members.”

According to Mike Smith, President/CEO of McDonough Power Cooperative, “the wind farm will indeed be good for McDonough Power’s members. The project will eliminate more than 316,000 tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions per year and should have no impact on the Cooperative’s cost of power to its consumer members.” **5321C2-252A**

Scott Ramsey, president/CEO of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative, one of the other G&T’s investing in the Pioneer Trail Wind Farm also

noted, “SIPC was one of the founding members of the National Renewables Cooperative Organization and has been looking for several years for the right partner and the right renewable energy contract. E.ON is a solid and reputable company that has global wind energy development and operational experience. They were in a position to offer us a competitively priced renewable energy contract. After doing the necessary due diligence we determined that now is the time and this is the contract that we have been looking for.”



Nominating Committee Report

Pursuant to the Bylaws, the members of the nominating committee met at the Red Ox Restaurant in Macomb, Illinois, on June 22, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. to nominate candidates for election as directors at the McDonough Power Cooperative's next annual meeting of members to be held at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, August 25, 2011. **748C5-606C**

The following members were present:

- Larry Ruebush
- James Grant
- John Emerick
- Dan McMillan
- Joann Moore
- Janice King
- Thomas M. Curtis
- Dane Metcalf
- Jon Caldwell

The committee selected the following nominees to be candidates for director to serve for a three-year term and to be elected at the annual meeting.

DISTRICT #4: Stan Prox

DISTRICT #6: Jeffrey N. Moore

DISTRICT #9: Steven Youngquist

Any 15 or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition.

Dane Metcalf
CHAIRMAN

Watch for big screen savings

By Brian Sloboda

The days of large console televisions, with their wood grain exteriors and antenna wires or rabbit ears, are long gone — no more using needle nose pliers to change channels after the knob breaks or fiddling endlessly to adjust the horizontal and vertical holds. Today's televisions offer larger, thinner screens and, thanks to digital cable or satellite connections, provide a virtually unlimited number of channels.

However, some models require a tremendous amount of energy to operate — almost as much as a refrigerator. And the average American household owns 2.93 TVs, according to a 2010 Nielsen report.

All of this energy use adds up. The Natural Resources Defense Council found that U.S. televisions use more than 46 billion kWh per year, or about 4 percent of residential electricity use.

In response to consumer concerns, TV manufacturers are designing sets that use less energy without sacrificing screen size or resolution.

Are you in the market for a new TV, or do you want to make sure you're using your current TV efficiently? These tips will help you tune in to big screen energy savings.

High-definition = high energy use

Although a high-definition TV (HDTV) transforms the latest blockbuster movie into a theater-like living room experience, these sets generally use more power because of better picture clarity. Also, energy consumption often relates to screen size — the larger the screen, the more electricity required.

Four types of TVs are currently available: plasma, liquid-crystal display (LCD), rear projection, and cathode ray tube (CRT). CRT televisions are the most difficult to find because they employ old technology and screen sizes rarely top 40 inches.

Plasma screens often are cited as the largest energy user — mainly because their large 42-inch to 65-inch screens typically draw between 240 watts to 400 watts. Most consume electricity even when turned off.

LCD TVs don't need much power to operate — 111 watts on average. Most LCD

screens range in size from 21 inches to 49 inches. These TVs fall into two categories: those with cold-cathode fluorescent lamps to illuminate the screen; and backlit models employing a light-emitting diode (LED). LED units offer several benefits, notably better picture quality and thinner and lighter screens. They also use slightly less energy, at 101 watts.

Rear projection televisions tend to be the most energy efficient and boast the largest screen sizes. However, due to their overall weight, rear projection sets are not as readily available as plasma and LCD models.

Shopping for an energy-efficient television can be difficult. Television manufacturers rarely advertise energy consumption, and it almost never appears on in-store labels, though new ENERGY STAR® requirements may change that in 2012.

Faced with these difficulties, consumers need to conduct their own energy use research through unbiased online sources such as CNET.com, an online journal for the technology industry. Look for specific model numbers, which you can take to the store.

Tune in to savings

If you're not in the market for a new TV but want to make sure your model is operating efficiently, these tips from CNET.com may help you save energy:

- Turn the TV and other connected devices off when they're not being used
- Turn down the LCD's backlight — you'll save energy and still retain better picture quality
- Turn on the power saver mode, which many new TVs offers
- Control room lighting. While many energy-saving tips reduce brightness of the screen, you can compensate by dimming lights around your TV.

Sources: CNET.com, Natural Resources Defense Council, Nielsen

Brian Sloboda is a program manager specializing in energy efficiency for the Cooperative Research Network, a service of the Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Magen Howard contributed to this article.