



Illinois Electric Cooperatives To Purchase 40 Megawatts of Wind Power



Alan W. Wattles

Across The President's Desk

Three generation and transmission (G&T) cooperatives, serving 21 Illinois electric cooperatives and their 540,000 members, announced that they will be purchasing 40 megawatts of wind energy from the Pioneer Trail Wind Farm.

The wind farm is being developed east of Paxton, Ill. The three member-owned G&Ts, Prairie Power, Inc., Southern Illinois Power Cooperative and Wabash Valley Power Association are entering into an 18-year power purchase agreement with Pioneer Trail Wind Farm, LLC, an affiliate of E.ON Climate & Renewables North America (EC&RNA). The agreement was coordinated through the National Renewables Cooperative Organization, 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. "Locally, 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 headquartered in Paxton,

said that 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, "Our power supplier, Prairie Power Inc, has been searching for commercially available, viable, renewable projects as a potential resource 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 the search, 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, "The cooperatives are purchasing both the energy and renewable energy credits (RECs) produced by this project over a long period of time. This provides 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."

Scott Ramsey, president/CEO of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative, said the G&T 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."

About the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives

Based in Springfield, the AIEC provides legal, engineering, communications, safety training, legislative and other services to 25 electric distribution cooperatives and four generation and transmission cooperatives. AIEC member cooperatives serve more than 279,334 farms, homes and businesses in 90 counties, with 55,592 miles of line. Contact: Duane Noland, 217-529-5561, dnoland@aiec.coop. www.aiec.coop

About Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative

Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative is a member-owned rural electric cooperative based in Paxton, Ill. that supplies electricity to approximately 13,731 meters over 4,522 miles of line in parts of Champaign, Douglas, Edgar, Ford, Iroquois, Livingston, McLain, Moultrie, Piatt and Vermilion Counties. Eastern Illini Electric is a member of Touchstone Energy®— an alliance of more than 720 local, consumer-owned electric utilities around the country. Contact: Mike Wilson, 217-379-2131, mikew@eiec.coop. www.eiec.coop

About Prairie Power, Inc.

Prairie Power, Inc. (PPI) is a member-owned, not-for-profit electric generation and transmission cooperative, which produces and supplies wholesale electricity to 10 electric distribution cooperatives in central Illinois. PPI's distribution cooperatives provide retail electric service to approximately 78,000 homes, farms, businesses and industries within their local service territories.

Contact Jay Bartlett, 217-245-6161, jbartlett@ppi.coop. www.ppi.coop

About Southern Illinois Power Cooperative

Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) is a member-owned, not-for-profit electric generation and transmission cooperative serving seven distribution cooperatives and two municipals in southern Illinois. SIPC's distribution cooperatives provide retail electric service to approximately 82,000 homes, farms, businesses and industries in 29 counties.

Contact: Scott Ramsey, 618-964-1448, sramsey@sipower.org, www.sipower.org

About Wabash Valley Power Association

Wabash Valley Power Association (WVPA) is a generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative based in Indianapolis. The G&T provides wholesale electricity to 28 distribution systems in Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri and Ohio. Collectively, these distribution cooperatives supply electricity to more than 380,000 homes, farms, businesses and industries.

Contact: Sabrina Kapp, 317-481-2800, sabrinak@wvpa.com, www.wvpa.com

About the National Renewables Cooperative Organization

Cooperatives across the country formed the National Renewables Cooperative Organization (NRCO) to promote and facilitate the development of renewable energy resources for its members. NRCO's main purposes are to facilitate the cost-effective, joint development of renewable resources nationwide for its cooperative owners.

Contact: Katie Shults, 317-344-7906, katie.shults@nrco.coop, www.nrco.coop

About EC&R

E.ON Climate & Renewables (EC&R) is responsible for the E.ON group's renewable energy and environmental protection activities around the world. Tapping renewable energy sources offers enormous alternatives, both from a business perspective and for the environment. E.ON Climate & Renewables will

be investing \$4 billion in renewable energy and environmental protection projects from 2010 - 2013 to expand the share of renewable energy in E.ON's portfolio for the long term. E.ON has thus taken a leading role in developing renewable energy sources worldwide.

E.ON Climate & Renewables North America is one of EC&R's

six regional business units and is headquartered in Chicago, Ill. E.ON AG is one of the world's largest energy companies and the largest investor owned utility in the world. For more information, please visit www.eon.com/renewables.

Contact: Matt Tulis, 512-482-4026, www.eoncrna.com.

Don't Let Summer Heat Place Strain on your Electrical System

Increased electrical use in summer can place strain on a home's electrical systems. During the hot summer months, consumers run the risk of overloading wiring systems due to the extended use of air conditioning and other cooling mechanisms, possibly resulting in serious shock or fire. If the home has an old or damaged electrical system, it has an even higher chance of danger.

As part of the new "Teach Learn Care" TLC campaign, Safe Electricity urges everyone to be aware of the added stress placed on a home's electrical systems during summer months and steps you can take to keep your loved ones safe.

"Underwriters Laboratories estimates more than one-third of houses in the United States are more than 50 years old," says Mike Ashenfelter, Sangamon County Electrical Inspector. "Considering the increase in appliance usage and related electrical demands over the past half century, many older homes are not adequately wired to handle and support the increased demands."

Outdated wiring can become overheated due to the increased loads required to run the appliances typically found in today's homes. If the wiring is deteriorating or crumbling it can be damaging its own



insulation putting the system at risk for fire.

According to the NFPA, faulty electrical distribution and wiring contributes to tens of thousands of fires, hundreds of deaths, and more than a thousand injuries, not to mention more than half a billion dollars in damages. In order to help protect you and your family watch for these warning signs:

- Lights often flicker, blink or dim momentarily
- Circuit breakers trip or fuses blow often
- Cords or wall plates are warm to the touch or discolored
- Crackling, sizzling or buzzing is heard from outlets

If you have any of these present, you should have your home inspected by a professional.

What's Mine? What's the Co-op's?

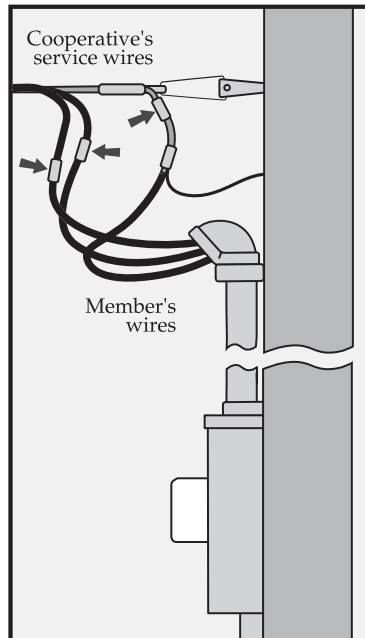
At Monroe County Electric Cooperative, we take fast, reliable service very seriously. We know how important it is to you to have an electric utility you can count on.

It is also important for you to understand that we can only fix what belongs to the Cooperative; that is, everything before the service point. You are responsible for everything after the service point. What's the service point? In general, the Cooperative is responsible for everything before the meter and the member for everything after. For a typical residential service, this is the case. However, to better understand the "service point," please look at the illustrations provided.

Your meter is on a pole near your home ...

The Cooperative is responsible for the meter, the connection at the top of the pole, the pole, ground wire and ground rod. The member is responsible for the meter base, breakers, the wire running up the pole and the service wire running from the pole to the house. The meter base is provided by the cooperative. It is the member's responsibility to provide the meter loop. The cooperative will install and connect the meter loop.

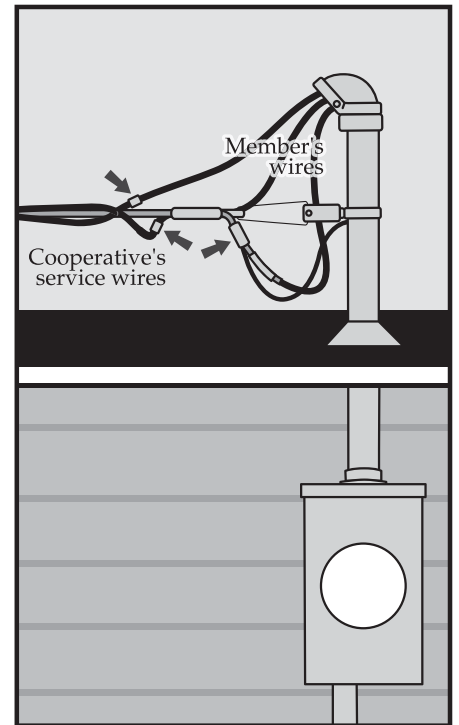
Point of Service



Your meter is attached to your home with overhead wires ...

When the metering is on a member's house, the overhead wire to the top of the mast and the connection are the Cooperative's responsibility. The meterbase, mast, service wires, ground wire and ground rod are the member's responsibility. In a new service, the metering equipment is set up by the member's electrician before service is connected. The meterbase is provided by the cooperative. The meterbase is installed by the member.

Point of Service



Your meter connects from your home to a pad-mounted transformer...

The Cooperative is responsible for the pad-mounted transformer and the underground line running to the meter. The member is responsible for the meterbase. The meterbase is provided by the Cooperative.

These examples illustrate the most common residential services. In some cases, the set-up may look different. If you are unsure of what is your responsibility and what belongs to the Cooperative, please give us a call at (618) 939-7171 or toll free (800) 757-7433.

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc.

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