



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

# Hi-Lites

## Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative observing National Co-op Month in October

Coles-Moultrie Electric is joining 30,000 cooperatives nationwide in October to celebrate National Co-op Month, which recognizes the many ways cooperatives are committed to strengthening the local communities they serve. “Co-ops Commit” is the theme for this year’s celebration, spotlighting the countless ways cooperatives meet the needs of their members and communities.

“Our cooperative delivers electricity

to more than 9,500 member-owners in our eight-county service area of East Central Illinois,” says Kim Leftwich, CEO. “Delivering safe, reliable, affordable power is our top priority, but we are also invested in our communities because we are locally owned and operated. Revenue generated by our cooperative goes back to Main Street, not Wall Street.”

Rural America is served by a network of about 1,000 electric

cooperatives, most of which were formed in the 1930s and 40s to bring electricity to farms and rural communities that large, investor-owned power companies had no interest in serving because of the higher costs involved in serving low-population and low-density areas.

Follow us on Facebook or #CoopMonth to see how co-ops across the country are celebrating National Co-op Month.



### Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative Events

Friday, October 6 . . . . .Co-op Connections Day

Friday, October 20 . . . . .CMEC Volunteer Day

Friday, October 13 . . . . .Kick-off Canned Food Drive

Friday, October 27 . . . . .Red Cross Bloodmobile @ CMEC, 8 a.m. to noon

**Weekly drawings each Wednesday!**

P.O. Box 709 (104 Dewitt Ave., East)  
 Mattoon, Illinois 61938

Phone: 217/235-0341 or  
 Toll-Free: 1-888-661-CMEC (2632)  
 Office hours:  
 Monday-Friday  
 7:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.

**Chairman**

Jeffery D. Hudson..... Charleston

**Vice Chairperson**

Chris Christman..... Sullivan

**Secretary**

John Bowers ..... Lovington

**Treasurer**

Steve Shrader..... Westfield

**Director**

Debbie Albin.....Mattoon

Dean Robison..... Windsor

Scott Uphoff.....Mattoon

**President/CEO**

Kim Leftwich

**To report an outage**

- First check your fuses or circuit breakers and see if your neighbors have power.
- If the problem appears to be with the cooperative's lines, call the office at the toll free number (888-661-2632), give the name the service is listed under, and report any hazardous conditions.

**Board Report**

**August 3, 2017**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative was held at the offices of the Cooperative at 104 Dewitt Avenue, East, Mattoon, Illinois at 7 p.m. on the third day of August, 2017, pursuant to notice duly given. The meeting was called to order by Jeff Hudson, Chairman. After calling the roll, the following directors were present, Scott Uphoff, Chris Christman, Jeff Hudson, Steve Shrader, Debbie Albin, and Dean Robison being a quorum of the directors of the Cooperative. Also present were Kim Leftwich, President/CEO, and Amy Borntrager, Chief Financial Officer. John Bowers was absent.

Motion was made by Uphoff to approve the agenda. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Shrader to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted and the June Safety & Training report and to make a change to the 07/06/2017 Regular Board Meeting Minutes recording Shrader as the Board Member who made the motion to go into Executive Session, not Robison. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

For the Legal Report, Leftwich noted no issues at this time.

Motion was made by Shrader, Audit & Finance Committee Chairman to approve the April, May and June 2017 Director fees and expenses as submitted. Motion carried.

Uphoff made a motion to deny the member request for board attendance based on legal counsel's recommendation. Motion seconded. Motion failed.

Shrader made a motion that would allow this member to attend one meeting, not setting a precedence. Motion seconded. Motion failed.

Christman made a motion to table member attendance at meetings until the attorney was able to provide a recommendation. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Borntrager gave the financial report. She stated sales and revenue still below budget for the first half of 2017. Transmission expense is 27% higher than last year. The Formula Rate Plan Rider and Wholesale Power Adjustment will be added to our member bills starting in July 2017. Coles-Moultrie added \$1.3M in plant during the first half of 2017.

Shrader reported on the AIEC Annual Meeting held July 27-28, 2017.

Other Directors noted activities at the meeting. Shrader also reported on the NRECA course, "Evolution of the Electric Cooperative Power Source."

Robison reported that no PPI Board Meeting was held in July. He noted that PPI had been awarded in a recent Safety Competition.

Leftwich provided the President/CEO report.

In the Information Section of the agenda, PPI Policy 509, Qualifying Facilities (QF), was provided. Included were a CMEC Board resolution and CMEC QF Policy for Board review. Action will be introduced at the August Board meeting.

Robison made a Motion to adjourn. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

**President & CEO Report:**

Cypress Creek Renewables

■ Jim Wallace, Sam Adair, and Kim Leftwich held a teleconference July 10 with Matt Baker, Solar Site Developer, to discuss Cypress Creek Renewables interest in solar developments in Coles-Moultrie territory.

■ The group concluded that an on-site meeting with all developers at Prairie Power, Inc., was essential to outline all measures and considerations important to consistent development across all cooperatives. PPI agreed to host the event to include any developers interested in any cooperative territory in the PPI member footprint. Additionally, the Illinois Power Agency and Environmental Policy and Law Center will be invited to participate in the meeting.

**Energy Education Council**

■ Sam Adair, Manager of Marketing and Member Services has accepted a position on the Board for the Energy Education Council.

**Formula Rate Plan Institution**

■ Staff has worked with NISC, our customer information system platform provider, to institute the Formula Rate Plan (FRP) approved earlier by the board and announced during the Annual Meeting.

■ The FRP will be effective with bills

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rendered for July and due in August. A new bill format will be introduced at the same time.

### Mattoon Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing

- CMEC participated in the Mattoon Chamber of Commerce golf outing July 14 held at Meadowview Golf Course, a CMEC member.

### State Senator Dale Righter Golf Outing

- President/CEO Leftwich accepted a request from Senator Dale Righter to Chair the up-coming golf event to be held later this Fall.

### Washington University, St Louis Visit

- Eastern Illinois University faculty and staff joined Kim Leftwich to visit Washington University's Clean Coal Utilization Research Center to view a primary research effort for development of new technologies for clean coal power generation.
- The group met with Dean Aaron Bobick, Department of Environmental, Energy, and Chemical Engineering, and initiated an effort to develop broad affiliation and collaboration between EIU and Washington University programs.

### Prairie Power, Inc., IT Services Forum

- CMEC participated in an IT Services Forum July 19 to learn of additional information technology services PPI currently provides or may soon offer.

### CMEC Connect

- Currently more than 350 customers and nearly \$23,000/month revenue.
- Completed another spur site to serve a pocket of users on the F3D mile; developing another spur site for the west side of Lake Mattoon.
- Chesterville tower base station failed July 19; CMEC had a spare unit in house, scheduled a tower crew and had the tower back in service 7/21; while those repairs were underway, GWT went down, but were corrected in less than 24 hours.

### Internet Marketing

- Working through WMCI to market the cooperative and CMEC Connect through internet banner ads; more information available soon.

### Energy efficiency and Conservation Rebates

- Residential rebates have been exhausted for 2017; CMEC members made over \$162,000 in energy efficiency upgrades

to their homes, receiving \$15,112.08 in rebates; commercial funds remain available.

### Cooperative Connections Card

- So far in 2017, CMEC members have saved \$1410 on prescription savings using the card; overall, CMEC members using the card have saved more than \$93,000 on purchases of goods.

### Key Accounts

- AF Holdings (Best Western Plus, Arcola), and CMEC Staff met with the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center to complete an audit of the hotel. ISTC will work with AF Holdings to develop recommendations to protect electrical equipment, develop load management processes, and procedures to protect equipment during shut-down/start-up; should be complete end of August.
- Funds were released to Charleston Stone on July 12 for their Rural Economic Development Loan. The loan provided substantial capital towards purchase and installation of an electric rock crusher, replacing a diesel powered crushing unit.
- The electric rock crusher installation at Charleston Stone is subject of a research publication for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). CMEC and Eastern Illinois University students contributed to development of research for the publication.
- CMEC Staff met with Mattoon Precision Manufacturing, Inc., (MPMI) officials to discuss addition of the Formula Rate Plan and its impact on MPMI. We continue to look for means to insure MPMI remains a cost effective manufacturer of OEM auto parts.

### LED Lighting

- To date, 1538 LED security lights have been installed replacing a like number of mercury vapor and high-pressure sodium fixtures.

### Engineering

- Toth & Associates, our consulting engineers, have begun staking the H1, H2, H3 miles; rebuild permits splitting the load on Feeder 1-1 out of Mattoon Substation; the project is a 2017 Construction Work Plan item.
- Evaluating providing primary metering/ meter totalization to MPMI.
- MPMI took a complete shutdown Sunday, 7/16 for CMEC to adjust taps on Transformers #35 and #36; the increase in voltage has solved some issues

for MPMI, particularly on the heat treat machines.

### Operations

- Mike Stuckey was named the new line Foreman for Crew A, replacing
- J. R. Haslett who retired at the end of June.
- Advertising for two journeyman linemen.
- Continue to add items to the list of materials provided by Anixter under the VM/VOI agreement.

### Fleet

- Beginning evaluation of the fleet for 2018 Capital Budget.
- Meeting with Altec to consider truck leases for the future.

### IT/SCADA

- Continuing software updates to eliminate known vulnerabilities; added sophisticated anti-virus software on all machines.
- Continue to troubleshoot MJ-5 regulator control panels with Siemens

### GIS

- Underground lines all input; continuing to make accurate locations resulting from JULIE locates; continue adding O&M records to the map for full information associated with the location; developing means to include all easement information in the GIS database, a unique proposition.
- Pursuing opportunities to provide GIS services to other entities.
- Eve Roosevelt and Tyler Wright are developing the Avian Protection Plan linking the plan with the GIS database; our APP/GIS approach is unique and NRECA has expressed interest in the project being presented at its next TechAdvantage conference.

### Safety and Training

- June Safety Meeting consisted of Crew Visits on June 21, made by the AIEC safety representative and Jim Wallace; Two construction crews and a shade Tree forestry crew were visited and no infractions found.
- Carla Bradbury attended an "Earthquake Disaster Drill" conducted by Region 9, FEMA; Coles County attendees were CMEC, Sara Bush Lincoln Hospital, City of Charleston, Coles County health department; the program tested responses to a major earthquake from the New Madrid Fault.

# The dreaded vampire loads

By Tom Tate

Perhaps you are familiar with an undesirable aspect of the electronic and IOT (Internet of Things) revolution: vampire loads. Vampire loads come from devices that use electricity even when they appear to be off. The primary culprits are chargers, set-top television boxes, instant-on televisions and gaming systems. There are others, but these four represent the major offenders.

Let's look at how these vampire loads occur and why they are approaching 10 percent of average household electric use according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Chargers take the 120 VAC (volts alternating current) power at the outlet and reduce it down to the voltage required by the connected device, usually 5 to 12 VDC (volts direct current). Obviously, when your device is charging, the charger is using electricity, but you might be surprised to learn that chargers are still using small amounts of energy even when they're not connected to a device.

Television set-top boxes also consume energy when they appear to be inactive. Anytime the set-top box's lights are on, it is using power. Like chargers, they use more when the television is on, but they are always working – even when the TV is off. This is especially true for those devices with a DVR function that records your favorite TV shows.

The instant-on television is another culprit. The intention of the

“instant-on” feature is instant gratification for the viewer, meaning no waiting for the TV to turn on and warm up. Unfortunately, for that convenience, the TV must be on at nearly full power. So, in this mode, it can be a real energy drain.

The typical gaming console can use as much energy as a regular refrigerator even when it's not being used. Make sure to check the console settings and disable automatic updates, which is where the energy drain comes from. Games on the console are frequently updated, which requires a lot of electricity.

So how does the average family combat these dreaded vampire loads? Garlic garlands? Silver bullets?

Fortunately, none of the remedies of fable are necessary. You just need to change how you handle these energy-sucking electronics. Here are a few suggestions.

- Unplug chargers when not in use.
- Invest in smart power strips. These look like normal power strips but have a twist; one of the outlets is the “master” that receives power all the time. The others are off. When the device connected to the master outlet turns on, the rest of the outlets receive power too. Ingenious and perfect for entertainment set ups. Have the television in the master outlet and when you turn it on, the set-top box, speakers,



streaming devices, etc. will turn on too. They are also ideal for PCs and their peripherals.

- Turn off the instant-on function on your TV. Turn off set-top boxes that do not contain the DVR functionality or use a smart power strip.
- Disable automatic updates in gaming consoles and turn the console completely off when you finish using it.
- When replacing any device or appliance, look for an EnergyStar rated product.

Vampire loads are a real problem that will only continue to grow as the digital age advances. But you can fight the vampires with vigilance and application of the recommendations above. Check with Coles-Moultrie Electric @ [www.cmec.coop](http://www.cmec.coop) or (217)235-0341 for additional suggestions and energy-saving advice.

## Billing Changes

The Service Availability Charge is now listed on your bill as a separate line item. This is not a new charge. In the past, this was bundled with the kWh charges. Members can now see exactly what their kWhs are costing them each month. This availability charge covers the costs of maintaining reliable electric service to each of our members and includes such things as trucks, wire, transformers, poles and labor. The WPA (Wholesale Power Adjustment) replaced the Transmission (NITS) Charges and the FRP (Formulary Rate Plan Adder) became effective July 1, 2017. Please call our office for questions, and have your bill handy so we can review it with you.