


The SOUTHEASTERN Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

President's Comments



Dustin Tripp
President/CEO

As we begin the New Year, I would like to take this time to briefly reflect on the year 2014 and summarize some of your Cooperative's plans for the year 2015.

Residential energy consumption increased approximately 2.8% in 2014. The majority of this increase can be attributed to much colder temperatures experienced in January, February and March of 2014. In fact, the heating-degree-day data accumulation for January and February of 2014 was the highest recorded in over 31 years of data which is indicative of extremely cold winter weather.

In 2014, the Cooperative continued to make the necessary investment in the vegetation management program. In fact, the Cooperative completed trimming/clearing in the Cadle, Lake of Egypt, Minerva, Ramsey, Saline River and Shell substations. As we have certainly experienced in the past with major storms, a sound vegetation management program is crucial to your Cooperative's ability to reduce risks and outages associated with major weather events and to maintain a reliable electric supply for members.

The Cooperative ended the year 2014 in sound financial condition and returned \$1.1 million in capital credits in December 2014 to you as Cooperative members. This means the Cooperative has retired over \$10 million in capital credits (including discounted estates) to members over the past five years.

As previously announced, in 2012 your Cooperative experienced a significant increase in the cost of wholesale power delivered by Southern Illinois Power

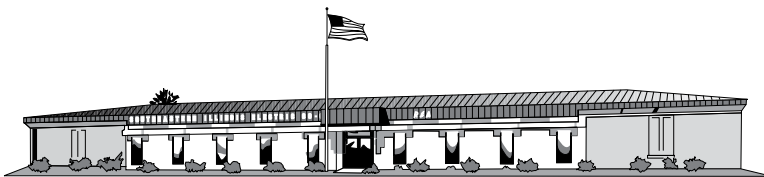
Cooperative (SIPC) located at the Lake of Egypt near Marion. This increase was primarily driven by SIPC's acquisition of 125 MW of the new Prairie State Generation Campus (PSGC) located near Lively Grove. This new generation capacity was required due to additional growth in Southern Illinois and to ensure all members with sufficient energy capacity. Your Cooperative has been implementing the necessary changes in retail rates to reflect this increase in wholesale power cost over the past few years and will implement the final 2.5% retail rate increase in May of 2015 to reflect the changes in wholesale power costs. The Cooperative will need to add approximately 1% in retail rates for other distribution Cooperative related costs making the total rate increase approximately 3.5% in May 2015.

In 2015, your Cooperative is planning to continue making necessary investments in the distribution facilities that serve your energy by rebuilding aging infrastructure, replacing degraded poles and performing other maintenance activities including pole testing, regulator maintenance, breaker maintenance, sectionalizing, etc. in order to help ensure a safe and reliable electric supply.

In order to achieve the Cooperative's current vegetation management program goal of trimming on a four to five-year cycle, the Cooperative needs to trim and cut trees along approximately 700-900 miles of power line per year. The maps that are displayed on page 16b and 16c of

Continued on page 16b ▶

READERSHIP PRIZE WINNER:
Gregory Faulkenberry, Creal Springs, IL



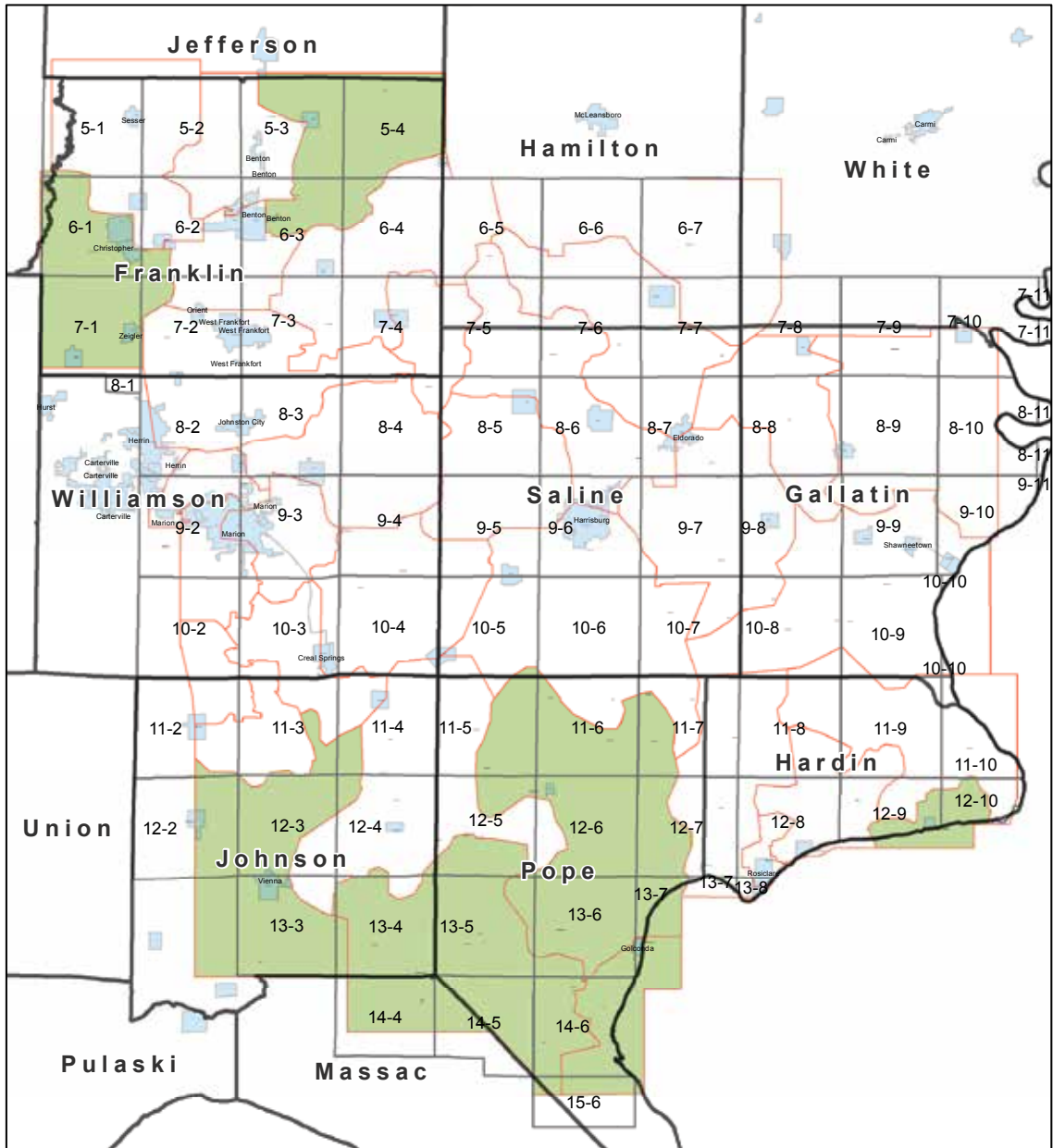
this issue show the areas where the Cooperative will be trimming trees, removing trees and applying necessary herbicides in 2015. If you would like additional information regarding your Cooperatives vegeta-

tion management activities for 2015, please contact the Cooperative or visit our website at www.seiec.com.

In 2015, your Cooperative remains committed to finding new and better ways to serve its mem-

bers. Your Cooperative will continue to work diligently to improve and enhance the level of service and reliability that you receive.

See you next month and as always, "We'll keep the lights on for you."



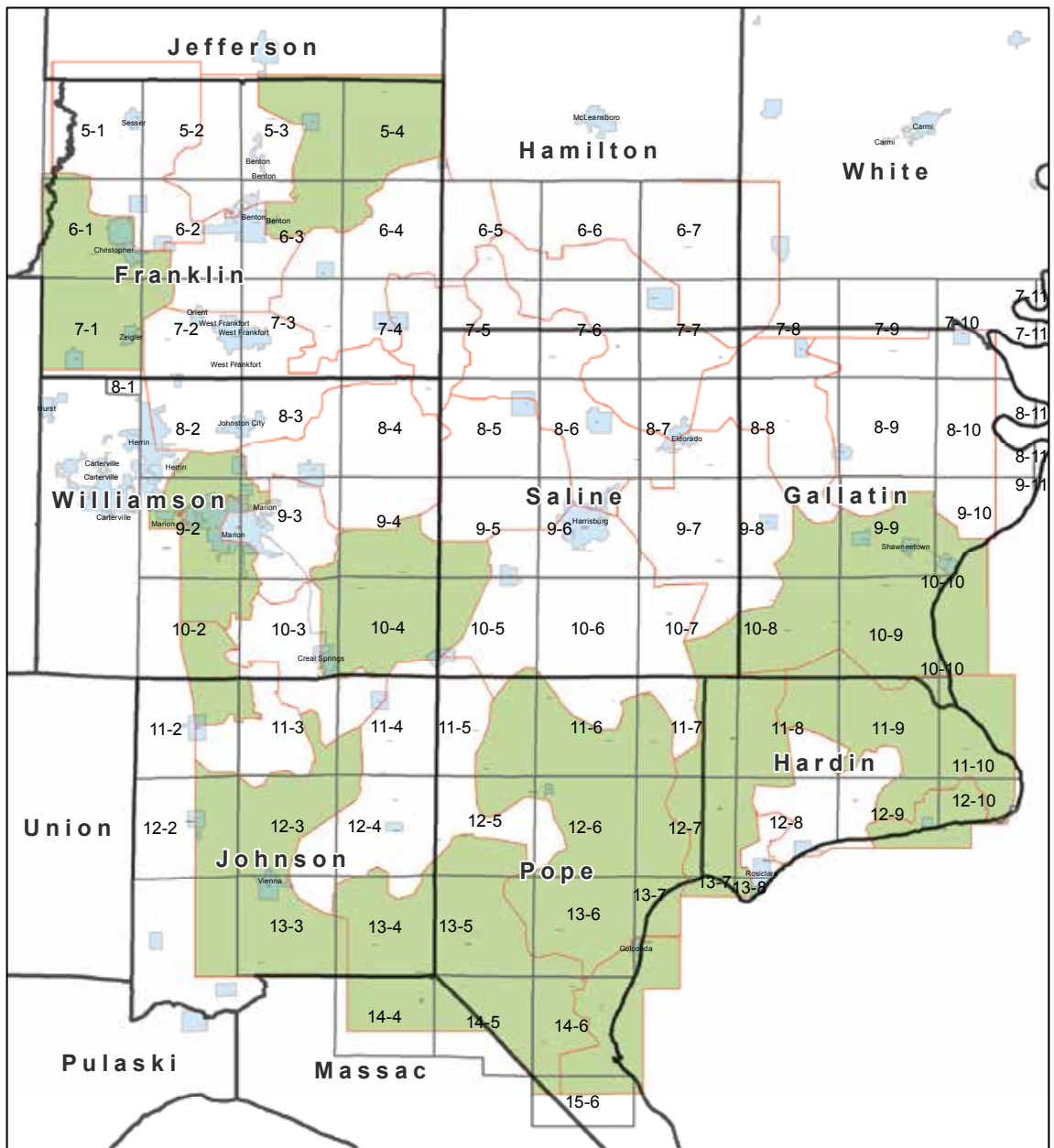
DURING 2015 SOUTHEASTERN IL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE FORESTRY CREWS WILL BE TRIMMING THE POWER LINE RIGHTS-OF-WAY IN THE ABOVE SHADED AREAS



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



The power of human connections



DURING 2015 SOUTHEASTERN IL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE FORESTRY CREWS WILL BE APPLYING HERBICIDE TO THE POWER LINE RIGHTS-OF-WAY IN THE ABOVE SHADED AREAS



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Office Closing

The cooperative office will be closed
Thursday, January 1st
for New Year's Day.



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Office Closing

The cooperative office will be closed
Monday, January 19th for
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

POWER OUTAGE

If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions

1. Check the fuses or circuit breakers in your service panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "ON" position.
2. If you have a meter pole, check the main breaker panel just below the meter socket. If the breaker is in the "OFF" position, check all of your wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears to be okay, reset the breaker to the "ON" position.
3. If you still do not have power, check with neighbors to see if they have power.
4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 1-877-399-8405. This phone number is monitored around the clock, 365 days per year to accept your outage and emergency calls.
5. Your phone call will be handled by SouthEastern's automated outage reporting system and will be identified automatically through ANI (Automatic Number Identification). An outage record will then be generated

for your location. Please note that the phone number from which you place the call will be the number used to generate the record. If the system fails to recognize your phone number, members having touch-tone phones may simply enter their seven-digit phone number (without area code) in order to report the outage. Members not having touch-tone phones will be asked to leave a message. It is important you leave your name, phone number and location of the outage. Retrieving messages and entering them into the system is time consuming; therefore, please leave only a message that will help in restoration of electric service. Do not remain on the line for an operator because a live operator is not there to respond. In order to keep a current listing of all numbers, it is important that you notify the Cooperative of any changes in your telephone number.

6. Handling outage calls electronically allows you to report power failures very quickly. Once your outage has been reported, it will be dispatched to repair personnel who will restore your outage as soon as possible. Calling back repeatedly will not shorten the length of the outage, but may hinder the efforts of other members who are trying to report outages.

OUTAGE CALLS ONLY 1-877-399-8405

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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618-273-2611 or 800-833-2611 • Office hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. M-F