



Electric rates expected to remain stable for 2014

Area members meetings held at Waterloo, Hecker and Millstadt



Alan W. Wattles

Across The President's Desk

Our fall area member meetings were well attended and were held in Waterloo, Hecker and Millstadt, the second last week of November.

After giving a warm welcome to all of the members that attended each meeting, I reviewed what has happened in 2013. The following are my talking points from the three area meetings.

- Year-to-date, our margins are very good this year, after ending 2012 with negative margins as the result of lower kilowatt sales.
- MCEC rates will stay the same – the WPCA (Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment) on the member's bill will go up or down, depending on our monthly power cost.
- We plan on deferring some revenue from 2013 to 2014 to help offset the rate increase SIPC (Southern Illinois Power Cooperative) has planned.
- A 7.75 million dollar new construction loan was approved by RUS (Rural Utility Services)

which will cover the next 4 to 6 years.

- A new CEO was recently hired at SIPC – Don Gulley will start December 16, 2013.
- Prairie State Energy Campus is still progressing. The plan is for Unit 1 to be well above 85% reliability next year. Unit 2 will have extended outage next spring like Unit 1 had this fall to increase it's reliability as well.
- Rates from SIPC expected to remain stable for the next 2-3 years after 2014 increase. We're hoping Norris Electric Cooperative joins SIPC group as a member and PSGC will operate at a better reliability factor going forward.
- Coal plants are closing with new clean air regulations being implemented. This will increase market prices in the next 3-5 years. Natural gas prices are still relatively cheap, but if the demand increases on natural gas, market prices will increase as well.
- Long term power supply looks good for

SIPC members which include MCEC.

- SIPC is still diversified in their energy portfolio which includes coal/natural gas/hydro/wind and off the market as needed.
- We are always looking for areas to cut costs but also striving to provide a high quality of service and reliability for the membership.

There were also reports for 2013 given by staff members, Superintendent of Operations, Chris Scott; Director of Engineering and IT, Keith Jones; and Director of Member Services, Allan Masterson.

For more information on the staff member's reports, go to our website at www.mcec.org.



C & E Committee Named

Meeting set for Feb. 3rd

A Credentials and Election committee (C & E) has been appointed and will meet at **7:00 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 3, 2014** at the Monroe County Electric Cooperative meeting room in Waterloo. The committee will be validating all petitions turned in to run for the district seat. These persons, that have valid petitions, will be placed on the ballot for the cooperative's annual meeting, to be elected to serve a three (3) year term as directors of Monroe County Electric Co-Operative.

The cooperative's 76th Annual Meeting of Members will be held **Monday, March 24, 2014, at the Hecker Community Center, Hecker, Illinois.**

Directors whose current terms expire and who are eligible for re-election are:

District 4

- **George W. Obernagel**
4 Country Lakes Lane
Waterloo, IL 62298

District 6

- **Ross R. Mueller**
4700 Fischer Road
Fults, IL 62244

District 5

- **Richard Neff**
4015 High Prairie
School Road
Belleville, IL 62220

2014 Credentials and Election Committee

District 4

- **Karl Breidecker**
8970 Trolley Rd.
Columbia, IL 62236
- **Walter Rau**
8800 Gilmore Lake Rd.
Columbia, IL 62236
- **Frederick Meister**
12 Richard St.
Waterloo, IL 62298
- **Ronald Taake (Alt)**
600 Kopp Rd.
Waterloo, IL 62298

District 5

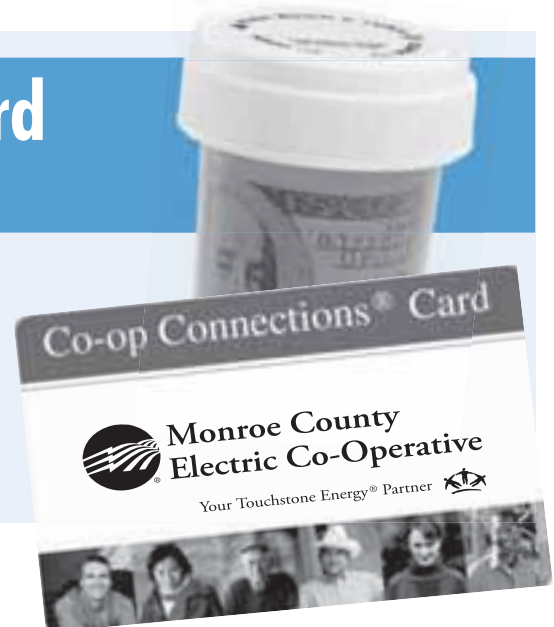
- **Leland Wiegand**
5304 Turner Hall Rd.
Belleville, IL 62220
- **Gary Skaer**
5945 Robinson School Rd.
Smithton, IL 62285
- **Gary Heuring**
5141 Sand Rock Rd.
Smithton, IL 62285
- **Steve Kreher (Alt)**
6201 Press Rd.
Smithton, IL 62285

District 6

- **George Green**
4484 Fischer Rd.
Fults, IL 62244
- **Marvin Hoffmann**
4862 Bushy Prairie Rd.
Waterloo, IL 62298
- **Donald Schrader**
5469 Kaskaskia Rd.
Waterloo, IL 62298
- **Ronald Schewe (Alt)**
1068 Gall Rd.
Waterloo, IL 62298
(Schuville Farms)

Co-op Connections Card Saving Members \$\$\$

Monroe County Electric Cooperative members saved more than 50% on prescriptions in 2013, as of October, by using the Co-op Connections card. There were a total of 128 prescriptions filled for a total savings of \$5,298.



Youth to Washington Contest

Attention high school juniors! Monroe County Electric Cooperative (MCEC) is inviting two high school juniors from each of the following schools to Youth Day in Springfield on April 2nd : Waterloo, Gibault, Valmeyer, Columbia, Dupo, Freeburg, New Athens, Red Bud and Belleville West. This event is sponsored by MCEC and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Of the participants representing MCEC in Springfield, three will be selected to go on an all-expense paid tour of Washington, D.C. in June.



Pictured from left: Ethan May, Emma Eustis, Emily Killebrew and Congressman Wm. Enyart.

Youth Day (Springfield – Wednesday, April 2, 2014): The day’s activities will include touring the State Capitol complex, Illinois Supreme Court, Old State Capitol and the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. Students will also have the opportunity to visit with legislators.

Youth to Washington Tour (June 13 – 20, 2014): The three local winners from Youth Day will join some 60 other Illinois students sponsored by Illinois cooperatives, and spend a week in Washington, D.C. visiting

attractions such as the White House (possibly), U.S. Capitol, Smithsonian Institution, Arlington National Cemetery, Lincoln Memorial and many other national monuments and places of interest.

Last year, our winners were Emma Eustis of Waterloo, Ethan May of Valmeyer and Emily Killebrew of Smithton.

If you are a high school junior

and this opportunity interests you, please discuss this with your guidance counselor today. Students do not have to be sons or daughters of MCEC members to attend Youth Day. An informative brochure will be available soon regarding MCEC’s Youth to Washington program and can be downloaded from our Web site at www.mcec.org.

MCEC line outages - November 2013

Date	Duration	# Out	Location	Cause Desc	Sub
11/06/13	1:16	10	Lemen Rd	Vehicles Or Machinery	Waterloo
11/07/13	0:15	19	Arbor Ridge Subdivision	Other, Deterioration	Millstadt
11/13/13	1:39	8	Trolley Rd	Other, Deterioration	N Waterloo
11/14/13	0:35	46	Bushy Prairie Rd	Vehicles Or Machinery	Waterloo
11/16/13	1:19	2	Klein School Rd	Lightning	New Athens
11/17/13	1:16	127	Lou Dell Subdivision	Small Animals Or Birds	N Waterloo
11/17/13	1:49	17	Nollmann Rd	Trees, Other	Millstadt
11/17/13	1:32	7	Five Forks Rd	Trees, Other	New Athens
11/19/13	2:32	17	Apple St	Vehicles Or Machinery	Smithton
11/21/13	0:58	12	State Rt 163	Small Animals Or Birds	East Carondelet

Think Safety When Operating a Generator

A generator can be a valuable piece of equipment to keep appliances working during a power outage. Generators can be either temporary or permanently installed.

A permanent generator is wired into a house by a qualified electrician using a transfer switch that prevents a generator from feeding electricity back into overhead lines, which can be deadly for linemen.

A temporary generator is powered by gasoline and should not be attached to a circuit breaker, fuse, or outlet. Before ever purchasing a generator you need to know the wattage required to run the appliances you will attach to the generator. You also need to know the surge power, which is the power it takes to turn an appliance on.

Once you have purchased the proper generator, follow these tips from Safe Electricity to properly operate your generator:

- Read and follow all manufacturer operating instructions to properly ground the generator. Be sure you understand them before hooking up the generator.
- Never operate a generator in a confined area, such as a garage. Generators can produce numerous gases, including toxic and deadly carbon

monoxide. They require proper ventilation.

- Generators pose electrical risks especially when operated in wet conditions. Use a generator only when necessary when the weather creates wet or moist conditions. Protect the generator by operating it under an open, canopy-like structure on a dry surface where water cannot form puddles or drain under it. Always ensure that your hands are dry before touching the generator.
 - When you refuel the generator, make sure the engine is cool to prevent a fire, should the tank overflow.
 - There should be nothing plugged into the generator when you turn it on. This prevents a surge from damaging your generator and appliances.
 - Be sure to keep children and pets away from the generator, which could burn them.
- Shut down the generator properly. Before shutting down a generator, turn off and unplug all appliances and equipment being powered by the generator.
 - Remember maintenance between uses. It is also a good idea to inspect the fuel and oil filters, spark plug, oil level and fuel quality and to start the generator on a regular basis before an emergency situation occurs.



For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



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