


The SOUTHEASTERN

Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

President's Comments



Dustin Tripp
President/CEO



In 2010 and 2011, SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative participated in the Home Energy Efficiency Program to help members make improvements to their homes that resulted in consuming energy more efficiently. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) granted Illinois electric cooperatives \$2.5 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds for home energy efficiency improvements. With the help of this funding, SEIEC Cooperative members installed 50 geothermal heat pumps, 73 air-source heat pumps and 27 members made insulation and weatherization improvements.

In 2013, DCEO granted Illinois cooperatives \$600,000 for home energy efficiency improvements also known as the Home Lite Rebate Program. With the help of

this program, SEIEC Cooperative members installed 12 geothermal heat pumps, 13 air-source heat pumps and 8 members made insulation and weatherization improvements.

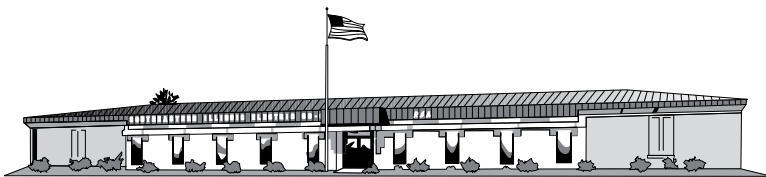
In January 2015, the Illinois DCEO granted Illinois cooperatives an additional \$400,000 for home energy efficiency improvements also known as Home 3.0. This program applies to existing homes as well as new construction with the exception of the insulation. The rebate for insulation/weatherization projects only apply to an existing home. In order to qualify for this grant, the home must be served by the Cooperative and be the member's primary residence. Residential members could be eligible for a rebate up to \$1,000. Rebates will be available until funding runs out, or until

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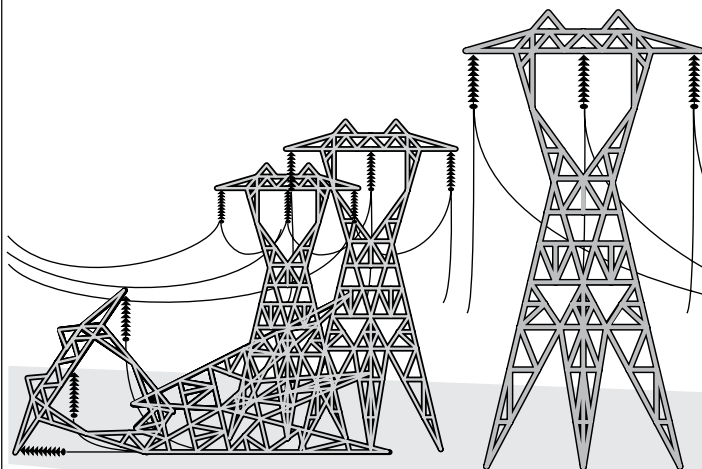
Holiday Closing

We will be closed for
Presidents Day on
Monday, February 16, 2015



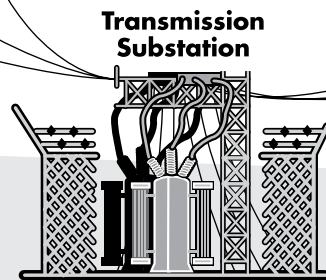
READERSHIP PRIZE WINNER:
Judy Graham, Simpson, IL

What happens

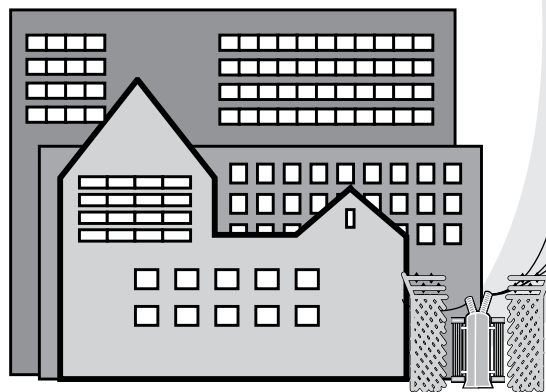


High-Voltage Transmission Lines

1 • Transmission towers and lines that supply power to one or more transmission substations rarely fail. However, when damage does occur—usually due to high winds or ice buildup—these towers and lines must be repaired before other parts of the distribution system are inspected, because they serve thousands (or tens of thousands) of people.



Transmission Substation

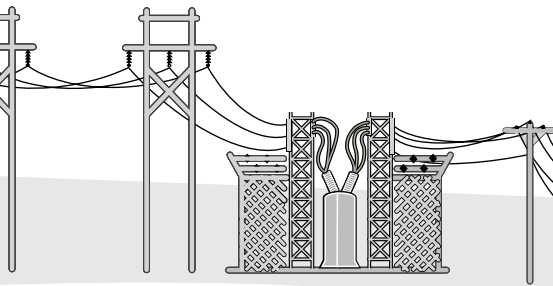


Large Industrial User

Restoring the power after a thunderstorm, tornado, ice storm or flood involves much more than just flipping a switch at a substation or pulling a tree off a downed power line. Highly trained workers from your rural electric cooperative, crews from neighboring co-ops and even specialists from the Illinois Association of Electric Cooperatives will work together around the clock to restore service in areas affected by severe weather.

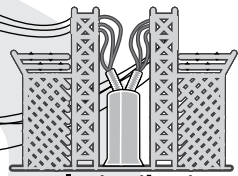
Shown here are the steps co-ops follow in restoring power. At each stage, the primary goal is getting the greatest number of co-op members back on line in the shortest time possible.

ns during a power outage?



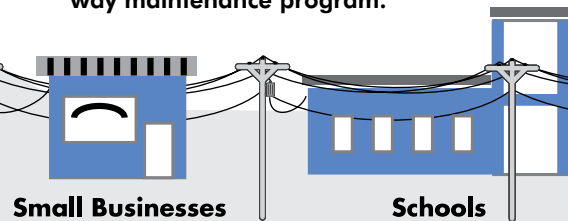
Local Distribution Substation

2. A co-op usually has several local distribution substations, each serving hundreds or thousands of co-op members. When a major outage takes place, these substations usually are checked first to see if the problem is in the transmission system to the substations or the substations themselves.



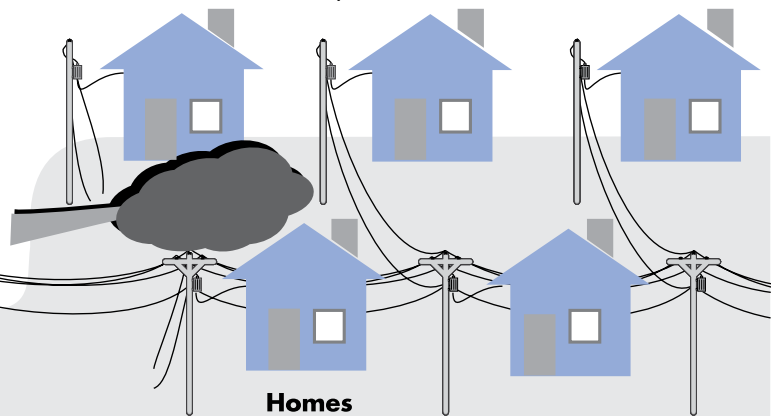
Local Distribution Substation

3. If the problem cannot be isolated at a local distribution substation, the next step is to check the distribution lines that carry power to groups of customers such as towns or housing developments. In Illinois, the largest cause of outages is fallen trees, which is why your co-op has an ongoing right-of-way maintenance program.



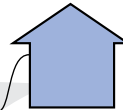
Small Businesses

Schools

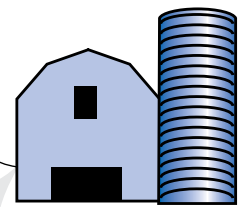


Homes

5. Finally, isolated outages-caused, for example, by a damaged service line between a transformer and an individual home-are repaired. If you or a family member depend on life support, call your co-op before an outage occurs. Then your co-op can make every effort to prioritize power restoration to you-or can advise you to seek shelter elsewhere.



Make sure you report any outage to your electric co-op. This will help line crews isolate the problem and repair it as soon as possible.



Farms

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May 31 of this year. Following are items eligible for the rebates and the amounts:

Geothermal Heat Pumps (16 SEER or greater)	\$1,000
Air-source Heat Pumps (16 SEER or greater)	\$500
Heat Pump Water Heater	\$250
Insulation/weatherization	30% of project costs, maximum \$500

According to DCEO, Cooperative members who qualify for the Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program through the State of Illinois do NOT qualify for the Home energy efficiency program as these members are eligible to receive other funding for weatherization and energy efficiency improvements from the state. In order to qualify for the Illinois Weatherization Assistance Program, the household income must be below 200 percent of the national poverty level which

equates to an annual income of \$47,700 for a family of four.

A renewable energy tax credit also exists for members investing in geothermal heat pumps, solar water heaters and other green technologies. The credit covers 30 percent of the cost for approved projects completed on any type of home between 2009 and 2016. If you have ever thought about installing a geothermal heat pump, these tax credits provide a good opportunity to achieve higher efficiencies at a much reduced overall cost. The ENERGY STAR website, www.energystar.gov (keyword: "Tax credits") provides a great overview of what qualifies for tax credits and includes guidance on how to apply for them.

For more information regarding the Home 3.0 Rebate Program please visit our website at www.seic.com or contact Stefanie Tripp, Administrative Assistant & Human Resource Manager at 618-273-2611 ext. 169.

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

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.

585 Highway 142 South • P.O. Box 251 • Eldorado, Illinois 62930
618-273-2611 or 800-833-2611 • Office hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. M-F