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The Wire

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Rep Hammond Receives Public Service Award

At the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives' annual meeting in Springfield on July 28, State Representative Norine Hammond (R- Macomb, 93rd House District) received the 2016 Illinois Electric Cooperatives Public Service Award. The award was made in recognition of Rep. Hammond's dedicated public service to all citizens of the state of Illinois and for outstanding contributions to the rural electrification program.

AIEC President/CEO Duane Noland said, "Representative Hammond has been a great supporter of electric cooperatives and our members while in the legislature, and was helpful prior to that spending 14 years as the legislative aide to the late Representative Rich Myers who won our 2003 Public Service Award."

Prior to becoming state representative, she served on the Macomb Planning Commission and held positions of Township Trustee and Township Supervisor. **533B8D-266B**

Hammond has served in the Illinois House since 2010. She currently serves on the Consumer Protection; Higher Education; Higher Education Appropriations; Community College Access & Affordability; Human Services; Insurance; and Transportation committees.

The 93rd District includes the service territory of Adams Electric Cooperative, Illinois Electric Cooperative, Menard Electric Cooperative, McDonough Power Cooperative, Spoon River Electric Cooperative, and Western Illinois Electrical Coop.

Among those presenting the 2016 Illinois Electric Cooperatives' Public Service Award to Rep. Norine Hammond were leaders from McDonough Power Cooperative (l-r) Jeff Moore, Jerry Riggins, Steve Lynn, Hammond, Steve Hall, Michael Cox and Mike Smith.

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The differences between overhead and underground power lines

By Tom Tate

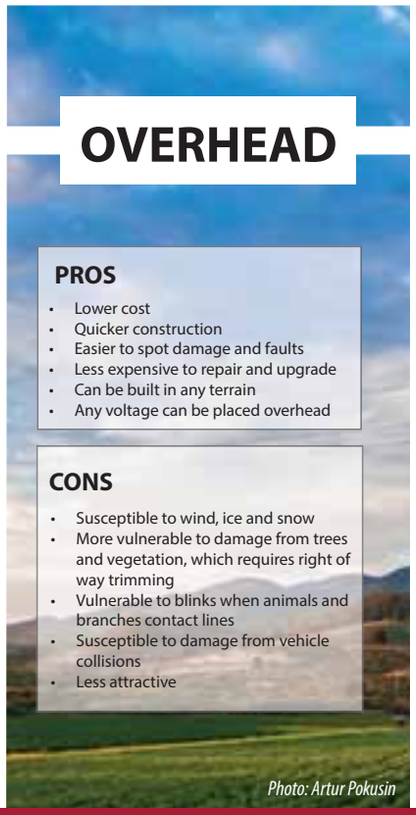
There are two methods of installing the power lines that carry electricity to your home, overhead and underground. McDonough Power members sometimes ask why we use one versus the other, or more to the point, why all power lines are not installed using the underground construction method. Isn't one method better than the other? These are great questions, and the answer is that each method has its place.

Overhead line construction starts with the setting of utility poles. Poles can be set in nearly any type of terrain, even rocky. In the case of heavy rock, special equipment is used to augur out the hole. If placement occurs in boggy or wet terrain, many techniques are available to set poles securely. Once the poles are in place, wires can be strung and then equipment — like transformers, fuses and reclosers — are installed. Power can now flow.

Underground line construction requires digging a trench that is deep enough to keep the lines well away from surface activities. Where the terrain is extremely rocky, underground lines may not be an option. Next, wires are laid in the trench directly or placed in conduits for protection. The trench is filled in, and the surface is restored to its original condition. Padmount transformers and additional equipment are installed as needed, now the system is ready to deliver electricity. ↄ4131A9-11196

Let's take a look at some the advantages and disadvantages of each construction method, beginning with overhead.

Tom Tate writes on cooperative issues 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.



Electrical safety lessons for kids

By Meghaan Evans

We all know electricity plays a major role in our everyday lives, and it is a powerful resource that should be respected. Unfortunately, our children often do not understand the dangers of electricity. At McDonough Power, we encourage you to share electrical safety tips and lessons with your little ones as often as possible. We also understand their attention spans run short, so here are a few creative ways to get them involved.

Depending on the age of your child, consider designating an "electronics deputy." The deputy should be responsible for pointing out electronics in your home that are not in use and keeping appliances safe from liquids. Reward your deputy for pointing out overloaded outlets or other potentially dangerous situations.

Emphasize the importance of fire prevention with your children, and create a family fire drill plan as an extra precaution. Incentivize your children by rewarding those who followed the plan and made it safely out of the home.

While it is fun and engaging to turn safety into a game, it is important to ensure your children understand the risks they are facing if they do not practice electrical safety. **6329A8-228B**

One of the most important safety tips you can give your kids is to avoid any downed power lines. In fact, it is best to avoid power lines, transformers and substations in general. A downed power line can still be energized, and it can also energize other objects, including fences and trees. Make sure your kids understand the potential dangers of coming in contact with a downed power line or low hanging wire. And, if they encounter a downed power line, ask them to tell you or another adult to call McDonough Power or 911.

Here are a few other safety tips you can share with your kids:

- Never put metal objects in outlets or appliances.
- Do not overcrowd electrical outlets.
- Never mix water and electricity.

No matter how you choose to get your kids interested in staying safe around electricity, McDonough Power Cooperative is here to help.

Meghaan Evans 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.

Coloring page

Electrical safety warning for Pokémon Go players

McDonough Power Cooperative and other utilities are reminding players of Pokémon Go to stay away from electric substations, power plants and other electric equipment. The new smartphone-based augmented reality game sends players to real world places to "catch" Pokémon.

Pokémon turn up everywhere — from grocery stores to hospitals. But they're also appearing at electric substations, drawing players into dangerous situations.

"Electric utilities cannot control where the Pokémon appear, and players should make sure they catch their Pokémon from a safe distance," said Energy Services Manager Kelly Hamm. "Any game or activity that distracts people from the possible dangers around them and potentially brings them in proximity to our electric equipment and lines is a major concern for all us."

Remember these important electrical safety tips from McDonough Power as you try to #CatchEmAll:

- Never touch electric equipment, including transformers and power lines. 1012D8-416A
- Never touch a downed power line. Assume all lines are energized and dangerous.
- Never climb utility poles.
- Never enter an electric substation.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Consider insulating your water heater tank, which could reduce standby heat losses by 25 to 45 percent and save you about 4 to 9 percent in water heating costs. You can find pre-cut jackets or blankets available from around $20.

Source: energy.gov

Every month we will have four map location numbers hidden throughout The Wire. If you find the map location number that corresponds to the one on your bill (found above the usage graph), 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.