



Capital credit allocation



Alan W. Wattles

Across The President's Desk

Every year the cooperative has margins at the end of the year, either positive or negative. When we have positive margins we allocate to each member their portion of the margins based on kWh usage from that year. You, the member, are notified each year when the allocation is made and a record is kept so that when those allocations are retired or paid out, that is what you receive.

What happens when there are negative margins for a year or when the coop does not make a profit? Well, those negative margins are accounted for on the balance sheet and not allocated individually to the member. That's good for the member. The co-op is required to keep those negative margins on the books and the next time the co-op has positive margins, those positive margins are used to reduce the negative margins until the balance is brought back to a zero dollar balance.

Depending on the amount of negative margins to reduce and



the amount of positive margins produced in subsequent years, the allocations could range none to getting almost the full allocation of positive margins.

In normal years for notifying the member of their allocations, you receive a postcard that lets you know the dollar amount that you will receive at a future time. The co-op does not send this postcard in years that we have a negative margin as we stated earlier because

we do not allocate negative margins individually.

I hope this helps clear up any questions that you may have concerning margin allocation for the capital credits from MCEC.

We can, at any time, go over your balance of margin allocations here at the office if you need to. Just contact Alisa Wood or Tracy Patton here at MCEC and they can help you.

Make your home more efficient with the HomE program rebates

What's the HomE program about?

HomE (pronounced home E) is our program to help our members become energy efficient. Through our statewide organization, the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC), the Illinois Electric Cooperatives will be distributing \$1.5 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds for energy efficiency improvements to their homes.

Who's eligible?

According to DCEO, Cooperative members who qualify for the LIHEAP Home Weatherization Assistance Program through the state of Illinois will NOT qualify for this program as these members are eligible to receive up to \$6,500 in funding for weatherization and energy efficiency improvements. All OTHER residential members of MCEC are eligible to participate in the HomE program. The home must be served by the cooperative and be the member's primary residence.

How does the program work?

Start by contacting the cooperative at 618-939-7171 to arrange an energy assessment by one of our energy experts. We'll take your name and contact number in the order we are contacted. As we near your turn, we'll contact you to schedule an assessment. Assessments will be scheduled M-F, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. An adult member of the home must be present. There is a \$25 fee for the assessment that will be billed to the member. We will provide you with a report of recommendations on how you might best improve your home's energy efficiency, performance and comfort.



What do I need to do?

Based on the recommendations we make, you could be eligible for a rebate up to \$1,500 per residence, per member. Once you have your recommendations, you decide what is best for you. You will then submit a proposal form and estimate to us. We will return a signed copy to you, indicating that funds have been set aside for you. You will then have 60 days to complete your project. Once you have made your purchase or completed your project, you will send us a completion form with copies of the paid receipts. We will then issue a check to you.

How much are the rebates?

The maximum total rebate is \$1,500 per Cooperative member/residence. Rebates will be approved



for only one piece of heating or cooling equipment.

Please contact Monroe County Electric Cooperative at 618-939-7171 for more information regarding the program or to sign up for an energy assessment. The program will run until the funding is exhausted.

Geothermal Heat Pumps	\$1,500
Air-source Heat Pumps	\$1,000
Central Air Conditioning	\$350
Natural gas or LP Furnace	\$350
Heat Pump Water Heater	\$250
Insulation/Air Sealing	30% of project costs, maximum \$500

Co-op to install fault indicators to help reduce outage time

To help find overhead outage locations faster and reduce outage times, the cooperative has begun a new program to install new fault indicators at various locations on our electric lines.

These fault indicators are devices that sense a high amount of current, over 100 Amps, and trips on setting off a red blinking light if there is a sudden absence of voltage (or a line outage). This red blinking light will stay on until either the outage is restored or more than 4 hours have passed.

This fault indicator should trip

on close to where the overhead line problem is. This should help the linemen looking for the problem find it more quickly and help restore power faster.

If you see a red light blinking on an overhead electric line in your area and your lights are out, please call the cooperative and let the member service representative know this.

The co-op will begin by installing 27 of these fault indicating devices at various locations deemed the most strategic in helping us find line problems related to outages.



If the program works well in helping us with our overhead outages, we will look at installing the fault indicators on underground lines as well.

MCEC Large Outages for May 2010

Date	Duration	# Out	Location	Cause Desc	Substation
5/1/2010	3:18	46	Imbs Station Rd	LIGHTNING	East Carondelet
5/1/2010	5:36	5	Merrimac Rd	WIND, NOT TREES	Fountain
5/1/2010	2:21	35	Scharf Ln	NO CAUSE CODE	East Carondelet
5/7/2010	1:50	25	Nelson Ln	TREES, OTHER	East Carondelet
5/12/2010	4:54	137	Beck Rd	LIGHTNING	New Athens
5/12/2010	1:24	12	Powell Dr	LIGHTNING	Poe
5/12/2010	2:08	13	Bailey Ln	LIGHTNING	East Carondelet
5/12/2010	2:20	58	Imbs Station Rd	SMALL ANIMALS OR BIRDS	East Carondelet
5/12/2010	3:10	13	Glauber Rd	EQUIPMENT	East Carondelet
5/12/2010	0:17	137	LL Rd	MAINTENANCE	New Athens
5/12/2010	0:14	137	Old Beck Rd	MAINTENANCE	New Athens
5/12/2010	0:05	13	Bailey Ln	MAINTENANCE	East Carondelet
5/15/2010	2:15	155	Victor St	LIGHTNING	North Waterloo
5/17/2010	2:46	206	Old State Route 3	LIGHTNING	Waterloo
5/28/2010	0:47	35	Kidd Lake Rd	VEHICLES OR MACHINERY	Fults
5/28/2010	0:45	57	Kern Rd	VEHICLES OR MACHINERY	Poe
5/28/2010	0:40	107	G Rd	VEHICLES OR MACHINERY	Fults
5/29/2010	1:10	12	Christopher Lake Dr	SMALL ANIMALS OR BIRDS	Millstadt
5/30/2010	2:02	203	Country Estates Dr	UNKNOWN	Millstadt

Julie, Inc. Launches 811 “Call Before You Dig” Number to Help Save Lives and Protect Underground Infrastructure

JULIE, Inc., also known as the Illinois One-Call System, recently announced the launch of a new national 811 “Call Before You Dig” number to help prevent homeowners and professional excavators from damaging underground utility lines while digging and causing injury or service outages.

“Knowing where utility lines are buried before each digging project helps protect those who dig from injury, expense and penalties,” said Mark Frost, Executive Director of JULIE, Inc. “One easy phone call to 811 will get the approximate location of underground utility lines marked for free.”

In addition to JULIE’s existing telephone number 1-800-892-0123, 811 is a new FCC designated national N-11 number that will assist excavators with reaching the one-call center. This quick and efficient one-call service will notify the appropriate member utilities, who



Know what’s below. Call before you dig.

then send locators or locate technicians to the requested site to mark underground lines for free.

“Safe digging is no accident. Regardless of the project size or depth, always call 811 before you dig,” Frost continued. “Call center representatives at JULIE are available to receive and process calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week.”

Safety Tips

Today, more member utility companies that supply power, gas, water

and telecommunications are delivering these services underground. The following are a few safety tips when planning outdoor projects:

- Call JULIE (simply call 811 or 1-800-892-0123) before you dig;
- Wait the required amount of time (two working days);
- Respect the marks; and
- Dig with care.

Types of Outdoor Projects

For homeowners or contractors considering any improvements or repairs, following a few precautions can help avoid a painful and costly accident. Common examples of homeowner projects that require a call to JULIE before digging include putting up a fence; installing a swing set, a mail box post or water feature such as a pool, pond or fountain; building a deck or room addition; preparing a new garden area; or planting trees, bushes or shrubs.



JULIE, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation that serves as a notification service for underground facility owners, taking information about planned excavations and distributing this information to its membership. It is then the responsibility of each facility owner to mark the location of their underground facilities at the excavation site.

JULIE neither owns nor marks any underground facilities. Established in 1974, JULIE represents more than 1,700 utility members. For a copy of JULIE’s Homeowner’s Guide with additional safety tips, including the meaning of the different color flags and marks used by each utility locator type, visit www.illinois1call.com.