



## New transformer installed at Sicily substation

RECC employees upgraded the transformer at our Sicily substation near Kincaid on January 30-31, after routine testing showed signs of internal arcing in recent months. The cooling oil around the transformer windings showed elevated levels of gases that can result from electrical arcs, which could eventually lead to a transformer failure.

A new, larger transformer was ordered in September 2016, and was delivered to the site for installation. The equipment swap was done on January 30 along with upgrading 12 bypass switches, and final connections made on January 31. Power was re-routed from two other substations to serve our members in the Pawnee, Kincaid and Edinburg areas while the Sicily sub was out of operation.

"The new transformer was upgraded for future load growth," says Manager of Operations and Maintenance Lou DeLaby. "The larger size will also help maintain reliability when we need to back feed power to other substations during emergencies or maintenance projects."

A substation transformer receives power from transmission lines at 69,000 volts and reduces it to 12,470 volts going out on the co-op's distribution system. It's part of the nationwide electrical grid that delivers power from generation plants to homes and businesses at the end of the line. There are also meters, fuses, voltage regulators and monitoring devices installed at the substation to keep the system working safely.

DeLaby says a similar project will be undertaken at the Honey Bend substation in February. That



*This bird's eye view of work going on at the Sicily substation shows the incoming high-voltage equipment on the left and the stepped-down distribution voltage equipment on the right side of the substation. Close-ups show the new 10-MVA transformer and connections being made to substation metering equipment.*

transformer is also showing problems in the oil samples, and both transformers will be drained and examined after

removal. Hopefully one of them can be repaired and kept as an emergency replacement if needed in the future.



# Nominating Committee to meet March 9

The Board of Directors has selected nine co-op members to serve on the Nominating Committee, which will meet on Thursday, March 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the co-op's office in Auburn. The committee will select candidates for Director elections in three districts, to be held at the RECC Annual Meeting on June 8, 2017 in Chatham.

Director positions up for election to three-year terms this year are District 4 (incumbent Thom Hart from Waggoner), District 5 (incumbent John Beatty from Waverly), and District 6 (incumbent Mel Repscher from Taylorville).

## Members serving on the Nominating Committee are:

### District 4:

- **Stacey Hart**, 25445 Slightom Rd., Waggoner, IL 62572
- **Susan Fuchs-Holt**, 3250 Morrisonville Ave., Farmersville, IL 62533
- **Brett Slightom**, 26257 W. Frontage Rd., Farmersville, IL 62533

### District 5:

- **Galen Bailey**, 12896 Union School Rd., Auburn, IL 62615
- **Herschel Caruthers**, 12870 Caruthers Rd., Waverly, IL 62962
- **Ted Megginson**, 13950 Lead Line Rd., Auburn, IL 62615

### District 6:

- **Brian Abshire**, 319 E. 1400 North Rd, Pawnee, IL 62558
- **Norman Moses**, 839 N. 675 East Rd., Palmer, IL 62556
- **Gary Norville**, 694 E. 1350 North Rd., Taylorville, IL 62568

## What is expected of a co-op director?

Your board of directors is chosen through elections each year at the annual meeting. Each of the nine directors is elected by majority vote for a three-year term. Terms are staggered; three directors are elected one year, three directors the next year and three the third year.

Before each annual meeting of members, a nine-member nominating committee is appointed. The committee consists of three members from each district where a vacancy on the board of directors is to be filled. This committee meets and prepares a list of nominees before the annual meeting. Nominations for a district candidate may also be made by petition, signed by 15 or more members in that district. Petition forms are available from the co-op office, and must be returned by May 9 (30 days before the Annual Meeting, which is on June 8).

### Following is a list of the minimum requirements:

- Directors must receive electric service from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative at their primary residence. They pay the same rates for electric service and follow the same policies as all other members. They are not eligible to serve on the board if they have any conflicting business interest.
- Your board of directors meets regularly on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the headquarters in Auburn. Directors are expected to attend all regular monthly board meetings, usually beginning at 7 p.m. (or 6 p.m. during winter months).
- Directors attend all special board meetings, committee meetings and Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative's annual meeting. Directors should also attempt to attend one National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) meeting or director's conference every year.
- Other meetings directors attend include one and two day educational seminars. Directors are encouraged to complete their NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director's Certificate during their first term (3 years).
- Directors receive a \$150 per diem (\$200 if director has completed Credentialed Cooperative Director training, or \$225 with Board Leadership Credential). They receive the IRS mileage allowance for attendance of cooperative meetings and expenses when traveling on co-op business.
- Directors spend 23 – 35 days each year representing Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative.
- A director represents all members of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative, not a geographic region.
- This board establishes the basic business policies, the same as the board of directors of any other corporation. The board employs a President/CEO, who is responsible for all the operational details.



**RECC's 80th Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, June 8 at Glenwood High School in Chatham.**

# Protect your home from surges

Spring storms can bring an increased threat of power surges, which are sudden, short-lived increases in voltage. Surges may come either from lightning strikes or power lines being damaged by ice or falling tree limbs.

Your cooperative can help protect your home from the threat of power surges which could damage your valuable appliances and electronics. We offer a two-stage surge protection program for the different threats to your home equipment.

## External surges

Whole-house surge protection can reduce or stop voltage surges that travel through the power lines, including indirect lightning strikes. Under our whole-house lease program, we install a meter base adapter at your electric meter or main electrical panel. The monthly lease fee is just \$4.95, with no installation charge.

The whole house unit protects your household appliances and motors, blocking any high-energy surges through your main service.

## Internal surges

Most temporary power surges come from inside the home. Whether the disturbance is natural or man-made, your sensitive electronic devices need protection at the point of use, which can be provided by quality plug-in strips. Since devices like TVs and phone answering machines are also connected to outside sources like satellite dishes and phone lines, the plug strips for those devices should include protection for the other connected wires.

**Get our whole-house surge protection lease for \$4.95/month!**



*RECC's surge suppressor lease provides whole-house protection at the meter for \$4.95/month. Lease subscribers also receive one free plug-in strip for two-stage protection of sensitive electronics, with phone and video wiring connections.*

RECC has a selection of plug-in protectors for your home, from single-plug cubes for your garage door opener to satellite system strips with electrical, phone and cable connections. One standard six-plug strip is included in your lease pro-

gram, with others available for purchase.

Protect your equipment now with RECC's easy lease program! Call our office at (217) 438-6197 for more details or to schedule an installation. Or e-mail us at [recc@recc.coop](mailto:recc@recc.coop).

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Warmer weather is on the way! Use energy efficient window treatments or coverings, like blinds, shades and films, to reduce heat gain in your home. These devices not only improve the look of your home but also reduce energy costs.

*Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy*





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# Aubrie Megginson hired as new Senior Accountant

We're happy to announce that Aubrie Megginson joined RECC on January 9 as our Senior Accountant. Aubrie is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and has a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting/Finance from Western Illinois University. She is also a graduate of the "Leadership Springfield" program. She had been the Chief Financial Officer for Siciliano, Inc. in Springfield.

Aubrie and her husband Todd are RECC members and live on a farm near Pawnee. Todd farms in the Pawnee and Raymond areas. They have two children, Tadd & Marlee, and enjoy family activities in their spare time.

**Welcome, Aubrie!**



# BE SAFE

## Stay clear of downed power lines

**Powerful storms can damage power lines. If you see a downed power line:**

- Stay at least 50 feet from it and assume it's energized. The ground nearby may also be energized, making the entire area extremely dangerous.
- Never touch anything that is touching a downed power line. It's as dangerous as the line itself.
- If a power line falls on your vehicle while you are in it, stay inside the vehicle until help arrives.
- Don't drive over a downed power line! Your vehicle could get tangled in the wire, or you could pull a pole or transformer down onto your vehicle.

