

Increases to be included in February bill



Mike Smith
President and CEO

One of the best parts of managing an electric cooperative is the ability, indeed the responsibility, to focus on providing the absolutely best possible service at the least possible cost. Costs of everything we use to operate, maintain and repair our system have seen substantial increases. Steel, copper, any item with a petroleum component, fuel, utilities (yes, we pay an electric bill, too) have all jumped significantly. With that being said, to maintain the quality, reliability and integrity of the services we provide, it is necessary for us to adjust our pricing structure. **8119SL340-864C**

Effective Jan. 1, 2012, we will increase the monthly facility charge by \$2. Members will realize this on their February bill for January usage. What is the facility charge? Let me explain this way. Your power bill has three components; the facility charge, the energy charge and a purchased power adjustment. The intent of the facility charge is to cover the costs we incur to build and maintain the system that carries the electricity to your home or place of business. Even if we never move a single kW over the wires, we still face these expenses in keeping the facilities in place to carry that energy.

In addition, members with geothermal or electric heat metering rates will receive a minor rate adjustment. Members on these specific rates were mailed individual letters explaining the increase. You may be asking why we are raising this rate yet we continually encourage energy conservation. These rates were put into place several years ago when our wholesale power cost was significantly lower. Over time our costs went up and the rate wasn't adjusted accordingly. Therefore we are making small modifications so that we are closer to covering our wholesale power cost while still providing an incentive to those who choose to use

the most efficient, environmentally friendly technology available. Please note that the facility charge on the secondary meter will not increase, only the energy charge.

You may be asking how increases can be avoided. The simple answer is that they can't. Costs will rise, technology and infrastructure upgrades will be necessary and usage will continue to increase. However, they can remain stable longer if you take steps to conserve energy. Every kWh the cooperative's members avoid using is one the cooperative doesn't have to buy and deliver. This newsletter and our website provide many great ways to save on electricity and better manage your energy use.

We invest in technology to improve reliability, operations and efficiency. We also live by the cooperative difference - as a cooperative, we are not driven by profits and making a return for shareholders. Rather, we are service-driven and operate at cost. Our focus is on keeping the business financially strong on behalf of all members, in order to continue to provide safe, reliable service at the lowest practical cost.

Member Prizes

Each month we 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.



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7 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Weekdays

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Caulk up the savings

Caulk like a pro with these handy application tips

By Robert A. Dickleman

The greatest sources of heating and cooling losses in your home are often invisible – air leaks. As a result, controlling air leaks provides the best way to extend the life of your home, conserve energy, save money, and increase comfort.

Bottom line? If you don't tighten up your home first, money spent on insulation may be wasted. **525HH125-951B**

Fortunately, you can seal a lot of leaks around your home's exterior with less than \$100 worth of caulk. It's generally possible to seal openings up to one-quarter inch between window frames and siding or around door frames. For larger gaps, add a backing material before caulking, or use a spray foam sealant instead.

Most types of outdoor caulk are sold in tubes that fit a caulking gun. In addition, some caulks come in aerosol cans; they're a good choice for filling gaps up to one-half inch around pipes and wires.

When shopping for caulk, there are a myriad of choices. Prices range from a couple of dollars to several dollars per tube, so be sure to read the labels and choose a product that will adhere best to the materials you're sealing. **5425A3A-254A**

If your budget allows, spend a little more for a higher-quality caulk. Inexpensive caulks may last only a few years, while premium-priced caulks are rated for 20 years or more.

Caulk like a pro

- As a rule of thumb, you'll probably use half a cartridge per window or door and up to six cartridges for foundation work.
- Most caulks pose no known health hazards after they're fully cured. However, some high-performance caulking compounds contain irritating or potentially toxic ingredients, so you should carefully



read the manufacturer's instructions and take the appropriate precautions.

■ The best time to apply caulk is during dry weather when outdoor temperatures are above 45 degrees. Low humidity is important during application to prevent cracks from swelling with moisture.

■ If the gap you're sealing is too wide, use a special filler made for the purpose.

You'll find fillers in the

caulking department of your local hardware store or home center. However, note that fillers are not designed for exposure to the elements; so you'll need to caulk or seal over it.

- Before applying new caulk, remove the old caulk or paint residue with a putty knife, stiff brush, or special solvent.
- Make sure your work area is dry, so you won't seal in moisture.
- Hold the caulking gun at a consistent angle; 45 degrees is best.
- Caulk in a straight, continuous stream, avoiding stops and starts, and make sure the caulk sticks to both sides of the crack or seam.
- Send caulk to the bottom of an opening to avoid bubbles.
- Release the trigger on the caulking gun before pulling it away from the crack to prevent applying too much caulk. A caulking gun with an automatic release makes this much easier.
- Don't skimp. If the caulk shrinks, reapply it to form a smooth bead that completely seals the crack.
- If caulk oozes out of a crack, use a putty knife to push it back in.
- Once you've applied caulk, it takes time for it to dry, or cure. Curing time is described in two ways. The tack-free time tells you how quickly the fresh caulk's outer surface will dry or skin over. The total cure time indicates the time

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"Caulk" continued from page 16b.

required for the caulk to become completely stable — or reach the point where no further drying or shrinking will occur.

- Don't allow pets and small children to come into contact with fresh caulk.

Use expanding foam for large gaps

- Be sure to use the correct type of spray foam for the job. Polyurethane expandable spray foam works well around pipes and gaps around the foundation. However, this type of caulk expands with so much force that it can cause damage to window frames and door frames. In those spots, use a water-based spray foam specifically designed for the job.
- Expanding foam is ideal for filling cracks that caulks can't handle. It comes in aerosol cans and takes a short time to cure. The foam is very sticky and attaches itself quickly, so be prepared to pick up any messes fast.
- To seal gaps too wide for foam, use foil-faced bubble wrap. For really large holes, cut sections of rigid foam insulation to fit and then glue into place with expanding foam before covering the area with wood or another appropriate building material.

Find more ways to seal your home and save at EnergySavers.gov OR www.TogetherWeSave.com.

Sources: U.S. Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, ENERGY STAR, and product manufacturers

Bob Dickelman writes on energy efficiency 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.

Capital credits refunded

The board of directors of McDonough Power Cooperative voted to return capital credits to members who received service from 1982-1983.

McDonough Power is a non-profit electric cooperative. The annual operating margins, or profits, are allocated to members receiving service during the year. Margins are based on patronage, or usage, and are called capital credits. Capital credits are applied each year to individual capital credit accounts and remain on file until the board determines a general refund may be issued. **6325WH4-700A**

Past and current members who received electric service for the years 1982-1983 should have received refund checks in August. The Cooperative is attempting to locate former members (or possibly their heirs) who received electric service during that time. The Cooperative does not have a valid address on these accounts.

If your name or the name of someone you know is listed on page 16d, please complete the form and mail it to McDonough Power Cooperative, PO Box 352, Macomb IL 61455. You may also e-mail any information you may have to dawn@mcdonoughpower.com.

I have information about the following:

Name from the list: _____

Current Address: _____

Executor's name and address if person is deceased: _____

Telephone number of executor: _____

Information provided by: _____

Mail this form to: McDonough Power Cooperative
PO Box 352
Macomb, IL 61455



Tip of the Month

Air is drawn into your home from low areas, so inspect your foundation for potential air-infiltration points. Fixing these leaks makes a bigger impact on your electric bill than sealing doors and windows! Caulk all cracks and gaps around your home including spaces around wires for telephone, electrical, cable, and gas lines, water spigots, and dryer vents. Find more ways to save at TogetherWeSave.com.

Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives



Help us find these people

Last Name, First Name, Initial			Last Name, First Name, Initial			Last Name, First Name, Initial			Last Name, First Name, Initial		
Acklin	Joseph	C	Forman	Elsie	R	Konsler	Kathy		Rush	David	C
Adams	L.T.		Forney	Todd	A	Lansing	Phillip		Russell	Francis	
Anders	Robert	E	Foster	Carol	A	Lapp	Jeff		Rutledge	Tom	L
Barry	Todd	C	Foster	Walter	L	Lapp	William		Ryan	David	
Bartman	Kathy	D	Frakes	George	W	Leaf	Julia	A	Sanderson	Robert	J
Beardsley	Jeff		Fuchs	Gary	E	Lewis	Andy	J	Schlueter	Todd	
Becker	Miriam		Funderburk	Linda		Lewis	Phillip	S	Schulkin	Nina	
Bergmeier	Connie		Gamage	Ken		Linkeman	Tim		Schultz	Peggy	L
Bernabe	Sam		Geer	Bonnie		Lincoln	Chris	M	Settles	Shelly	R
Bilderback	Marge		Gill	Lori	L	Loeschen	Jayme		Shallenberger	Robert	
Bottens	Richards		Gilmore	Kenneth		Lybarger	Greg		Shane	Hugh	M
Bowerman	Ray	W	Gnatovic	Cheryl		Lyons	Christopher		Sharp	David	A
Brandstetter	Barbara		Gooden	Evelyn		Maag	Richard		Shaw	Christi	N
Braun	Theresa		Gouldie	Tim		Martin	Glenola		Sherbeyn	Donald	W
Branyik	Vincent		Govern	Thomas	P	Marvel	Michelle		Sikes	William	
Brattain	Denver	L	Graves	Robin		Mason	Randall		Sims	William	
Bridgewater	John		Green	Glenn	M	Mattimore	Knudsen	R	Sligh	Robyn	L
Briney	Pam		Gustafson	Steve		McCann	Brian		Smith	Dempsey	
Brockman	P.S.		Gvillo	Lori		McCoy	Ronald	E	Snyder	Craig	A
Brooks	Mary	A	Haines	James	B	McDonough Broadcasting			Sollenberger	Dolores	
Brooks	Robert	T	Hamilton	Dawn		McKinzie	Kirk	C	Speer	Timothy	
Brown	Alastair		Hanson	Richard		McLaughlin	Russell		Spencer	David	L
Brown	Brett	D	Harken	Gaylen	K	McVey	Alice		Spencer	Paige	
Brown	Melody		Harn	Angela	D	McVey	Richard		Spry	Mable	
Brown	Rodney	D	Harris	Diana		Mendenhall	Don		Staley	Duane	
Bruch	C. Richard		Hart	Monica		Meyer	Florine		Steck	Paul	H
Buccholz	Terry	L	Hayward	Richard		Miller	Stephen		Stewart	Sharon	
Burden	Duane		Hendrickson	Gene		Miles	William		Stout	Janine	K
Burnett	Tamara		Hennenfent	Loretta		Moburg	Teresa		Strange	Dan	J
Burr	Charles		Hensley	Michael		Mohl	Lisa		Strayer	Tom	
Butterfield	Anna	L	Herman	Sheron	M	Moore	Roger		Strebel	Steven	C
Butterfield Rental			Hinds	Diane		Morris	Melinda		Swan Lake Supper Club		
Christeson	Kim		Hocker	Richard		Mustard	Lozelle		Switzer	Brian	
Clark	Joseph	C	Hollingshead	Craig	A	Myers	Orin		The Homestead	Delmar Deems	
Clark	Joseph	P	Hommowun	George		Nelson	Mary		Thomas	Robert	J
Clark	William		Hopping	Kenneth		Nelson	Sharon	A	Thompson	Kurt	L
Cooper	Becky		Horton	Zeke		Newman	Ann		Thorman	Denise	
Cornehlson	Thomas	G	Howard	Harold	N	Noard	Galen		Thrap	Deric	
Cox	Mark		Hummel	Kevin		Oblander	Helen		Thurrow	Marsha	J
Cox	Terry	J	Hungate	Paul		O'Day	Steven	J	Torrence	Lynn	A
Crawley	Roy	E	Hussin	Siti	H	Olson	Anton		Twidwell	Rick	
Cropmate Co			Inthavong	Sak One		Ory	Linda		Van Rheeden	Rex	
Crum	Brenda		Irvine	Shawn		Parker	David		Vidmar	Joseph	
Curry	Roger		James	Stuart	A	Patton	Michael		Walker	Randy	
Dakin	John		Jennings	Charlie		Penstone	Lisa		Waller	Don	
Danner	Marvin		John	Terri		Petrowski	Christine		Warren	James	D
Danner	Rick		Johns	Eloise	E	Phillips Sale Co			Watson	James	W
Davis	Sylvia		Johnson	David	S	Pierce	Charles		Watson	Leonard	
Dehne	Jeffrey		Johnson	Kenneth		Pierce	William		Waugh	Cynthia	
Derry	Eldon		Johnson	Scott		Pointer	Jesse		Ward	David	A
Dillard	Dan		Johnson	Thomas		Poremba	William		Weiner	Debra	
Duesenberg	Melvin		Johnston	Paul		Potter	Wayne		Wennerholt	Steven	A
Edgar	Earl		Jonikas	Cheryl	L	Powell	Robert	C	Werner	Bruce	
Edgewater Inc.			Kauzlarich	Steven	A	Pudik	William		Williams	Rod	
Edison	Hazel	D	Keimig	Anthony	W	Quick	Louise		Wise	Robert	
Eller	Dale		Keith	Edward		Randall	Rodney	E	Wisnosky	Elizabeth	
Ellickson	Jean		Kelly	Dale		Renner	Wanda		Worthington	Timothy	
Esarey	Duane	E	Kendall	William		Reynolds	Jeffrey		Wright	James	V
Fewkes	Ronald	E	Kenning	John		Richardson	Rolland		Young	Bob	
Fey	Rebecca		Kessler	Kenneth		Riggins	Larry		Young	Dennis	
Flavin	Julie		Kessler	Morris	F	Riggins	Grace		Zatkovich	John	F
Flint	Tina		Kessler	Paula		Robinson	Ann		Zbleski	Sheri	
Ford	James	G	Kreller	Mary		Rochon	Michele				