




Western Illinois
ELECTRICAL COOP.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

NEWS

P.O. Box 338 ■ Carthage, Illinois 62321 ■ www.wiec.net ■ 800/576-3125

From the Manager:



*Tommie Long,
Manager,
Western Illinois
Electrical Coop..*

Beginning April 1, 2015, Western Illinois Electrical Coop. will be implementing a new rate structure called a Formulary Rate Plan (FRP). This rate structure will be designed to enable WIEC to operate more efficiently while maintaining financial health and insure stability into the future. Cooperatives across the nation are faced with the need for frequent rate changes due to increases in wholesale power costs, stagnant or declining kilowatt hour sales, increases in the cost of service and distribution as well as governmental pressures, and the increased popularity of distributive generation, such as wind and solar.

How will this plan work?

This new structure will have two components. One is the formulary rate adjustment and will appear on your monthly bill. This adder will be a fixed charge based on the kilowatt-hour sales consumed by the member and will appear on the bill through the remainder of 2015. The second component

is the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) which will be calculated based on the actual cost of our wholesale power costs versus the budgeted amount for that month. The PCA can be an addition or a deduction to a member's bill depending on the difference between actual power cost versus budgeted cost.

Together these two will work together to ensure adequate revenues to maintain the operations and financial stability of WIEC. The year 2014 fell below expectations due to higher than expected wholesale power costs and a decrease in summer kilowatt hour sales due to a mild, wet summer. The FRP will allow adequate revenues to be collected despite lower kilowatt sales or other unforeseen events.

WIEC will follow up the implementation of the FRP with a cost of service study. These studies are done on a periodic basis to ensure different rate classes are paying their fair share of costs or if one class is subsidizing the costs for the others. The last cost of service study for WIEC was done in 2008. Once the cost of service study is completed, WIEC will analyze the findings to see what types of rate adjustments are needed. If rates are modified, the formulary rate adjustment would be removed. We will continue to review rates on an annual basis to stabilize earnings with minimal impact to the member by increasing or decreasing the formulary rate adjustment in small increments. (2811-25)

Why do we need the FRP?

The projected results of the FRP is that the actual WIEC revenues should track our projected revenues requirements and should not increase or decrease with changes in sales that may not be related to WIEC's actions. Examples of these changes are weather fluctuations, distributive generation activity, conservation and declining kilowatt hour sales.

The WIEC Board of Directors is responsible for the financial stability of the cooperative. Imposing an upward rate adjustment is never a popular action; however the board has approved this plan that allows for rate increases as well as reductions. The intent of this plan is to prevent larger rate increases at a later date. The WIEC board and employees strive to maintain the quality, reliability and integrity of the service we provide you, the member.





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Carthage, IL 62321
www.wiec.net | 800/576-3125

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday

BUSINESS OFFICE

217-357-3125

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

800-576-3125

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **David Biery** —
President, Carthage
- **Rob Gronewold** —
Vice-President, Carthage
- **Janet Spory** —
Secretary/Treasurer, Sutter
- **Jay Morrison** —
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer,
Burnside
- **Kent Flesner** —
Director, West Point
- **Kim Gullberg** —
Director, Stronghurst
- **William Newton** —
Director, Burnside

STAFF

- **Tommie Long** — Manager
- **Todd Grotts** — Manager
of Operations
- **Becky Dickinson** — Office
Manager

MAP LOCATION CONTEST

Every month we are printing four members' map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a \$10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.

Director nomination and election process

In accordance with Article IV, Section 4, of your cooperative's by-laws, a nominating committee must be appointed between 30 and 120 days prior to the Annual Meeting of Members (June 25, 2015).

Directors shall be elected by and from the membership by ballot and shall serve for a term of three years, or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified. The terms of directors from Districts #1, #2 and #3 will expire this year.

District No. 1, currently represented by **Kim Gullberg**, is all of the cooperative's service area in Henderson County, Illinois.

District No. 2, currently represented by **William R. Newton**, is Appanoose, Montebello, and Sonora Townships in Hancock County, Illinois. (8511-55)

District No. 3, currently represented by **Jay D. Morrison**, is LaHarpe, Durham, Rock Creek, Pontoosuc, and Dallas Townships in Hancock County, Illinois, and the cooperative's service area in Blandinsville Township in McDonough County, Illinois.



The nominating committee must post a list of nominations at the cooperative office at least 20 days before the annual meeting. Any 15 cooperative members may act together and nominate another member by petition. These nominations will be posted with those made by the nominating committee. Nominations made by petition at least 10 days before the annual meeting will be included on the official ballot. Later nominations by petition shall be treated as nominations from the floor. The chairman shall call for additional nominations from the floor. No member may nominate more than one candidate.



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<http://www.facebook.com/westernillinoiselectricalcoop>



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Your home works hard for you. Consider giving it an energy checkup. Hire a professional energy auditor to diagnose where your house could be losing energy and where you can start saving money. Auditors check for air leaks, inspect insulation, survey heating and cooling equipment and more. After making efficiency upgrades, you could save 5-30 percent on your energy bills.

Preparing food during a power failure

No one plans for the electricity to be out, especially for more than a few hours. However it is wise to realize that during a power failure, cooking and eating habits must change to fit the situation. You may have no heat, no refrigeration and limited water. In addition, health risks from contaminated or spoiled food may increase.

Conserve Fuel

- Consider the amount of cooking time needed for particular foods. If you have limited heat for cooking, choose foods which cook quickly. Prepare one-dish meals or serve no-cook foods.
- Commercially-canned foods can be eaten straight from the can. Do not use home-canned vegetables unless

you have the means to boil them for 20 minutes before eating.

Alternative Cooking Methods

- Charcoal or gas grills are the most obvious alternative sources of heat for cooking. **NEVER USE THEM INDOORS.** In doing so, you risk both asphyxiation from carbon monoxide and the chance of starting a fire that could destroy your home.
- Likewise, camp stoves that use gasoline or solid fuel should always be used outdoors.
- Wood can be used for cooking in many situations. You can cook in a fireplace if the chimney is sound. Don't start a fire in a fireplace that



has a broken chimney. Be sure the damper is open.

- If you're cooking on a wood stove, make sure the stovepipe has not been damaged.
- If you have to build a fire outside, build it away from buildings, never in a carport. Sparks can easily start a house fire.
- Never use gasoline to get a wood or charcoal fire started.
- Make sure any fire is well contained. A metal drum or stones around the fire bed are good precautions. A charcoal grill is a good place in which to build a wood fire. Be sure to put out the fire when you are through with it.
- Small electrical appliances, such as electric skillets, electric woks, hot plates or coffee makers, can be used to prepare meals if you have access to an electrical generator.
- Devices using candle warmers, such as fondue pots or chafing dishes, may be used if no other heat sources are available.

POP QUIZ

LED bulbs use about 20 percent less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs, but how much longer do they last?

- A** 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs
- B** 15 times longer than incandescent bulbs
- C** 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs

Answer: C

Geothermal: energy from the ground up

Geothermal energy—created from Earth's natural heat—has been used by many cultures for thousands of years to cook and bathe. But modern technology has unlocked new ways to harness geothermal potential: producing electricity using hot water and steam locked below the surface; and heating and cooling buildings.

How it Works

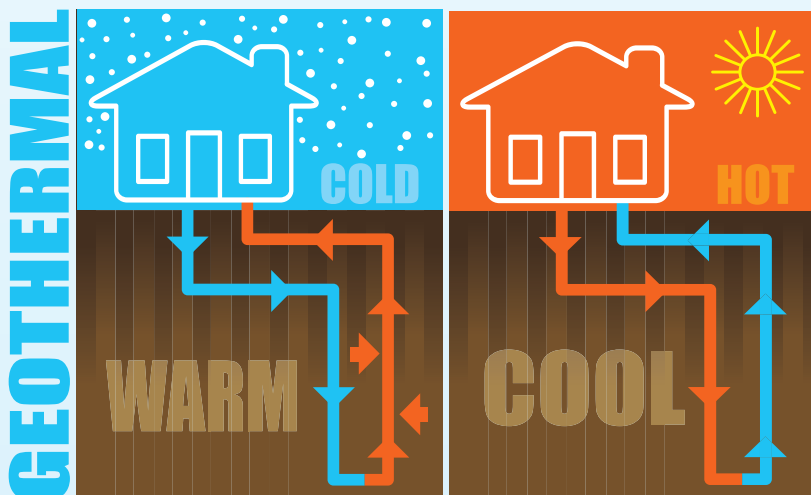
Geothermal heat pumps rely on energy of the ground—the top 10 feet of earth remains a relatively constant 50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit temperature year-round—to move heat into and out of a building, providing winter heating and summer cooling. Also called ground-source heat pumps, these appliances come in two types: a groundwater (open-loop) system uses well (10430-28) water; an earth-coupled (closed-loop) model moves a water and antifreeze solution through underground pipes to disperse heat.

Why it is a smart choice

While geothermal heat pumps generally operate more efficiently than their air-source cousins, they are more expensive up-front. A federal tax credit equal to 30 percent of the cost for materials and installation, with no limit on total project expenses, applies to geothermal heat pumps through Dec. 31, 2016. A full list of geothermal heat pump requirements, along with a product list, can be found at www.energystar.gov/taxcredits.

To help with the costs, WIEC offers members a rebate of \$1,000. This can be applied to trenching, new electric water heater or can be applied right to your electric bill.

And, WIEC can help with financing. We offer loans (up to \$15,000 for 5 year term at a 5% rate) to members with approved credit. The payments are (2918-3) added to your current electric bill so you have just one payment.



The top 10 feet of earth remains a relatively constant 50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit temperature year-round...

Don't forget to Spring Ahead!

Daylight Savings Time
begins on March 8th



Welcome New Members

Cleta J Beimer,
Ft Madison, IA
Matt Dallas, Dallas City
James W Farris, Rochester, IL
Tyler Garrison, Dallas City
Daniel Harrison, Carthage
Joseph A Le'Jeune, Ferris
William McNamee,
Ft Madison, IA
Nathan Trout & Courtney
Weinard, LaHarpe
Lacey Williams, Niota
Gabriel & Sara Wood,
Stronghurst
Casey Yager, LaHarpe