



The SOUTHEASTERN LIGHT

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

General Manager's Comments



James M. "Mick" Cummins

This December brings some good news for the member owners of SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative. Your Board of Trustees has authorized an abatement of retail power costs amounting to over "ONE MILLION DOLLARS". This savings for SouthEastern members is directly resultant of a similar action taken by the Board of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), our wholesale power supplier located near Marion, Illinois.

SIPC's energy sales to date for 1996 have exceeded expectations, providing a unique opportunity for us to return cash to those members receiving service from this Cooperative during the period January through September of 1996.

Commencing in December of this year, more than 19,000 checks totaling

\$1,048,592 will be mailed to SouthEastern members. In addition, some \$36,267 will be credited to member accounts, equating to a total refund of \$1,084,860.

Refund checks should average about \$41 for the average residential member and range from a minimum of \$5 up to \$50,000 for other customer classes.

In addition to this unique rebate, your Board of Trustees has authorized payment of patronage capital this year amounting to over \$400,000. This means that in total, SouthEastern will be returning almost \$1,500,000 to its member owners in 1996. "IT PAYS TO BE A COOPERATIVE MEMBER." Merry Christmas and as always, "We'll keep the lights on for you."

*Wishing you a very
Merry Christmas
and a Happy
New Year.*



Humidity and comfort

The humidity level in your home can affect your comfort and your heating bill.

Humidity is simply the amount of moisture or water vapor in the air. The term, relative humidity, is used when referring to moisture levels in the air and is expressed as a percentage. When air reaches its moisture-carrying capacity, it is saturated and the relative humidity is said to be 100 percent (a steam bath or dense fog is saturated air).

Warm air will hold more moisture than cold air. In most homes as the outside temperature drops, the inside relative

humidity also will drop. That is because of the infiltration of cold outside air.

Low relative humidity can cause dry skin, static electricity and dry nose and throat passages. It can also dry out wood furniture, floors, trim and veneers. The human body is fairly comfortable with a minimum relative humidity of 20 percent to a maximum of 50 percent. The level of humidity in your home will vary with your lifestyle, type of heating system, type of home, thermostat setting and the size of your family.

A typical family of four will introduce about 18 gallons of

water per week into its home in the form of water vapor through plant watering, cooking, washing dishes, bathing, and washing and drying laundry.

The relative humidity inside a house will increase if the infiltration of cold outside air is reduced. Less water vapor will need to be inserted into a home if it is fitted with effective storm windows and doors, caulking, weather-stripping and vapor barriers. By controlling the relative humidity to between 35 and 40 percent, the comfort level will increase, the thermostat setting can be lower and heating dollars can be saved.

Care for your electric blanket

Never, never have your electric blanket dry cleaned. To do so probably will ruin the insulation on the wiring sewn into the blanket. Almost all electric blankets are machine washable. And most dry cleaning establishments will wash them for you. If you want to do it yourself, dig out the manufacturer's instructions and read them carefully. Can't find them? Con-

tact the maker or the store where you bought the blanket for a new set for your model number.

A couple of other things to keep in mind. Check out the controls. Does the little light come on and go off as you twist the temperature control? Do all plugs fit snugly? Carefully examine the cord(s) for wear, discoloration or deterioration.

Replace the whole cord if nicks or worn areas are evident. This will have to come from the manufacturer. Perhaps the store where the blanket was purchased can be of help here. Have the model number and the manufacturer's name with you.

Once you are satisfied with the condition of your blanket, plug it in and enjoy your slumber.

Recycling makes a difference

Ever wonder whether there really is a savings of natural resources or energy when stuff is recycled? There is: Experts tell us that:

- It takes 70 percent less energy to make recycled paper than it does to make new paper. A ton of recycled paper uses 7,000 gallons less water, puts 60 pounds less pollution into the air, and produces three cubic yards less waste. It also takes fewer trees—17 fewer trees per

ton of paper.

- In one year in the United States, the recycling of steel saves enough energy to heat and light 18 million homes. Every ton of recycled steel saves 2,500 pounds of iron ore, 1,000 pounds of coal, and 40 pounds of limestone.

- It takes 75,000 trees every week to produce the Sunday edition of the New York Times.

- It takes 95 percent less energy to make aluminum by

recycling it than it does to produce new aluminum from the mineral bauxite.

- If Americans recycled just one-tenth of their newspapers, we would save about 25 million trees a year.

- Each gallon of gas used by a car contributes about 19 pounds of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. For a single car driven 1,000 miles per month, that adds up to 120 tons of carbon dioxide per year.

New members of your cooperative

Welcome to all new SEIEC members who officially became a part of the cooperative family in August and September 1996!

Susan Atkinson
David Scott Betz
Marie Cope
Harry L. Engledow
Angelina Hart
Nancy S. Heuer
IMC Investors Ltd.
Gary A. Lane
Melissa McKinney
William C. Odum
Beverly Potter
Donald A. Russo
Tara L. Skinner
Patricia Webster
Eldon R. Williams
Jim L. Mann
David K. Sammons
Zebra Construction Co.
Jill Vaughn
Harold W. Atkinson
Coy L. Horney
Heather Glaser
Jerome C. Finney
Robert M. Emery
Thomas Scott Dewar
Jeff Cavender
John F. Dardeen
Bruce A. Hall
Darin R. Pulley
Lora Barnard
George R. Chaltin
David L. Mason
Michael D. Grant
Cody J. Hathaway
Kara A. Holmes
Earnest D. Johnson
T. Kevin Lewis
Ray A. Martin
Robert Pavflonis
Rebecca June Reeder
Anna M. Sample
Larry Storey
Carl J. Weichinger
Marty Yosanovich
Kathryn Cramer
Lewis D. Smith Sr.
Thomas E. Miskelley
Jerry Randall
Kevin Sturm
Lucille Osteen
Tanya Walters
Jacob Luchtenberg
Robert L. Ray

Patrick D. Garrison
David Harris
Pete Arrd
Martin War McNichols
William A. Reynolds
Irene Bender
Donald Collins
Brian C. Downey
David L. Haas
Tammy Hayse
John R. Hunt
Juanita K. Knight
George Lingafelter
Shawna Mitchell
Ramona L. Phillips
Matthew F. Rose
Ann M. Shaffer
Robert E. Taylor
Karl Wendt
Gary Bowlin
Debbie Rooker
Gerald L. Wardway
Walter D. Kline
Daniel K. Ross
Andrew G. Randolph
Gary Caudle
Robert Redowl
Albert Foutch
Nikki L. Aly
Eloise Rainey
Charlene Davis
George Golightly
Dan R. Phillips
Paul Ross
Russ R. Short
Melissa Kriste Clark
Freda Gowins
Freda Gowins
Robert B. Eaton
Jason H. Owens
Barbara A. Catiller
John Cooksey
Barry Butler
Alfred Lee Franklin
Bryan Lee Perdue
Bob Funkhouser
Jeremy Parke
Terry A. Bozarth
Jamie Graves
Ernest Skaggs
William R. Arndt Jr.

Eric D. Johnson
Stephanie J. Lewis
Russell W. Bozarth
Johnnie C. Renfro
Casey L. Martin
Theda J. Rice
Coral Haynes
Johnny M. Powell
Edward A. Bostwick
Gene Morgan
Kara Ballard
Benson L. Stefle
Garry W. Peffer
Forest Edward Campbell
James B. Metten
Kathy Yanko
Donna J. Boney
Donna Edwards
Christopher G. Wargel
Kevin L. Postalwait
Anna L. Aliff
Scott Milligan
James K. Rich
Scott Wilson
Dnaa E. Jeffery
John M. Dodds
Joseph E. O'Conner
Brandy G. Bates
Jonah Rice
Shawn A. Gibson
Sharie Edwards
Russell R. Robbins
Camille Austin
Heartland Funding

September
Cynthia Alton
Geraldine Cox
Richard A. Hines
Robert L. Lasater
Everett E. Martin
Marty Robbins
Lewis D. Smith Jr.
Timothy M. Stroud
Dennis Borawski
Carolyn L. Norris
Corky C. Raney
Pope Co. Med. Cl. Chesi.
Kevin Conner
Ernest A. Crain

William O. Force
William L. Haner
Loren Krantz
Debra L. Malin
Danny Mattingly
Brad Mott
John L. Myers
Robert Pulse
Michael D. Rendleman
Joe E. Sprague
Carolyn Swartos
Douglas E. Thompson
Mary Wallace
Matt Wynn
Daniel K. Ross
Carol Baczewski
Joey Crawford
Kim A. Hobbs
Rebecca A. Logsdon
Samuel Q. Mighell
Dominick Scumaci Jr.
James A. Stone
Darla Browning
Gloria Brombolich
Michael Pool
Tracy Bair
Peggy Cody
Angela R. Craddock
Tom A. Crum Jr.
Reeba J. Flannigan
William D. Hobbs
Joel Lafreniere III
Elmer H. Marks
Dianna Miller
Rick Mundy
Kris A. Norvell
Sharon Rakas
Daniel Rheume
Anita C. Suits
Danny Sweet
Ronald Thompson
John E. Walters
James Major
Harold W. Atkinson
Teresa Chittenden
Cindy Friend
Brett A. Knight
John McCuan
Carla Pyle
Bradley W. Smith
Carlos E. Winkleman
Ludene Dunham

Robert Allen Crouse
Norma Stoneham
Andy Rauman
Tammy Collins
David W. Craig
Gerald R. Erwin
Stanley L. Gurley
Valerie Hubbard
John F. Larrabee
Richard Matika
Rowena J. Montgomery
Tommy L. Murrie
Belinda Lee Pierson
Bobby Lee Reed
Michael A. Sisco
Johnny Summers
Donnie Thomas
Kathryn C. Toth
Cathy Ann Werlfin
Jim L. Mann
Mike Buchanan
Alicia Caudill
Doug Warmoth
Marie Ann Davis
John T. Balliett Jr.
Anita M. Miles
Amber R. Morris
Lesia E. Wright
Allen R. Little
Christopher R. Volle
Roy E. Mathews Jr.
Samantha Ann Francis
Michael L. Hughes Jr.
Chalres Pitts
Kevin Roach
Toby R. Jack
Lee R. Jones
Wendy Rice
Kenneth D. McCalla
Kenneth L. Capps Jr.
Brian D. Kulich
Margaret L. Gillis
Eric H. Behle
Douglas Matthew Rice
Jeffery Bell
John G. Melton
Stanford Williams
Jeremy Deaton
Aaron Ray Presley
Erik B. Luckett

Heat tapes—use them with care



With freezing temperatures here, now is the time to check any heat tape you plan to use for wear and tear and to replace it if it is worn. The Consumer Product Safety Commission also recommends replacement if the tape is more than three years old or lacks the third prong on the plug.

A worn or deteriorating tape will have some discoloration (around the plug usually), charring, cuts or breaks in the insulation, or even bare wire showing. Throw it away!

When installing the new heat tape, carefully follow the installation instructions. Different tapes have different installation requirements.

Always plug the tape into a three-prong, grounded outlet. If possible, replace the outlet with a ground fault circuit interrupter. These can be purchased at hardware stores and home improvement centers.

Make sure the tape you buy was made especially for the application. Some tapes are for use on water pipes, some for roof edges, gutters and downspouts or even garden soil. Choose the correct type tape.

Unless the instructions specifically permit it, do not wrap the tape over itself. This will create a hot spot and will cause the tape to fail and possibly start a fire.

Do not cover a heat tape with

insulation unless the manufacturer recommends it. Even then, use only fiberglass insulation. Never cover it with foam or vinyl insulation; it could catch fire.

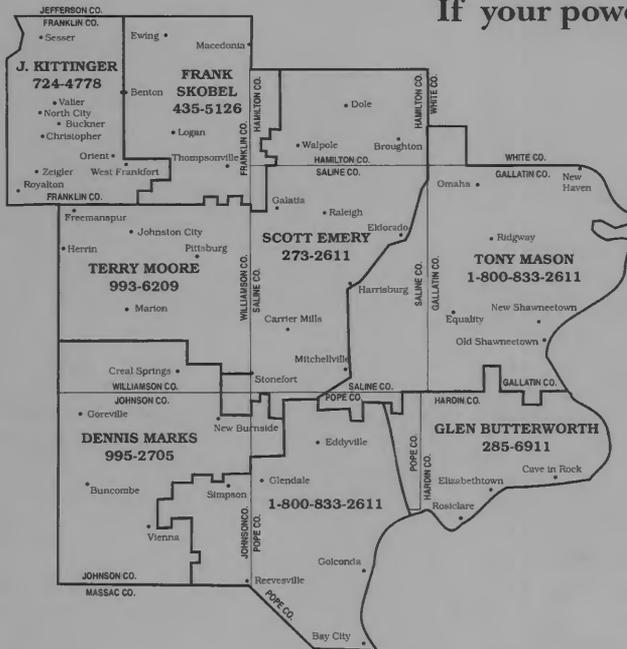
If it is permissible to combine a heat tape with insulation, do not wrap the tape around the insulation and pipe. Apply the tape directly to the pipe, then cover with insulation.

Keep the end cap sealed and off the ground to prevent water from getting in. Moisture can lead to a fire.

Heat tapes perform a useful function. But like any electrical product, they need to be treated with care and respect. Your life and the lives of your family depend on it.

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 1-800-833-2611 or 273-2611. These phone numbers are monitored around the clock, 365 days per year to accept your outage and emergency calls.

5. In the event that you are unable to contact the Cooperative at either of the above numbers, you may call the home of your area serviceman on weekdays (from 4:30 p.m. through 7:30 a.m.) or on weekends to report outages or emergencies. If you do not receive an answer or if the phone is busy, please call 1-800-833-2611 or 273-2611 (COLLECT) to report your outage or emergency situation.

6. Please be prepared to give the party answering your call the account name and location number as it appears on the envelope that contains your billing tickets.

1-800-833-2611



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EMF update

In January of 1994, this column addressed the issue of Electric and Magnetic Fields, or as they are more commonly known, "EMFs." As you might recall, EMFs exist not only around power lines, but also around and adjacent to household appliances, as well as the wiring located within the walls of your home.

Since 1979, millions of dollars have been spent trying to determine if exposure to EMFs could cause cancer or other diseases. In 1993 Congress directed the Department of Energy to research the possible health consequences of exposure to EMFs. Since that time, the National Research Council has met with scientists world wide and reviewed more than 500 studies on the subject. On October 31, 1996, the Council released their report which concludes that

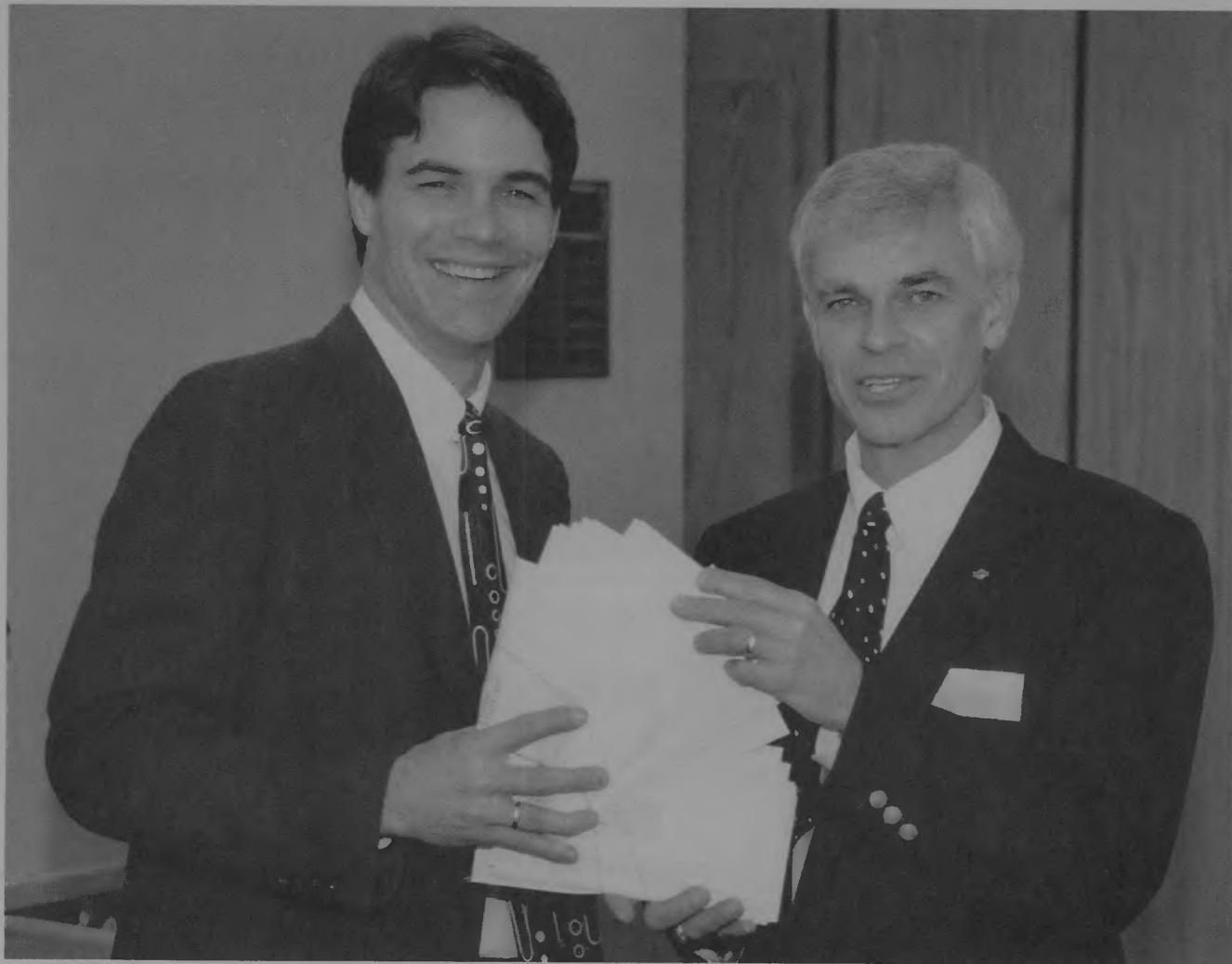
"the current body of evidence does not show that exposure to these fields (EMFs) presents a human health hazard. Specifically, no conclusive and consistent evidence shows that exposures to residential electric and magnetic fields produce

cancer, adverse neurobehavioral effects, or reproductive and developmental effects"

Needless to say, this report is good news for the entire electric industry.

More work needs to be done, however, to determine if there is any possible link between exposure to a very high concentration of power lines and a slightly increased risk of childhood leukemia. To date, scientists have been unable to identify any factor linking the two, but agree that more study needs to be done in this one area. They also want to consider other factors including housing density and neighbor traffic density. Your Cooperative, therefore, intends to continue to honor its voluntary commitment to support EMF research.

As is evident by this column, we will continue to update you on the progress of EMF research and we reaffirm our position that of all the competing energy sources available today—natural gas, propane gas and fuel oil; electricity is, by far, the safest of the group. Best wishes to each and every Member in the upcoming year and as always, "We'll keep the lights on for you."



Greg Cruse, left, SEIEC manager of administrative and financial services, and James M. "Mick" Cummins, general manager, display some of the checks they mailed.

Members enjoy 'the co-op difference'

If your "average" utility were to come into a \$1 million-plus windfall, half a dozen Wall Street bigwigs would laugh all the way to their accountants' offices, to seek a way to avoid paying taxes. The CEO would get a bonus, and the ratepayers at the end of the line would never know.

While SouthEastern is your utility, it's not your "average utility." When we got a \$1.04 million rebate from Southern Illinois Power Cooperative, our power supplier, there was no jubilation in Chicago or New York City. But there certainly was in Eldorado. We were thrilled to have an opportunity to rebate that money to our members, just in time to

brighten the holiday season.

Beginning on December 13, we began sending out some 20,000 checks averaging some \$41 each. Naturally, some were larger and some were smaller. Some large coal mining concerns received \$50,000 checks, since the rebates were based on the amount of electricity used.

It was obvious to us that many of our members were pleased with their holiday season windfalls too, because we got many cards and letters from people who may not have been told about "the cooperative difference," but who certainly knew about it.

For years cooperatives have emphasized their not-for-profit

nature, and their commitment to local community betterment, rather than serving as an investment opportunity for the wealthy. The slogan, "We're Main Street, not Wall Street," is a proclamation of that fact. So was our rebate. We hope you enjoyed yours. We thought we'd share some of our delighted members' comments with you.

One member wrote in a Christmas card to us, "To the co-op board—or whoever voted for the energy rebate—Thank you." Another must have looked for an especially appropriate printed card, because their's read, "Thanks for making this holiday season special." "Thank you for the rebate check," wrote an-

other, who added, "What a surprise to see this arrive in the mail. It couldn't have come at a better time. Merry Christmas!"

A few were simple and to the point: "To all—thank you," one member wrote, while another said, "Thank you for the rebate. It was a nice Christmas surprise." Yet another was even more direct. "Received the rebate check today. Thank you," he wrote.

"Thanks so much for the rebate on our co-op bill. It's not very often you get something out of the mailbox you want to keep, that was a much-needed, unexpected gift. Merry Christmas—hope you all have a wonderful new year. Thanks again," another wrote.

A Pharoah's Gardens couple penned, "Thank you for the check. I've always said you should run the country as we've always had good service at a very nice price. Keep up the good work. Your bill is the only one I pay I've never hated to pay. Very happy with your service!!"

One woman noted that she was delighted with her \$48.85 check, and added, "It sure was a welcome surprise at this time of the year. Happy holidays to each and everyone at SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc." One gentleman commented on the value of electricity, something he knew about. He remembers not having it. He wrote, "I want to thank you for the refund check #064596 in the amount of \$16.82. It is no sweepstakes, but in these days of high prices—every little bit helps."

"Don't let the fire go out at the electric plant and keep the generators running and cranking out the wonderful electricity that keeps all our modern equipment going and computers too."

"When I was a boy on the farm 1 mile west of Tamms we didn't have electricity in the 1930s and it was several years

until we did get electricity put in the house. So I know what drudgery is without electricity. It has certainly made life better for us all and I want to express my feelings of gratitude that we have it," he concluded.

A twice-blessed member wrote, "Thanks for the two nice checks—the refund of capital credits allocated 1965-66, and rebate for January-Sept., 1996. That was a good Christmas surprise."



"It was obvious to us that many of our members were pleased with their holiday season windfalls too, because we got many cards and letters from people who may not have been told about "the cooperative difference," but who certainly knew about it."

"We really appreciate the excellent service we always receive from R.E.A. and the hard work the men have to do in cold, icy weather, getting the power restored so quickly after the storms. They deserve a big "Thank you."

"Thank you so much for the check that arrived yesterday," one member wrote. "We really appreciate having such a great power company. Merry Christmas to all who work there!"

"Thank all of you for the service, patience. It's been a hard year for us this past year. May God bless all of you. The rebate was great and a surprise," one member printed.

"Thank you for surprising us with a check," one couple wrote, adding, "That was very nice of you all, especially during the holiday season. We are also grateful for your low prices and good service all year. Thank you all! Happy holidays and may the Lord bless you all."

One member in particular seems to be aware of the cooperative difference. She wrote, "THANKS!! What a nice surprise! Bet you had as much fun sending these checks out as we did receiving them! It's been a very rough fall, money-wise, so this was really helpful."

And she was right: We did enjoy sending out those checks. We hope our members understand that SEIEC is a member-owned business operated for their benefit. Most of your employees and all your trustees are members (and customers) just as you are.

They share in the cooperative's ups and downs just as you do. They pay the same rates you do, and when your rates go up, theirs do too. When you get a rebate, so do they, and it's proportional to their usage, just like yours. They know that the electricity that flows through our lines is used to energize the economy in our service territory, and that most of the rebate checks we send out do the same thing.

We hope you enjoyed your checks as much as we enjoyed sending them to you, and we want to thank all those who took the time to send us notes. We appreciate hearing from you!



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Technology is causing our world to change at a whirlwind pace. If you own a digital watch, you are probably wearing more computer power on your wrist than existed in the whole world just 40 years ago. Technology has provided us with a myriad of electronic gadgets. These gadgets enable us to start our cars and trucks rapidly on even the coldest of mornings. Technology allows us to open and close our garage doors remotely and to change TV channels without leaving our chairs. We can even record television programs that air when we are not at home. Technology could provide us with digital clocks on microwave ovens, television and VCRs that don't blink as the result of power outages, but to-date it hasn't.

Most of us have several of these appliance clocks spread throughout our homes, and for some reason, it is quite upsetting to come home and find all of these green, red or white electronic digits winking at us. (Could it be that technology has spoiled us?) Fortunately, it is easy to calculate if the power has been out for a substantial period, or if we have just experienced a momentary outage which lasted only a few seconds, commonly and unaffectionately known as a "blink."

Some folks might even have the notion that there were no "blinks" 30 years ago. Well they were there, but we just didn't have the electronic clocks to record them for us.

For several years now, your Coop-

erative, as well as most other electric suppliers, have been using technology to limit power outages. The technology referred to is a device known as a "recloser." A "recloser" is a protective device that works much in the same manner as the circuit breakers work in your home. The main difference being that when you have a short circuit or overload on your home's electrical system and a breaker "trips," you have to manually close it back in. The devices your Cooperative installs on its power lines have the capacity to sense a short circuit and to interrupt power to the affected area momentarily, and then they close themselves, restoring power after the momentary blink. The thought behind this technology is avoid power outages due to temporary short circuit conditions such as a tree brushing against the power lines in a wind storm. Typically, these devices will provide up to three momentary outages or "blinks" before totally disconnecting power to the affected area. Once the device totally disconnects power, someone must go out into the affected area, find the source of the problem, and remove or repair it before power can be restored.

So occasionally when you come home and find all of those multicolored electronic digits winking and blinking, it simply means that the technology installed on the Cooperative's line has done its job. If you however, are experiencing this type of greeting on a daily

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(Continued from page 16a)

basis or more frequently, give us a call and we'll check things out. After all, we want "to keep the lights on for you" and we don't want them to blink any more

than absolutely necessary. Also, to assist us in this endeavor, please avoid planting trees under or near any power lines. A big percentage of "blinking" complaints are traced back to

shade or ornamental trees which have grown into the power lines. Your dream tree might be the source of your neighbor's nightmare. Have a great New Year in 1997!

Fuses, breakers and electrical safety

Probably every house built since the advent of electrical service has had some kind of circuit-overload protection built into its wiring system.

Years ago, fuses were used, and there was a separate one for each circuit. Builders who wanted to "cut corners" could do it easily by cutting back on the number of circuits they provided. Unfortunately, many took advantage of that option, and there are thousands of houses all over the country still grossly under-wired.

Some older homes have just two circuits: one for lights in the ceiling, the other for wall outlets.

Such a house will give its owner endless headaches in the form of blown fuses and frustrations.

Often, a person who wants to plug in a toaster will need to shut off a couple of lamps or unplug a refrigerator or TV set to keep from blowing a fuse. Most of those houses were built years ago, when a radio was the primary form of entertainment, and when a refrigerator was, in all likelihood, the only electric kitchen appliance. Clothes were dried outside on a clothesline. It didn't take many circuits to serve such a house.

Now, we have TV sets—often several in a house—microwave ovens, VCRs, toasters, electric skillets, automatic bread makers, and any number of other gadgets that we enjoy so much.

Now that we all tend to enjoy all those things, many of us have problems with our electricity. Fuses and circuit breakers are designed to protect us from the dangers of short circuits and overloads.

You might think of a fuse as

a form of safety valve that pops off when something's wrong. A fuse is intended to be the weakest link in your home's wiring system. If you get an overload and something overheats, any



Fuses such as these are no longer in widespread use, having been replaced by circuit breakers.

damage that's going to be done will take place in the safety of your fusebox, and will be done to the fuse itself, as it is sacrificed to save the house.

When fuses blow frequently, there is always the temptation to "outsmart" them by using a higher-ampere fuse than what the circuit was designed for. Don't try it! That just moves the danger spot out of your fusebox and into your wiring system, where it will very likely cause a fire. Using a coin or piece of foil to bypass the fuse will do the same thing.

A stopgap measure to keep fuses from blowing is to use fewer electrical devices, but

that's just treating the symptoms. If you have persistent electrical problems, your best bet in the long run is to call a qualified electrician and have him rewire your home, or at least add some circuits.

Make sure he knows what kind of appliances and lights you have and how many of them you're likely to use at one time. And remember that if you're like most of us, you have far more electrical goodies than you had a decade ago, and you'll probably add a few more in the future. There are a few shortcuts an electrician can take advantage of to make your wiring job cheaper, but there's one thing you should insist on. Tell him you want the job done "to code." He'll know what you're talking about. The National Electrical Safety Code was developed over the years to set standards for safe electrical wiring, and to prevent the construction of houses with just one or two circuits. A house wired to code will have at least the minimum number of circuits to do the job right.

While we've discussed fuses here, they have been replaced to a large extent by circuit breakers. They operate much like fuses, but they aren't destroyed by an overload problem. If a breaker "trips," you can go to the breaker box, reset the breaker, and you're back in business.

Even so, breakers that trip frequently are a sign of problems that need to be cured. You need to avoid an overload, or have an electrician find the short circuit that's causing your breakers to trip. And don't forget to insist that any work be up to code. It's a definite safety necessity, not a luxury.

Lighting . . .



YOUR Way

***From dusk to dawn, for security,
safety and attractiveness,
outdoor lights cost just pennies a day.***

Rent a high pressure sodium, 90-watt security light from SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative for only \$6 per month, and protect your home and family. Proper lighting at night improves the security of your property and protects it from vandalism and thefts. Falls and other injuries can also be avoided by lighting dark areas.

Reminder

Members with existing mercury vapor lights can exchange them for the high pressure sodium at no additional cost.

For more information, call
SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative at
(800) 833-2611 or (618) 273-2611

Properly used dishwasher actually saves energy

Studies show the dishwasher actually can be an energy saver.

Dishwashers, like clothes washers, use energy for water-heating and to actually run the dishwasher. So it was assumed by many people that washing dishes by hand was more economical. It might surprise you to know that an efficient automatic dishwasher, when used properly, can consume less hot water than washing dishes by hand. The savings on water heating can more than make up for the power consumed by running the dishwasher.

The amount of energy used in washing dishes largely is determined by the dishwashing style. For instance, it's easy to see that a dishwasher would be more efficient than the running water rinse technique, which

wastefully allows water to run during washing and rinsing. On the other hand, the dishpan-wash/dishpan-rinse technique is very efficient in terms of energy and water.

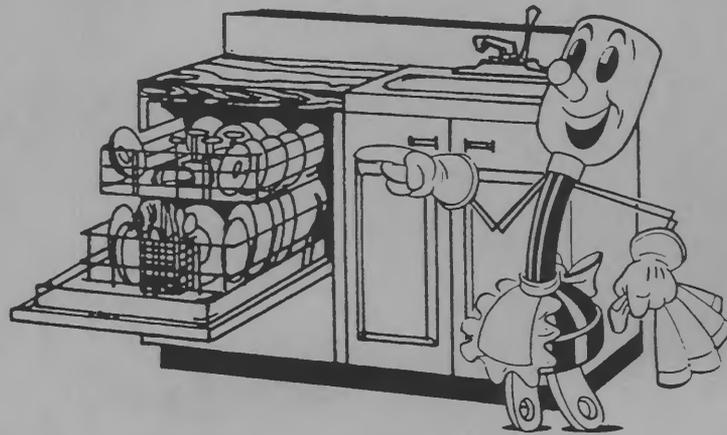
To run your dishwasher most efficiently:

- Run it only with full loads.
- Do not use the prewash or scrub cycles unless absolutely necessary.

• Do not waste hot water by rinsing dishes before loading them into the dishwasher. A properly operating dishwasher should clean even very dirty dishes.

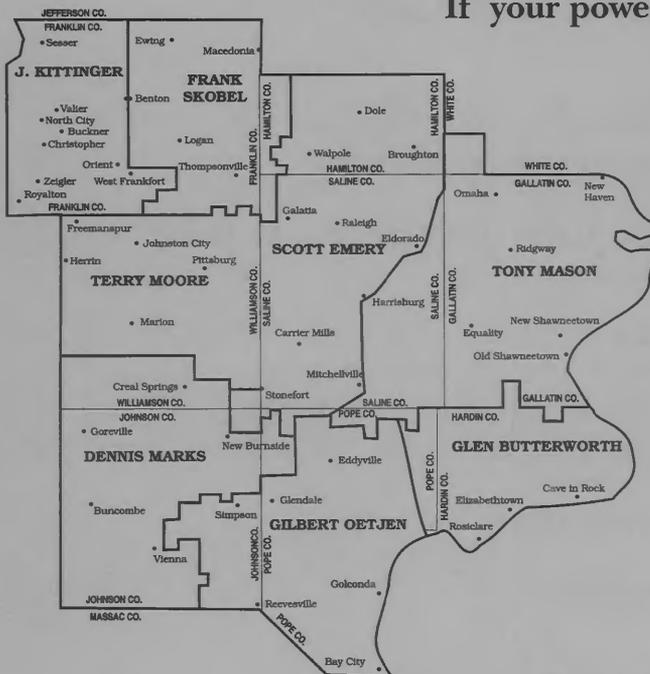
• Use the energy miser or air-dry feature.

So, now you see that wise use of your time-saving, labor-saving dishwasher can yield benefits beyond convenience.



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 1-800-833-2611 or 273-2611. These phone numbers are monitored around the clock, 365 days per year to accept your outage and emergency calls.

5. Please be prepared to give the party answering your call the account name and location number as it appears on the envelope that contains your billing tickets.

1-800-833-2611



The SOUTHEASTERN LIGHT

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

General Manager's Comments

James M. "Mick" Cummins



There's an old story about the trustees of a country church who decided against buying a chandelier for two reasons; first of all, none of the congregation knew how to play a chandelier and secondly, the trustees thought their money would be better spent buying lights for the church.

That old bit of humor reminds me somewhat of the ongoing debate concerning "direct access" or deregulation of the electric industry in Illinois.

Despite all the news media coverage and television advertising, there are still a lot of questions concerning direct access that need answering. Since this issue could affect all SouthEastern members, this column will pose both questions and answers concerning the subject.

Question: Why after all these years is the State of Illinois considering the deregulation (commonly known as "direct access") of its electric suppliers?

Answer: Some Illinois utilities have electric rates that are significantly greater than those of neighboring states. This puts Illinois at a disadvantage when it comes to attracting new industry and retaining existing industry.

Question: Why are some Illinois electric rates higher than those of adjacent Midwestern states?

Answer: Two Illinois utilities; Commonwealth Edison and Illinois Power, have invested heavily in nuclear power plants. Government imposed safety regulations have made nuclear power plants very costly to build and

maintain. Under current Illinois Commerce Commission regulations, investor-owned utilities (IOUs) are guaranteed a rate of return on their investments. Since Commonwealth Edison and Illinois Power's investments are so large, the rates charged to their customers are much higher than the rates other utilities in Illinois charge; sometimes as much as 50 percent higher. Some Illinois Electric Cooperatives were also involved in the Illinois Power's nuclear plant, and they too have high electric rates. Ironically in central and southern Illinois, customers of CILCO, CIPS and SouthEastern have rates that are substantially less than other power suppliers, but for some reason Southern Illinois has not been able to attract industry even with these lower rates.

Question: What impact will "direct access/deregulation" have on my electric bill and service?

Answer: This is a tough question. First of all, none of the four major deregulation proposals being considered are actually calling for "deregulation." Each current proposal, including the ones from CILCO (Central Illinois Light Company), the Illinois Coalition for Responsible Electricity Choice (CIPS, Commonwealth, Illinois Power and others) and CUB (Citizens Utility Board) are, in reality, advocating the "re-regulation" of Illinois utilities which would effectively "unbundle" a customer's power bill into three major components: (1) power generation, (2) transmission,

and (3) distribution.

Under current proposals, customers would eventually be able to have "direct access" to a "power generator." Customers would still be served by the same power company that serves them now, but their electric bills might show separate charges for (1) power generation service, (2) transmission service, and (3) distribution services.

For example, SouthEastern receives generation and transmission services from Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) in Marion, Illinois.

If direct access is implemented into law, a SouthEastern customer might be able to select ENRON, a Texas-based power marketer, in lieu of SIPC as their power supplier. However, since SIPC would still own the transmission lines which ENRON would use to deliver the power into our geographic area, either the customer or ENRON would owe SIPC a fee for the use of their transmission line.

Concurrently, the customer would also owe SouthEastern a fee for bringing the power from the SIPC transmission lines into the customer's home, and would owe SouthEastern other fees for providing such ancillary services as maintenance, billing, etc. Under all current proposals, competing electric suppliers would NOT be able to build new power lines into another utility's designated service area in order to pick up customers.

Question: Will residential customers be allowed "direct access" to a power generator?

Answer: Currently power generators can track loads of one megawatt or larger. It would take about 200 homes to equal a one megawatt load. Aggregators may be able to group houses, subdivisions or even small towns and arrange for direct access to a power gen-

erator. However, there may be additional charges from the aggregator for providing these services.

Question: Will I save money if Illinois re-regulates its electric industry?

Answer: Industrial customers will initially be able to save money in a re-regulated environment. Hopefully, commercial and residential customers will be able to save also, but there are no guarantees for anyone. The proposal from the Coalition for Responsible Energy Choice includes an annual residential rate reduction of 1.5 percent through the year 2004, for a cumulative savings of about 7 percent; however, the rate reduction only applies to customers who do not participate in direct access.

The Coalition proposal also provides for rate increases should profit margins fall below a designated threshold level.

Question: What about the experimental direct access programs underway in some parts of Illinois?

Answer: These programs appear to have provided rate relief for participants, but pilot programs are not certain predictors of what re-regulated prices will actually be.

Currently there is an excess of generation capacity in the United States and most utilities have extra capacity which they are willing to sell at cost, plus a very small margin.

Question: If all customers may not benefit from direct access, who or what is the driving force behind it?

Answer: Industrial customers are pushing hard for lower electric rates in order to remain competitive in a worldwide market. They have been joined in the promotion of direct access by some investor-owned utilities

who anticipate making even greater profits in a re-regulated environment. This quest for increased profits is evidenced by down-sizing and merger trends which not only produce greater profits for shareholders, but also make smaller companies more attractive takeover targets, thus increasing the corporation's stock values. Power marketers such as ENRON and others are also

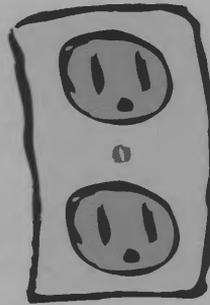
planning to make money from direct access as is evidenced by their network television commercials.

Question: Where does SouthEastern stand on the issue of direct access/deregulation?

Answer: SouthEastern operates for the benefit of its members. It does not operate to produce profits for stockholders. SouthEastern's industrial, commercial and residential rates are very competitive.

Last year SouthEastern's residential members paid an average rate of 7.05 cents per kilowatt, one of the lowest in the State. This was accomplished despite the fact that our revenues per mile of line are only one-sixth the revenue of the investor-owned utilities of Illinois. Our not-for-profit status gives us a big advantage in an open deregulated environment. We can not however, sell for less than cost, which is something the big utilities and marketers may do in order to eliminate competition. Should such tactics be resorted to, deregulation will fail to bring real competition to the electric industry.

Should you have any additional questions concerning "deregulation," please contact me, and always remember that, "We'll keep the lights on for you and your chandelier."





Millstone Water District's new treatment facility at Reevesville is an impressive structure, with some 10,000 square feet of floor space and the ability to treat about three million gallons a day.

Millstone Water district has new home

Southeastern Illinois is home to a brand new facility that has—in a way—been around for years. The Millstone Water District's new treatment plant near Reevesville is taking over from the old plant, which was built in 1974. The new plant will do a better job of treating water, and has a higher capacity. It will keep up with the area's growth for years to come.

Jerry Palmer, operator at the new 10,000 square-foot plant, notes that it has more than twice the capacity of the old one, which is about a mile down the road.

"The old plant could produce just over a million gallons a day, at the most," he says, "while the new one should be able to process about 2.5 million gallons."

A limiting factor now, he says, is a new well, which is not producing as well as had been expected. "The pumps come from the factory 'trimmed' to produce a certain amount of water, and we'd hoped for 1,750 gallons per minute, which would give us about 2.5 million gallons a day," he explains. "We're working on it, but we're not there yet."

At any rate, the new \$5.5 million plant is intended to do a better job of treating water than the old one did. "When we get the water into the plant," Jerry says, "we filter it and aerate it, and we add chlorine as needed to kill harmful

bacteria. We usually add about 1.5-2 parts per million (ppm).

"We use alum to remove iron, and we use lime to get the pH balance where we want it. The pH is a measure of the acidity or alkalinity of the water," he adds, "and we try to treat ours to a pH of about 7.5-8. As mandated by law, we add fluoride to help prevent tooth decay. We add one ppm, and we send a monthly sample to the Illinois Department of Public Health, to verify that we're doing that."

He notes that iron removal is much better at the new facility, and that "red water" complaints, which were fairly common a couple of years ago, are now a thing of the past.

When the water goes out of the plant, it's stored in a 1.1 million gallon tank adjacent to the new building, before being pumped to the towns where it's needed.

Jerry notes that water use is somewhat seasonal, but that the district doesn't experience a massive increase in demand during the summer, as might be expected. "We get a jump in usage along in late April, when everybody's getting spring fever and getting out and washing their cars," he says with a chuckle, "and we get another surge in May, when people start filling swimming pools. Other than that, our usage

is fairly stable."

Millstone Water District now supplies water to almost 1,600 users in its district, and is also supplying the needs of some 415 users in the city of Golconda, including the Golconda Job Corps, Dixon Springs Ag Center, Lake Glendale and Dixon Springs State Park. There are some 250 miles of line in Pope, Johnson and Hardin counties.

Massac Water District provides water to almost 1,500 users in Massac County, south Pope County and part of Pulaski County, including the communities of Rosebud, Temple Hill, Hamlettsburg and New Liberty. It also serves Shawnee Community College and the village of Grand Chain. Massac now has 275 miles of line, and hopes to expand its service to other communities soon.

Mitchellsville Water District supplies water to nearly 600 users in Saline County, including the communities of Garden Heights, Pankeyville, Mitchellsville and Rudement.

In all, there are 11 employees at Millstone, working to provide a much-needed commodity to an area that's also well served by SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative. We look forward to working with them for many years to come!

New members of your cooperative

Salatas, Kimberly D.
 Perry, Larry D.
 Todd, Bobby Lee A.
 Hester, Benjamin M.
 Eubanks, Rutherford
 Handel, George
 Clark, Jim
 Shales Jr., Louis D.
 M. K. G. Marine Service
 Hayes, Melissa A.
 Stinnett, Chris D.
 Dick, Ohmann
 Hensaw, Mary
 Mahoney, John W.
 Beasley, Andy

Hewlett, Robert
 Price, Loy W.
 Barger, Dennis
 Brandner, Brett
 Burns, Thelma L.
 Hogan, Stephen P.
 Phillips, Don
 Vailes, Deveda
 Parks, Robert J.
 McKeown, Channa
 Zurawski, Kathleen L.
 Fornear, David
 Wimberly, Wilmetta
 Weber, Larry P.
 Cheadle, Leslie A.

Hopkins, Bradley
 Shires, Blaine
 Brown, James D.
 Davis, P. T.
 Hammond, Thomas L.
 Marrs, Ryan D.
 Ramos, Katherine M.
 Wells, Glenn Allen
 Desrocher, Paul J.
 Nolen, Jo Ann
 Carlson, Edward C.
 Geisler, Jody M.
 Joiner, Tonya
 Bainbridge, Brian K.

Welcome to all new SEIEC members who became a part of the cooperative family in December 1996!

Faucet aerator easy to install and saves money

A faucet aerator is a simple, low-cost gadget that can cut power costs.

It is easy to install on a kitchen or bathroom faucet, or as a replacement showerhead. The principle is simple. By mixing the water flow with air (aer-

ating), this device can conserve surprising amounts of the energy used to heat water.

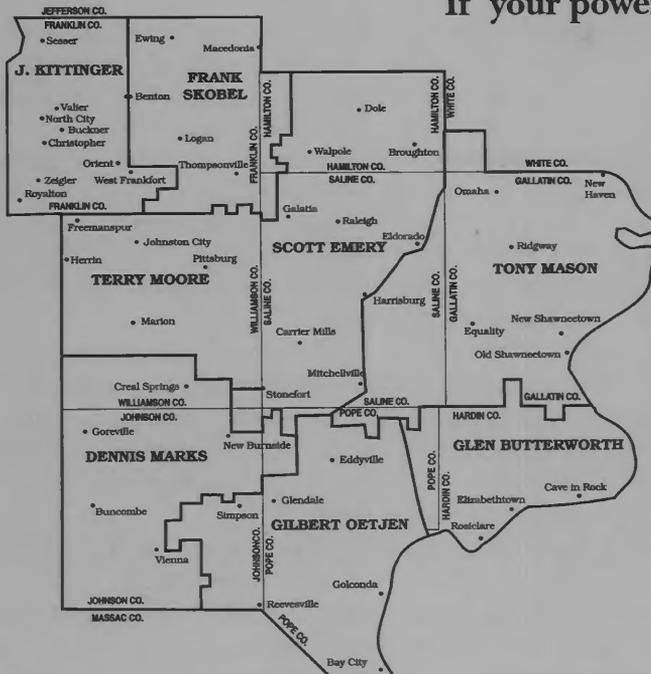
At a cost from \$3 to \$8, they can pay for themselves in as little as 30 to 60 days.

To install one, you need only a few minutes and a wrench.

How about the water flow? Aerators produce a fine, even spray. It may be a little less forceful, but as the gadgets themselves improve, the flow of water they produce now over earlier models is much more pleasing.

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 1-800-833-2611 or 273-2611. These phone numbers are monitored around the clock, 365 days per year to accept your outage and emergency calls.

5. In the event that you are unable to contact the Cooperative at either of the above numbers, you may call the home of your area serviceman on weekdays (from 4:30 p.m. through 7:30 a.m.) or on weekends to report outages or emergencies. If you do not receive an answer or if the phone is busy, please call 1-800-833-2611 or 273-2611 (COLLECT) to report your outage or emergency situation.

6. Please be prepared to give the party answering your call the account name and location number as it appears on the envelope that contains your billing tickets.

1-800-833-2611



The SOUTHEASTERN LIGHT

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

General Manager's Comments

James M. "Mick" Cummins



While the price of natural gas and propane has soared during the past heating season, the price of energy for SouthEastern members using electric heat has remained constant for the past fourteen years. As a matter of fact, when the inflation factor is considered, SouthEastern members are paying considerably less for electric energy than they did in 1984. The average residential member paid 7.05¢ per kilowatt hour in 1996, one of the lowest rates in the State.

SouthEastern members who have chosen to be "all electric" pay only 5.25¢ for all monthly energy used above 1,000 kilowatt hours. This low energy price, coupled with new high efficiency "air-to-air" heat pumps, allow us to compete directly against propane heating.

Consider, for example, the fact that propane priced at 79¢ per gallon, operating in a high efficiency gas furnace, would

result in a MBTU (Million British Thermal Unit) cost of \$9.48. On the other hand, SouthEastern's electric heat rate, coupled with a new high efficiency electric "air-to-air" heat pump, results in a MBTU cost of \$7.70.

Now when the fact that the average new home may use 65 MBTUs in a heating season is considered, the electric heat pump has a \$116 operating advantage—and at SouthEastern, the rates remain the same all year round. Unlike neighboring investor-owned utilities, SouthEastern has NO rate differential for winter and summer usage. So if you're building, remodeling, or just replacing your old heating system, and want to have 116 extra bucks to spend here and there, go "ALL ELECTRIC" with SouthEastern.

See you next month—and until then, always remember, "We'll keep the lights (and heat) on for you."

What's a guy to do?

What can you do about a guy wire? You have to mow around it or plow around it. It's always in your way but what good is it?

Guying cables support the structures of the power lines that bring electricity to your home or business. Without guys to hold the weight and strain of the conductor, the lines would sag and the poles would lean. The power distribution system would break down or collapse under adverse weather conditions and would require more frequent and costly repairs.

The placement of each anchor and guy is calculated for your safety. The

guys are set in precisely the correct positions to hold the strain of the power line.

You can help guy wires on your property do their job by:

- Not hitting or scraping the cable or anchor with mowers, plows or other equipment.
- Not allowing children to play on the cable or remove the bolts.
- Not storing straw, hay, compost or other moisture-attracting materials near the anchor.
- Not stacking or moving sharp-edged scrap metal, sheet metal or pipe around the cable.

Have you increased your electric load?

When electricity came to the farm some 60 years ago, it was for a few light bulbs and maybe a refrigerator to replace the icebox. Farmers soon came to realize that electricity could be used to move grain, milk cows and heat water. It was like having more hired hands on the farm that were there when you needed them, but you didn't have to provide a house for them to live in. Electricity became almost a necessity.

Now we have microwave ovens, televisions, stereo systems, computers and all of the standard electrically operated kitchen ap-

pliances in our homes. Just stop and think about how many things you use that plug into an electric receptacle. And we are adding more and more things all the time.

But what about the wiring in our homes? Do we consider the power supply each time we add a convenience to the home or shop? Or do we just plug it in and use it?

Many of the homes in our service area are more than 50 years old. Consequently, some of the wiring in those homes may be just as old. And it may not be the proper size to handle the load we

are putting on it.

That's where your electric co-op can help. We can visit your farm or home and help you determine what your demand for electricity might be and help you decide if your wiring system is adequate to handle it.

So if you are considering a change in your electric usage, call SouthEastern Illinois Electric. A significant increase might even require a change in transformer size. We want to be able to supply you with all the electricity you need.

What is line loss?

Every year your co-op purchases more electrical energy than it sells. This phenomenon exists at all electric suppliers and is commonly referred to as "line loss."

Imagine buying some ice cream at the store and having a portion of it melt before you get home. Electric utilities have a similar situation when it comes to delivering electricity to your home.

Utilities normally are metered at their substations by their power suppliers. From this meter, data is gathered by which the utilities are billed. The utilities then meter each customer at their home or business. Generally, there is a dif-

ference between the total electricity (kwh) purchases and the total electricity sold. This difference is referred to as a line loss.

The line loss can be attributed to several different factors. One major cause of line loss is heat loss. As electricity flows through power lines, transformers and regulators, the amount of heat increases. This heat loss can be reduced by upgrading distribution lines and properly sizing transformers.

Due to longer distribution lines that cooperatives have, line losses tend to be higher than those in more densely populated areas. SouthEastern Illinois has 20,200

members and averages 6.4 consumers per mile of line. As you can see, our density is quite low. Many cooperatives in Illinois average around 10 percent line loss. Line loss fluctuates from month to month depending when electric meters are read. SEIEC's line loss averages about 4.4 percent.

SEIEC strives to provide its members with reliable electric service and has done a good job at reducing line loss so far. However, we continually are investigating and implementing new methods to further reduce line loss. By keeping our percentage of line loss down, we can serve our membership more efficiently.

Learn the four Rs of electrical safety

Each year thousands of people are injured or die from electrical fires and electrocution. An estimated annual average of 155,000 residential electrical fires claim more than 700 lives, cause 6,800 injuries, and result in over \$1 billion in personal property damage each year.

SouthEastern Illinois Electric, as part of an overall effort to reduce these accidents, has joined forces with the National Electrical Safety Foundation in a public edu-

cation program to raise the awareness of electrical safety.

In May, the National Electrical Safety Foundation kicks off National Electrical Safety Month to remind citizens about the **four Rs** of electrical safety:

- **Respect** the power of electricity.
- **Read** and follow the operating instructions that come with every electrical product.
- **Replace** worn or frayed electrical cords.

- **Relocate** appliance cords so that grown-ups won't walk on them and children can't pull on them.

You can provide help to the success of National Electrical Safety Month by practicing electrical safety habits.

SEIEC is proud to be an integral part of moving this important initiative forward to promote and increase the awareness of electrical safety.

Spring is time to think of geothermal

With the heating season on the way out and the cooling season coming very soon, your friends at SouthEastern recommend you give some thought to having a geothermal heating and cooling system installed in your home. If you're getting ready to build, you certainly ought to look into geothermal.

A geothermal system uses earth-stored energy in partnership with safe, clean electricity, to offer a hard-to-beat way to heat and cool your home the year around.

The heart of the geothermal system is essentially a heat pump with a difference: but what a difference!

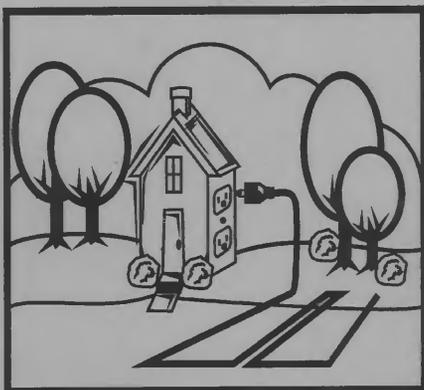
The average air-to-air heat pump works as a reversible system that removes heat from your home in the summer and expels it to the outside air. It does the opposite in the winter, warming outside air and moving it into your home. You decide what it does simply by flicking a switch on your indoor thermostat.

If the air-to-air heat pump has a disadvantage, it's that it starts losing its efficiency at about 10 degrees F., so you have to rely on another heat source to make up the difference.

A geothermal system doesn't have that problem. It draws its heat or coolness from a liquid-filled grid of plastic piping buried 5-6' underground. Once you get about 5 feet below the surface of the earth, the temperature in Illinois is a fairly consistent 55 degrees F., the year around.

Instead of having to cool 90-degree air in the summer, the unit is dealing with 55-degree air, and it does that very efficiently.

When you need heat, the geothermal system is, again, working with a 55-degree medium. That's much better than the subzero weather air-to-air



units have to cope with. All in all, about 70 percent of the "fuel" your unit needs comes from the solar energy absorbed by the earth and stored there.

Not surprisingly, the technology for the geothermal system, also known as a "closed-loop earth-coupled groundwater heat pump system," came from northern Europe. It is only natural that the system would develop in that area, with its harsh climate and high fuel costs.

The idea dates back to the 1940s, but offered no advantage to Americans in a time when the cost of heating and cooling a home was almost insignificant. The energy crunch of the early 1970s changed all that, and Americans started getting serious about economical comfort conditioning.

There was another factor, too. The piping and technology hadn't developed to the point that Americans would feel comfortable with them, and it wasn't until the 1980s that they came together.

Early experiments with polyvinyl chloride (PVC) piping proved unsatisfactory, and until better piping could be developed, the system had no real future.

Today's piping is expected to last 25-75 years in virtually any soil type. Present-day piping has better heat conducting proper-

ties than earlier materials had.

Most closed-loop systems are trenched horizontally in the yard around the home, but the stored solar energy can also come from well water or a pond, if it's large enough. If you don't have room for a horizontal loop, you can have a well drilled or use an existing one. If you need to have your yard trenched, it's usually not a big problem. The trenches are usually about 6-inches wide, and a simple re-seeding will take care of the disturbed lawn. The pipes have no adverse affect on plants above them.

A big plus is that the heart of the unit is installed inside the house, in a garage, storage closet or crawl space, where it's protected from the elements. That prolongs the life of the unit, which is quiet enough that it won't be a bother.

Geothermal systems can save you even more money by providing hot water for your home. Some types of systems can save you up to 50 percent on your annual water heating bill by preheating tank water. These units are standard equipment on some systems and optional on others.

Be sure to look into the possibility of having hot water, too.

While geothermal units seem to be too good to be true, they do have one disadvantage: They're expensive to install because of the trenching or well-drilling needed for the loop.

Don't let that deter you. They will save you so much money on your heating, cooling and water-heating costs that they'll pay for themselves much sooner than any other kind of system that's likely to be available to rural electric consumers.

Ask the people at your electric cooperative for more information on geothermal systems. You'll be glad you did!

Surplus equipment for sale

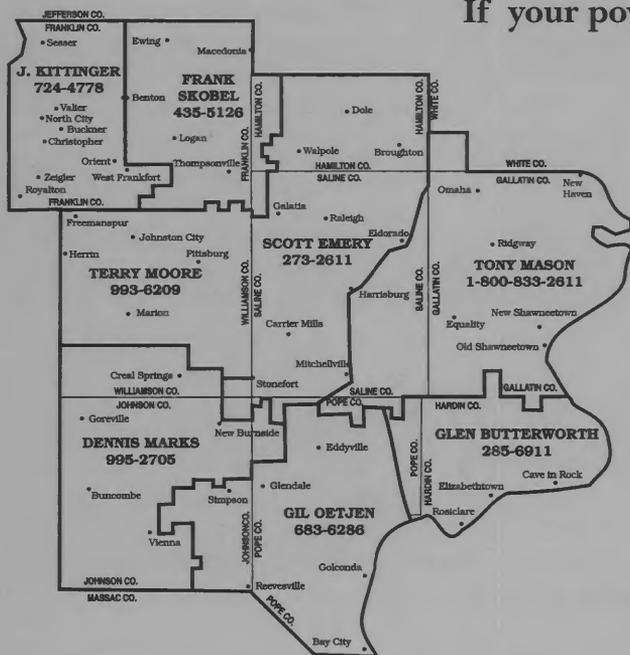
ITEM	DESCRIPTION	ITEM	DESCRIPTION
1	Model #026 Stihl chain saw, 16" bar. (Minimum bid \$100)	7	Model #011 Stihl chain saw, 16" bar. (Minimum bid \$50)
2	Model #028 Stihl chain saw, 16" bar. (Minimum bid \$100)	8	8 rolls AccuFax #75 thermal fax paper.
3	Model #028 Stihl chain saw, 16" bar. (Minimum bid \$100)	9	6 rolls Universal #35751 thermal fax paper.
4	Model #028 Stihl chain saw, 16" bar. (Minimum bid \$100)	10	3 boxes of 10, 3-M brand, formatted, DS, HD, 5-1/4" floppy disks.
5	Model #034 Stihl chain saw, 18" bar. (Minimum bid \$150)	11	1 collection of various computer parts.
6	Model #011 Stihl chain saw, 16" bar. (Minimum bid \$50)		

The above list of surplus equipment is available for sale and may be viewed at the Eldorado headquarters the week of May 5-9. Sealed bids are due by 10 a.m., Friday, May 16, 1997. Please designate the item number you wish to bid on, your bid price, name, address and telephone number.

Please mark **SEALED BID** on the outside of your envelope and send it to **ATTENTION: DON ALLEN**, SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 251, Eldorado, IL 62930.

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1-800-833-2611



The **SOUTHEASTERN LIGHT**

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

General Manager's Comments

James M. "Mick" Cummins



Nominating committee chosen

As provided by the bylaws of SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., a Nominating Committee was chosen April 22, 1997, consisting of the following Cooperative Members:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <u>District No. 1</u>
Tina Bauman
R. #1 - Box 204 Sesser, IL
62884 | <u>District No. 5</u>
Lloyd Williams
R. #1 - Box 186
Omaha, IL 62871 | <u>District No. 8</u>
David W. Wiman
R. #1 - Box 124 Herod, IL
62947 |
| <u>District No. 2</u>
W. D. Fisher
22397 East Heard Lane
Macedonia, IL 62860 | <u>District No. 6</u>
Engene Cobb
4969 Market Road
Marion, IL 62959 | <u>District No. 9</u>
Joseph C. Whitehead
4845 Tunnel Hill Road
Tunnel Hill, IL 62991 |
| <u>District No. 3</u>
Carl L. Smith
R #5 - Box 164
McLeansboro, IL 62859 | <u>District No. 7</u>
Kenneth Hathaway
390 Lambert Road
Harrisburg, IL 62946 | <u>District No. 10</u>
Sandra L. Potts
R. #1 - Box 59
Rosiclare IL 62982 |
| <u>District No. 4</u>
Starla Harris
R #2, Galatia, IL 62935 | | <u>District No. 11</u>
R. C. Davidson, Jr.
R. #3 - Box 136
Golconda, IL 62938 |

The Committee will meet at the office of the Cooperative on Tuesday, June 10, 1997, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., for the purpose of nominating four (4) candidates for three-year terms as Trustees of SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. Trustees whose terms are expiring include: William S. Richardson, 15483 Snowflake Road, Ewing 62836 (District #2); Roy D. Wise, 5625 Highway 145 South, Harrisburg 62946 (District #7); James "Jamie" Scherrer, 8420 Grater Road, Equality 62934 (District #8); and Gary W. Hise, R. #1 - Box 34C, Golconda 62938 (District #11).

/s/ James J. Scherrer
James "Jamie" Scherrer, Secretary
Board of Trustees

Standby power: Insurance against Mother Nature

Buying a standby generator is like buying fire insurance—you may never need it, but it is invaluable when trouble hits.

Although our electrical system is highly dependable and reliable, it is subject to the whims of Mother Nature.

How well are you prepared to handle a prolonged outage? Now is the time to take inventory of your home and farm. Determine how you would pump water, move grain, keep pipes from

freezing, and provide heat and ventilation for livestock. How will you heat your home and keep foods from spoiling?

Now is the time to inventory your electrical needs. Assume you will experience long outages that could cause you inconvenience and financial loss. The Cooperative does not sell standby generators, but we do have personnel to help you analyze your load and make recommendations. And remember,

standby generators are not normally stocked in any quantity, so don't plan on buying one after an outage occurs.

Remember, too, the installation of standby equipment requires a positive double-throw switch. Operating a standby generator without one is extremely dangerous and could result in financial liability.

Let us help you guard against any of those acts of nature no one can foresee.

What stays on when you go out

"There must be something wrong with our meter. We were on vacation most of the month. We couldn't have used this much."

We hear variations of this comment many times every month of the year. Is there something mysterious going on here?

Not really. The homes of today are increasingly equipped with appliances that consume energy without any active intervention by the occupants. Until we go on vacation, these appliances are considered the benefits of our economy. When we get back from vacation we find they have turned into liabilities sim-

ply because they have continued operating automatically while we were gone.

Old refrigerators and freezers are the main culprits in this mystery. And, old doesn't mean ancient. The older any refrigeration unit is the less efficient it is and can account for as much as 25 percent of the monthly electric bill. Add an old freezer or two and the percentage is even higher. A hotter house (assuming the homeowner remembered to shut off the air conditioning) will cause these appliances to run longer to do their job.

Add to the list dehumidifiers, instant-on TVs, cable TV boxes,

clocks, waterbed heaters, water heaters, anything battery powered with charger, sump pump, water pump, swimming pool pump—they all add to the usage and the bill.

Plus, when we return from vacation, we turn everything back on to bring the house into equilibrium and then begin washing, drying, ironing, bathing, cooling, etc., etc. So the electricity we saved by being away is now used after we get back—and maybe more.

So, enjoy your vacation. But remember, we use electricity whether anyone is at home or not.

Please don't send postdated checks

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative will not accept postdated checks to be held and deposited at a later date. The large number of payments we process each day makes it impractical to give special handling to postdated payments. Checks are normally deposited on the

day they are received. Should they be returned by the bank due to being postdated or because of insufficient funds, there is a \$10 additional charge passed on to the member.

If, in the event, you find yourself in a situation where you feel you need to postdate your

electric payment, please contact the Cooperative office so that other arrangements can be made, thereby eliminating the potential of depositing a postdated check and receiving additional charges, both from the bank and the Cooperative.

Farm electrical safety checklist

Service pole and service entrance

- | YES | NO | |
|-----|-----|--|
| ___ | ___ | Do farm family members and all hired farmhands know where and how to disconnect power in the case of an electrical emergency? |
| ___ | ___ | Are disconnects, especially main breakers, regularly turned off and turned back on to ensure free action and good contact? (Manufacturers of circuit breakers claim that they should be opened and reclosed once per month.) |
| ___ | ___ | In case of fire, can the electricity be shut off to that particular building on fire without shutting off electricity to the water pump? |

Animal housing

- | YES | NO | |
|-----|-----|---|
| ___ | ___ | Do animals enter a building or drink at the stock tanks without hesitation? |
| ___ | ___ | Is the water piping (metallic) and service entrances of buildings properly grounded? (NOTE: Check for corrosion of grounding system by animal waste.) |
| ___ | ___ | Is the farmer using an industry-made electric fence which bears the UL label? |
| ___ | ___ | Are heat lamps in farrowing houses hanging by the cord only? In case of drop, are there guards on the fixture? |
| ___ | ___ | Are the lights enclosed in globes and guards (where required)? |
| ___ | ___ | Is the wiring suitable for wet conditions (because of the humidity created by the animals' respiration)? |
| ___ | ___ | Does all wiring appear to be in good condition and free from damage by rodents? |

Grain-handling equipment

- | YES | NO | |
|-----|-----|---|
| ___ | ___ | Are overhead lines out of the way of augers and winged-type farm equipment? |
| ___ | ___ | Do all motors have correctly sized overcurrent protection? |
| ___ | ___ | If magnetic starters are used, are heater coils of the proper size? |

Machine shed

- | YES | NO | |
|-----|-----|---|
| ___ | ___ | Is the grounding bayonet on drop cords, power tools, etc., intact? |
| ___ | ___ | Is the service entrance properly grounded? |
| ___ | ___ | Are all receptacles in use properly grounded? |
| ___ | ___ | Are drop cords of adequate size for the appliance or machine it is serving? |
| ___ | ___ | Are drop cords put away after use so machinery can't run over them? |
| ___ | ___ | Are power tools such as circular saws, table saws, drills, jig saws, etc., left unplugged when not in use so that a child couldn't accidentally turn them on? |
| ___ | ___ | Is it adequately lighted? |
| ___ | ___ | Are drop cords in good condition with no sign of insulation damage? |

General

- | YES | NO | |
|-----|-----|---|
| ___ | ___ | Do children know whom to call in case of an electrical emergency? |
| ___ | ___ | Do family members know first aid for electrical shock and/or burns? |
| ___ | ___ | Are GFI's installed where required? |
| ___ | ___ | Do appliances function satisfactorily without giving a tingle to user when turned on? |
| ___ | ___ | If lightning protection is installed, are all wires leading to ground? |
| ___ | ___ | Are all electrical fittings on the gas pump of explosion-proof type? |
| ___ | ___ | Before trees are planted, has proper siting been provided to avoid nearby overhead and underground power lines? |
| ___ | ___ | Are trees free and clear of overhead electrical lines? |
| ___ | ___ | Before new buildings are constructed, have the buildings been cleared of nearby overhead and underground power lines? |
| ___ | ___ | Can tractors equipped with end loaders be raised to the most upper position and clear all overhead electrical lines? |

Items checked NO indicate a potential electrical safety hazard. Proper action should be taken immediately to ensure safety.

Surplus equipment for sale

1992 DODGE DYNASTY LE:

4-door sedan, white with blue interior, V-6, automatic, power locks, windows, seat, cruise control, tilt wheel, air conditioning, 109,250 miles. Low NADA book value \$3,925.00. Minimum bid \$3,925.00. UNIT #21A.

1992 FORD EXPLORER XL:

4-door, 4-wheel drive, white with gray interior, V-6, automatic, air conditioning, 5-speed control, tilt wheel, luggage rack, 177,350 miles. Low NADA book value \$6,200.00. Minimum bid \$6,200.00. UNIT #23A.

1979 VERMEER V-434 TRENCHER:

Ford 4-cycle gas engine, 40 horsepower, combination dirt/rock digging bar, backhoe, backfill blade, 5 feet maximum trenching depth, 6-1/2 feet maximum backhoe digging depth. Minimum bid \$3,100.00. UNIT #23T.

The above list of surplus equipment is available for sale and may be viewed at the Eldorado headquarters. Sealed bids are due by 10 a.m., Friday, June 20. Please designate the UNIT Number you wish to bid on, your bid price, name, address and telephone number.

Please mark *Sealed Bid* on the outside of your envelope and send it to *Attention: Don Allen, SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 251, Eldorado, IL 62930.*



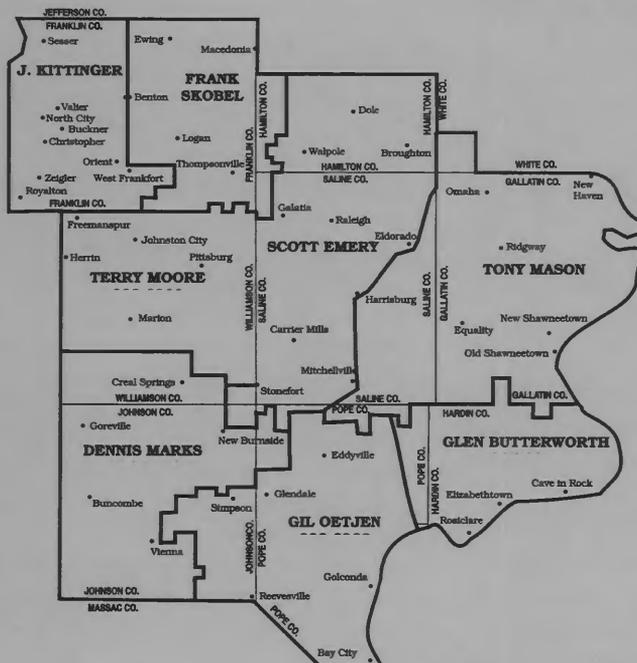
Office closing

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative's office will be closed **Monday, May 26,** in observance of **Memorial Day.**

The cooperative office will resume normal business hours on Tuesday, May 27.

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 1-800-833-2611 or 273-2611. These phone numbers are monitored around the clock, 365 days per year to accept your outage and emergency calls.

5. Please be prepared to give the party answering your call the account name and location number as it appears on the envelope that contains your billing tickets.

1-800-833-2611



The SOUTHEASTERN LIGHT

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

General Manager's Comments

James M. "Mick" Cummins



In order to serve the Southern Illinois area, your Cooperative has installed over 3,200 miles of power lines; more than enough to cross the United States. Broken down into component parts, this 3,200 miles of line represents over 56,000 power poles and roughly one million electrical connectors. Anyone familiar with electricity knows that good connectors are essential to reliability and service, and at SouthEastern we purchase the best aluminum, brass and copper products available. However, our most important connectors aren't formed of metal at all—but consist of the 84 employees and 11 board members who live and work in Southern Illinois. These 95 individuals represent human connections to our geographic area, and almost all are involved in extra vocational activities to make our community a better place to live. As a group, they represent little league coaches, county board members, chamber of commerce members, school board members, Sunday School teachers and more. For instance, at Eldorado a group of employees decided they could make a difference, and collectively they have donated several hundred dollars to the

St. Judes Children Center, and to other local cancer drives as well—and they accomplished this primarily by collecting and selling aluminum cans!

As is evidenced by the ongoing debate on energy deregulation, anyone can sell electricity as a commodity, but not everyone can, or is willing to, provide service in connection with the sale. And while our investor-owned electric company neighbors are closing their offices and laying off employees to improve profit for NONRESIDENT STOCKHOLDERS, SouthEastern's 95 human connections are involved in activities to improve life and service for the RESIDENT STAKEHOLDERS* of Southern Illinois. Everyone seems to know that electricity flows through mechanical connectors, but at SouthEastern we recognize the "POWER OF HUMAN CONNECTIONS."

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

* "Stakeholder" is a Cooperative term for anyone having a vested interest in an organization, and even though SouthEastern has no Stockholders, both its members and employees are "Stakeholders" and will be referred to as such in the future.

Attend the
SouthEastern Illinois
Electric Cooperative
Annual Meeting

Tuesday, August 5
Southeastern Illinois College

Illinois Route 13 east of Harrisburg
or College Drive south of Eldorado

Registration begins at 6 p.m.
Business meeting begins at 7 p.m.

- **Reports of officers**
- **Election of trustees**
- **Other cooperative business**

\$10 electric bill credit
for all members
attending the annual
meeting
on your next electric bill!

Nominating committee chosen

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That the Annual Meeting of the members of SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., will be held at the Southeastern Illinois College, Illinois Route 13, East of Harrisburg or South of Eldorado on College Drive, on August 5, 1997; that the period of registration for said Meeting of Members will be from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m.; business meeting of said Members will convene at 7 p.m. for the purpose of taking action upon the reports of Officers, Trustees, and Committees of said Cooperative, for the election of four (4) Trustees for terms of three (3) years each, and for such other matters as may properly be considered at such meeting.

You are further notified that the number of Trustees to be elected at the 1997 Annual Meeting is four (4) and that one Member is to be elected from each of Districts 2, 7, 8, and 11.

Report of Nominating Committee

As provided by the bylaws of SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., a Nominating Committee, consisting of the following Cooperative Members:

Tina Bauman	District #1
W.D. Fisher	District #2
Carl L. Smith	District #3
Starla Harris	District #4

Lloyd Williams	District #5
Eugene Cobb	District #6
Kenneth Hathaway	District #7
David W. Wiman	District #8
Joseph C. Whitehead	District #9
Sandra L. Potts	District #10
R. C. Davidson, Jr.	District #11

met at the Headquarters office of the Cooperative on June 10, 1997, at the hour of 10 a.m., for the purpose of nominating candidates for Trustee of SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., for the terms expiring.

The undersigned served as Secretary of the meeting.

The following candidates were nominated:

William S. Richardson	District #2
Roy D. Wise	District #7
James (Jamie) Scherrer	District #8
Gary W. Hise	District #11

DATED at Eldorado, Illinois, this 10th day of June, 1997.

/s/ Starla Harris
Secretary of the Meeting

DATED at Eldorado, Illinois, this 10th day of June, 1997.

/s/ James J. Scherrer
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Capital credits for 1996

The most economical method of notifying members of their capital credit allocation is to furnish them with a multiplication factor, which when applied to the total electric bill for the year 1996 will determine the notified of the amount of patronage. Notices will be mailed to large commercial consumers who are not on self-billing.

Self-billing members may determine their capital credit allocations from SouthEastern by multiplying their bills paid (less tax) by a factor of .07164503; for Southern Illinois Power Cooperative use a factor of .06381444.

For those paying accounts under the Small Commercial Schedule, a factor of .07045301 for SouthEastern and .06275271 for Southern Illinois Power Cooperative should be used.

If you are unable to determine your 1996 allocation, the amount credited will be furnished on request.

The bylaws of your cooperative provide that each member shall be notified of the amount of patronage capital credited to his account. Of the total allocation, approximately 25 percent is due to capital credit allocation received from the

Southern Illinois Power Cooperative.

A capital credit plan is an arrangement under which: (1) a cooperative and its members expressly agree that any payment by any patron over the cost of serving him is capital furnished by the patron to the cooperative; (2) the Cooperative credits such patronage capital on its books to the patrons; and (3) such capital will be retired when, in the opinion of the board of trustees, such retirement will not impair the cooperative's financial position.

The capital credit plan provides for service at cost for paying off the REA and CFC loans, for acquiring complete local ownership of the cooperative system, for giving all patrons full credit for all payments in excess of cost, and for the eventual repayment to the patrons of all capital furnished by them. Capital credits are not necessarily available in the form of cash, but are represented largely by investments in poles, wire, transformers and other equipment required to provide service. In general, no patronage capital can be retired until the cooperative has obtained enough capital to take care of all its needs.



The **SOUTHEASTERN LIGHT**

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois



General Manager's Comments

James M. "Mick" Cummins

Power Shortage Predicted for Illinois

As you are probably already aware from newspaper and other news reports, the State of Illinois may be affected by a power supply shortage this summer. The cause of the shortage is the fact that several large nuclear generating plants in Wisconsin and additional plants in Illinois owned by Commonwealth Edison and Illinois Power are also out of service. Experts in the field speculate that these plants may not be in running order when summer's hot weather strikes.

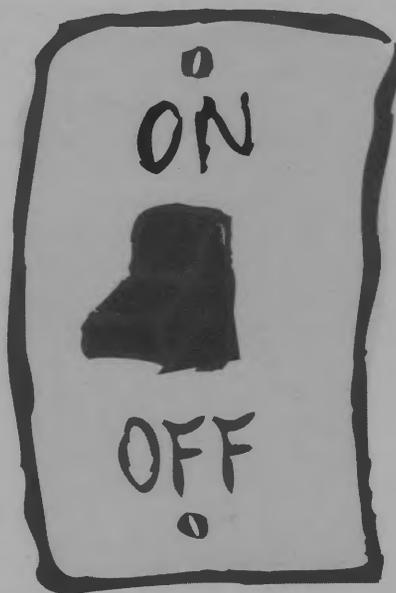
As a member of SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, your power is produced from Illinois coal and is generated by Southern Illinois Power Cooperative which is located near Marion, Illinois. However, for reliability purposes, the Cooperative's Marion plant is interconnected with other utili-

ties such as CIPS, Illinois Power, the Tennessee Valley Authority and others.

Due to the large number of nonoperating power plants in Illinois and Wisconsin, there is an increased potential for power shortages should one of the currently operating plants fail. Should such an unplanned shutdown occur, it could result in an overload and create a tripping situation which might affect the Cooperative's Marion generating plant.

Because of our strong transmission ties to such large power producers as the Tennessee Valley Authority, we feel there is only a marginal chance such an event

would affect your Cooperative. As always, we will do everything possible to "Keep the lights on for you".



Official Notice of 1997 Annual Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That the Annual Meeting of the Members of SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., will be held at Southeastern Illinois College, Illinois Route 13, East of Harrisburg or South of Eldorado on College Drive, on August 5, 1997; that the period of registration for said Meeting of Members will be from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m.; business meeting of said Members will convene at 7 p.m. for the purpose of taking action upon the reports of Officers, Trustees, and Committees of said Cooperative, for the election of four (4) Trustees for terms of three (3) years each, amendment of the Bylaws, and for such other matters as may properly be considered at such meeting. You are further notified that the number of Trustees to be elected at the 1997 Annual Meeting is four (4) and that one Member is to be elected from each of Districts 2, 7, 8, and 11.

Report of nominating committee

As provided by the bylaws of SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., a Nominating Committee, consisting of the following Cooperative Members:

Tina Bauman (District #1)
W. D. Fisher (District #2)
Carl L. Smith (District #3)
Starla Harris (District #4)
Lloyd Williams (District #5)
Eugene Cobb (District #6)
Kenneth Hathaway (District #7)
David W. Wiman (District #8)
Joseph C. Whitehead (District #9)
Sandra L. Potts (District #10)
R. C. Davidson, Jr. (District #11)

met at the office of the Cooperative on June 10, 1997, at the hour of 10 a.m. for the purpose of nominating four (4) candidates for three-year terms as Trustees of SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. for the terms expiring.

The undersigned presided as Secretary of the meeting.

The following candidates were nominated:

William S. Richardson, 15483 Snowflake Road, Ewing (District #2)
Roy D. Wise, 5625 Hwy. 145 South, Harrisburg (District #7)
James "Jamie" Scherrer, 8420 Grater Road, Equality (District #8)
Gary W. Hise, R. #1 -Box 34C, Golconda (District #11)

DATED at Eldorado, Illinois this 10th day of June, 1997.

s/s Starla Harris

Secretary of the Meeting

Proposed bylaw amendments

After much deliberation and consideration, your Board of Trustees proposes the following changes in the Bylaws. These changes will allow your Cooperative to better respond to increasing competition and continue to operate in an effective manner. Thank you for your consideration.

Board resolution

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc. does hereby recommend to the membership of the Cooperative the adoption of the following proposed amendments. . . and does further hereby direct that the same be submitted to a vote of the Members at the Annual Meeting of the Members of the Cooperative to be held August 5, 1997. Notice thereof shall be given to the members, along with the notice of the Annual Meeting. . .

A. To Article IV, Section 8, add:

Provided, however, the Nominating Committee shall be composed entirely of members who are not existing Cooperative employees, agents, officers, trustees, trustee candidates, or close relatives thereof, as presently provided in Article IV, Section 3 of these bylaws.

COMMENT: Required to conform with recent changes in Illinois law, and to maintain consistency within the bylaws.

B. Add a new Article VII, Section 4, as follows:

Section 4. Patronage Capital Retirement After January 1, 1997.

In the event of dissolution or liquidation of the Cooperative, after all outstanding indebtedness of the Cooperative shall

have been paid, outstanding capital credits shall be retired without priority on a pro rata basis before any payments are made on account of property rights of members. If, at any time prior to dissolution or liquidation, the Board of Trustees shall determine that the financial condition of the Cooperative will not be impaired thereby, the capital then credited to patrons' accounts may be retired in full or in part. After January 1, 1997, the Board of Trustees shall determine the method, basis, priority, order, and eligibility of retirement, if any, for all or a portion of amounts thereafter furnished as capital. Any such retirements of capital shall be as determined by a resolution of the Board of Trustees.

COMMENT: Will allow flexibility in method and timing of payment of capital credits to members. Can result in earlier return of capital credits to members. Can reduce overall costs and expenses to Cooperative.

C. Change Article I, Section 3(g), by deleting the following phrase as shown:

...
(g) Either but not both may be elected or appointed as an Officer or Board Member. ~~provided that both meet the qualifications of such office.~~

COMMENT: Failure of one spouse to maintain eligibility or qualifications for office would not disqualify the other spouse.

D. Change Article IV, Section 2, by deleting the following phrase as shown:

... When a membership is held jointly by a husband and wife, either one, but not both, may be elected a Trustee. ~~provided, however, that neither one shall be eligible to become or remain a Trustee or to hold a position of trust in the Cooperative unless both shall meet the qualifications hereinabove set forth ...~~

COMMENT: Failure of one spouse to maintain eligibility or qualifications for office would not disqualify the other spouse.

E. Repeal and remove from the existing Bylaws Article X, Section 4, which reads as follows:

Section 4. Change in Rates.

Written notice shall be given to the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service of the United States of America not less than ninety (90) days prior to the date upon which any proposed change in the rates charged by the Cooperative for electric energy becomes effective.

COMMENT: Notice to Rural Utilities Service is no longer required by law.

F. Add a new Article XI, Section 6, as follows:

Section 6. Close Relative. The term "close relative" as used in these Bylaws shall be deemed to mean and include the relationships by blood or marriage of husband, wife, father, mother, son, daughter, brother, and sister. Notwithstanding any of the foregoing provisions of the Bylaws concerning close relative relationships, no incumbent Trustee shall lose eligibility to remain a Trustee or to be re-elected as a Trustee if that Trustee becomes a close relative of another incumbent Trustee or of a Cooperative employee because of a marriage to which that Trustee was not a party.

COMMENT: Supplies a definition of this term which was apparently omitted from original Bylaws.

DATED at Eldorado, Illinois this 15th day of July, 1997.

James J. Scherrer, Secretary
Board of Trustees

Surplus equipment for sale

1992 DODGE DYNASTY LE: 4-door sedan, white with blue interior, V-6, automatic, power locks, windows, seat, cruise control, tilt wheel, air conditioning, 109,250 miles Low NADA book value \$3,925.00. Minimum bid \$2,925.00. UNIT #21A.

1992 FORD EXPLORER XL: 4-door, 4-wheel drive, white with gray interior, V-6, automatic, air conditioning, 5-speed control, tilt wheel, luggage rack, 177,350 miles. Low NADA book value \$6,200.00. Minimum bid \$5,200.00 UNIT #23A.

1993 CHEVROLET 3500: 4 x 2, heavy duty mechanic's truck, 7.4 litre, V-8 engine, 4-speed automatic transmission, air conditioning, power steering, brakes, 161" wheel base, 84" cab-axle, AM/FM radio,

equipped with Werner mechanic's body, air compressor, electronic welder and electric crane, approximately 148,000 miles. Color: White. Minimum bid \$9,475.00. UNIT #31G.

1988 FORD F-SUPER DUTY: 4 x 2, warehouse truck, 7.5 litre, V-8 engine, 5-speed manual transmission, power steering, brakes, tachometer, AM/FM radio, complete with Omaha Standard 10 ft. stake bed and Auto Crane Model 3203 electric crane with power rotation. Approximately 130,000 miles. Color: Yellow. Minimum bid \$3,915.00. Unit #81W.

1986 FORD F-700: Cab and line body, 24,500 GVWR, 370 gas engine, 2-speed rear axle with no-spin, front mounted

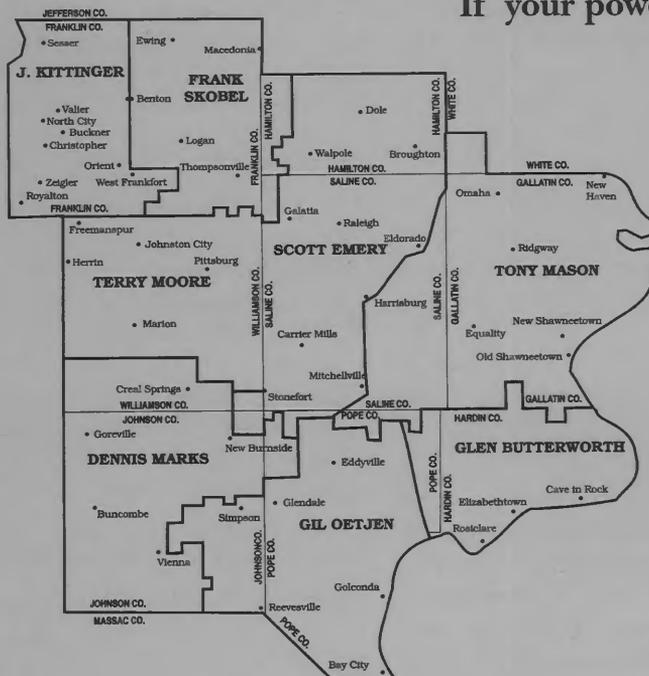
winch, 5-speed transmission (4054D Spiser) 11R22-5 tires, 110,000 pounds per square inch frame. Approximately 101,000 miles. Minimum bid \$4,000.00. Unit #68C.

The above list of surplus equipment is available for sale and may be viewed at the Eldorado headquarters. Sealed bids are due by 10 a.m., Friday, August 15, 1997. Please designate the UNIT number you wish to bid on, your bid price, name, address and telephone number.

Please mark **"Sealed Bid"** on the outside of your envelope and send it to: Mr. Don Allen, Surplus Equipment, SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 251, Eldorado, IL 62930.

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 1-800-833-2611 or 273-2611. These phone numbers are monitored around the clock, 365 days per year to accept your outage and emergency calls.

5. Please be prepared to give the party answering your call the account name and location number as it appears on the envelope that contains your billing tickets.

1-800-833-2611



The **SOUTHEASTERN LIGHT**

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois



The area men who were re-elected to the SEIEC board are congratulated by James M. "Mick" Cummins, manager. From left are Roy D. Wise of Harrisburg, W. S. Richardson of Ewing, Gary Hise of Golconda, James J. "Jamie" Scherrer of Equality and Cummins. The election was held at the co-op's 59th annual meeting on Tuesday, August 5, at Southeastern Illinois College, between Harrisburg and Eldorado.

No rate increase—again!

Those attending the 59th annual meeting of SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SEIEC) at Southeastern Illinois College on Tuesday, August 5, learned that they will not have a rate increase in 1997.

James M. "Mick" Cummins, SEIEC manager, noted that 1996 had been a good year for the co-op, and that operating margins had helped SEIEC fund system improvements to provide service to new members, improve reliability for existing

members, and to meet future electrical requirements.

Speaking to some 1,250 members and guests, Cummins said, "You, our members, would have paid 7.8 cents per kilowatt-hour last year, but our special rebate of just over \$1 million lowered the average residential energy rate to 7.35 cents per kilowatt-hour. Central Illinois Public Service customers paid 8 cents, and Illinois Power Co. customers paid 10 cents. And our rate has the added

benefit that our electricity was generated by locally mined coal. That helped pump about \$9 million back into the area's economy."

Cummins discussed the upcoming deregulation of the electric utility industry, noting that as a not-for-profit utility, SEIEC can be more objective about the costs and benefits of deregulation than investor-owned utilities, or "IOUs," who can't see beyond the bottom line.



Manager James M. "Mick" Cummins gives his report.



Robert Tiberend, president, speaks.



Treasurer Jamie Scherrer gives his report.

"Make no mistake about it," he warned. "The driving force behind deregulation is money. Customers expect to spend less of it, and IOUs expect to make more of it. Someone is going to be disappointed. But we're not looking for a profit. We want the same two things you do: low rates and reliable service."

Robert Tiberend of Benton, SEIEC president, spoke at some length on deregulation, commenting that it might more correctly be termed "reregulation."

"We've seen deregulation in other industries, such as airlines, trucking, railroads, gas and banking. I'm sure that in

some ways these changes have been good, but for small towns, rural areas and many consumers, the promised benefits have not always been there.

"Deregulation will be complicated and confusing. Beware of those with promises that sound too good to be true," he added.

Tiberend remarked that SEIEC is gearing up for competition in two ways. "First," he said, "we work hard. We have an excellent management team and group of employees that run a sound business and provide rural electric and other services second to none.

Second, we have also been involved in the debate over deregulation. And make no mistake about it—this is a political debate you should be involved in too. Strong grassroots political involvement gave birth to this electric cooperative. It was the only way to bring electricity to rural areas when other utilities could not justify the cost.

"By joining together cooperatively, we've enjoyed the benefits of electricity from our democratically controlled, locally owned electric cooperative. This is something I hope never changes. We're rooted in our



There was a good crowd, with about 800 people registered. This photo shows part of the audience.



The Phelps Brothers, a gospel quartet, entertained.

communities," he concluded.

James J. "Jamie" Scherrer of Equality, secretary-treasurer, reported that the co-op's operating revenues for 1996 had amounted to \$34,425,000, up slightly from 1995's \$34,146,000. Operating expenses, he added, had come to \$32,961,000, which was slightly less than last year's \$33,209,000. SouthEastern paid out \$580,000 in taxes in 1996, up somewhat from 1995's \$517,000.

During the meeting the members re-elected four area men to the co-op's governing board. They were William S. Richardson of Ewing, Roy D. Wise of Harrisburg, Jamie Scherrer of Equality and Gary W. Hise of Golconda. They also voted to streamline the cooperative's bylaws.

After the meeting the board met in reorganizational session and elected Richardson president, Wise vice president and Scherrer secretary-treasurer.



Wilma Law of Harrisburg won a combination TV-VCR during the attendance prize drawings. SEIEC's Greg Cruse made the presentation.



Cathy Barger of Eddyville won a microwave oven during the prize drawings. Greg Cruse made the presentation.



Connie Harbison, wife of SEIEC's Ray Harbison, takes a member's blood pressure.

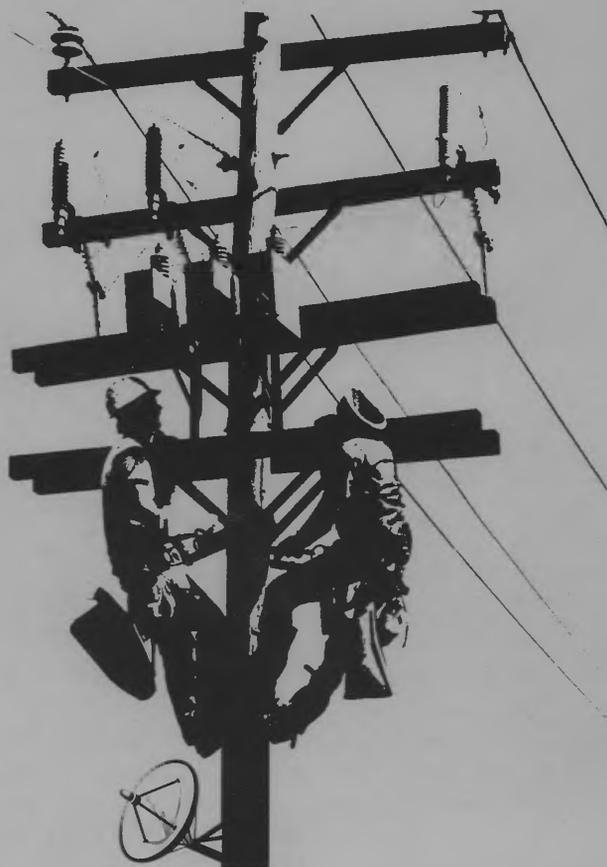


Some 800 members registered.

Some things just don't mix

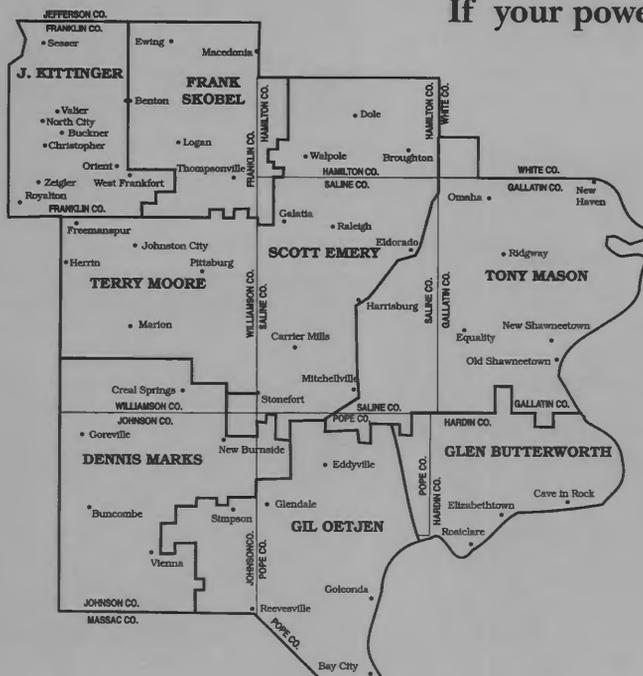
Power poles and many attachments such as satellite systems and billboards are like oil and water—they just don't mix. It is dangerous for you to attach anything to one of SouthEastern's poles, and it is dangerous for our linemen to climb a pole with attachments.

Please do not attach anything to a power pole. Even posters nailed to a pole can cause a lineman to fall if he hits a nail when climbing the pole. If you need assistance removing a foreign object from our pole, call the cooperative at (618) 273-2611 or (800) 833-2611.



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 1-800-833-2611 or 273-2611. These phone numbers are monitored around the clock, 365 days per year to accept your outage and emergency calls.

5. Please be prepared to give the party answering your call the account name and location number as it appears on the envelope that contains your billing tickets.

1-800-833-2611



The **SOUTHEASTERN LIGHT**

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

General Manager's Comments

James M. "Mick" Cummins



"I think I shall never see a poem as lovely as a tree." These words, from the poem entitled "Trees" and penned by poet Joyce Kilmer, express the way many of us feel about trees, and rightfully so, for few plants contribute more to our quality of life than do trees. Trees provide building materials for our homes, medicine for our ailments and function as filters for the air we breathe. They provide habitat for wildlife and, if planted correctly, can help to both cool and warm our homes. They also improve the appearance of our residences and protect our local, as well as the global environment. Yet with all of their advantages, your Cooperative spends hundreds of thousands of dollars annually cutting and trimming trees. Why? It's certainly not because we dislike trees. The answer lies simply in the fact that trees are conductors and can carry electric current just like the bare metal wires which are strung across the countryside to provide power to you and your neighbors. Trees are not really good conductors like copper and aluminum, but when they grow tall enough to come into contact with bare power lines, trees provide a sufficient path for the electricity to return to earth, resulting in a variety of electrical service problems including outages and blinking or dimming lights. When trees are wet their ability to conduct is improved and the likelihood of

blinking, dimming and outages is increased.

To provide quality electric service, it is necessary to keep trees and limbs clear of power line conductors. Certainly this is no easy task considering your Cooperative is currently trimming about 77,000 trees spread out over some 3,280 miles of power lines.

SouthEastern uses the "natural" method of tree trimming endorsed by the National Arbor Association. This method results in a trim cycle of four to five years when adequate initial clearance is obtained, resulting in a healthy tree which is a benefit to both the Cooperative and the property owner. This method differs in appearance from the "rounding over" method used in the past which resulted in frequent retrims, and unhealthy trees, which were more prone to wind damage.

Some of the 77,000 trees we've been trimming are diseased, deformed or otherwise hazardous trees which hopefully we will be able to cut down over the next few years. If you have a tree or trees at your home which fall into the above category, please give Bob Kielhorn a call at 1-(800) 833-2611, extension 165 and talk with him about our "Swap-A-Tree" program which provides for replacement lawn trees to be set away from power lines where we can all enjoy them.

Is it time to update your wiring?

Many people treat electricity far more casually than they should. It's easy to plug in an appliance or flip a switch, so we sometimes forget that the power used to light a lamp or run a washing machine is also strong enough to do physical harm.

Each year, some 1,200 people in the U.S. die by accidental electrocution and in electrically related fires. A book available from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission stresses that many of those deaths could have been prevented if people knew how to maintain their home wiring system.

Using clear illustrations and a problem/solution format, the Home Electrical Safety Check guide lists symptoms of potential electrical hazards, discusses do's and don'ts, and poses questions to help you keep your home safe.

One of the best things you can do to keep your home's electrical system working safely is to have an electrician or electrical inspector check it at least once every 10 years.

Between inspections, it's important for you to do your own checking. The most obvious indication of an electrical problem is a blown fuse in your fuse box or a tripped switch in your electrical panel.

This happens when more electricity is demanded in a certain area than the system was designed to handle. If turning on a particular appliance causes a problem, check to see if you've overloaded the circuit or if the appliance is faulty. If it is, have a professional make repairs.

And whatever you do, don't try to increase its capacity by replacing a blown fuse with a penny or by installing a larger-capacity circuit breaker to remedy a tripped switch. Fuses and breakers are designed to be the weakest link in the system, and if something goes wrong, the problem is confined to the metal box it's in. If you strengthen that link you are, in effect, moving the weak link to inside your walls, where it's invisible and where there are flammable materials.

Don't do it! You'll risk shock or fire.

Many blown fuses and tripped breakers are caused by overloads. Most kitchens, for example, now have far more appliances than they had 20 or 30 years ago. If the circuit hasn't been upgraded, that can cause problems. For example, if you had a toaster that you always plugged into a

favorite outlet, it probably worked fine. But if you added a microwave to the same circuit, that might still be fine—until you tried using both at once.

The rest of the house may well be the same way. A large color TV will use more current than the old black and white jobs did, and you may have an "entertainment center" where there was a simple stereo not long ago.

Even if you've been careful not to overload your circuits, electrical problems can still occur. And whether the problem is with a cord, plug, fixture, or outlet, the signs of an electrical hazard are the same—sparks, arcs (bright flashes of light), sizzling or buzzing, shocks, warm plugs or receptacles, or an odor of burned or overheated wiring or insulation. Don't use the problem appliance or lamp until you can have it repaired.

Many electrical problems and accidents can be prevented by using appliances and fixtures only as they were intended to be used. Don't pinch electrical cords by placing them in doorways or under rugs or furniture, and never staple them.

Pull the plug, not the cord, when disconnecting appliances from outlets. And don't overload outlets or extension cords. Avoid using old cords that may be brittle, damaged, or have a low wattage capacity. Keep your lamps and



lighting fixtures from overheating by checking to see that bulbs are of the right wattage. Newer fixtures are marked with the size of bulb you need. Although they're not always marked, most older fixtures are designed to use a 60-watt bulb or less.

In addition to using your electrical equipment correctly, you can help prevent electrocution by using ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs).

These special outlets or attachments to existing outlets stop the flow of electricity when they detect an electrical current leakage. You could get a shock before the GFCI shuts off, but the unit will prevent serious injury and death. GFCIs should be used in wet areas of the home such as the bathroom, kitchen, basement, garage and outdoor receptacles where the threat of electrical shock is greater.

Learn more about keeping your home wiring system working safely and efficiently.

A Home Electrical Safety Check should help you. Send your name, address and 50 cents to R. Woods, Consumer Information Center - 7B, P.O. Box 100, Pueblo, CO 81002.

Those powerful power lines

Power lines carry electricity, a commodity that powers our appliances and tools, heats and cools our homes, provides convenience and lights our way. But electricity can burn, injure and even kill unless you respect it and exercise safety and extreme caution.

Similar to lightning, the flow of electric current is constantly seeking a path to the ground. Should you cause an object or part of your body to come in contact with a power line, you are immediately providing the path that the electric current is seeking.

Take care not to become the fatal link between electricity and the ground it seeks.

Metal ladders are excellent conductors of electricity. Use extreme caution when using them around power wires, service drops and equipment.

Antennas are cumbersome

and hard to control. They can easily fall or be blown against nearby power lines. Before installing or repairing a radio or TV antenna, call SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative for advice.

Many types of farm equipment are of such height and length that they can easily come into contact with overhead power lines. Always be aware of potential hazards.

- Grain augers can be excellent conductors. Maybe the most dangerous piece of equipment, when raised in a fully expanded position, a grain auger can contact power lines, causing you to become a fatal accident statistic.
- Kites and model airplanes flown near power lines invite accidents. Always keep them clear of power lines. Instruct children never to

climb in trees that have power lines running through their branches.

- Consider any overhead power lines dangerous. Keep objects at least 10 feet away from power lines.
- In areas where farm equipment will be operating, inspect for possible interference with overhead lines.
- Don't attempt to raise or move electric lines. Call your cooperative office (800) 833-2611 or (618) 273-2611 and we will make arrangements to do that kind of work.
- Report any potential power line hazard to SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative.
- If power lines are buried, contact us for a location before digging.

Cut noise and pollution

Few things can shorten your afternoon nap during a summer weekend as quickly as your neighbor's gas lawn mower roaring to life. But besides the noise, think about how these gas mowers are polluting the air.

You'd have to drive a car for almost two straight days to get the same amount of air pollution that a gas-powered lawn mower makes in just one hour.

Each year, all the gas mowers in the



country make as much pollution as 3.5 million automobiles do, according to the Edison Electric Institute and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, two national electric utility trade associations. Cordless electric lawn mowers now available offer you a quieter healthier alternative to cutting your lawn. The cordless electric mower makes only half the noise of a gas mower. And, overall, the electric mowers help keep our air cleaner than gas mowers do, even when you factor in the power-plant emissions that arise when we produce the electricity to charge the electric mowers.

The familiar electric lawn mowers have always been a great alternative to gas mowers for small yards. No starter

ropes to pull, no gasoline fill-ups, oil changes, or expensive maintenance needs. But these electric mowers need a long, awkward cord. The cordless electric mowers use battery power. You get up to 75 minutes of cutting time on a full charge. That's enough to cut a one-quarter-acre lawn, or roughly 10,000 square feet. Completely recharging the mower takes about 20 hours. Although you can get a 75 percent charge within three hours.

You can plug the charging unit in when you're finished cutting the grass, and you'll be ready to go next weekend. What's it cost to charge your mower? The annual cost is about \$3. That's less than what it costs you every year to use your toaster.

Surplus equipment for sale

1992 DODGE DYNASTY LE: 4-door sedan, white with blue interior, V-6, automatic, power locks, windows, seat, cruise control, tilt wheel, air conditioning, 109,250 Miles. Low NADA book value \$3,925. Minimum bid \$1,900. UNIT #21A.

1986 FORD F-700: Cab and line body, 24,500 GVWR, 429 cu. in. gas engine, 2-speed rear axle with no-spin, front mounted winch, 5-speed transmission (4054D Spiser) 20,000 lb. front bumper mounted winch, 11R22-5 tires,

110,000 pounds per square inch frame, approximately 101,000 miles. Minimum bid \$3,000. UNIT #68C.

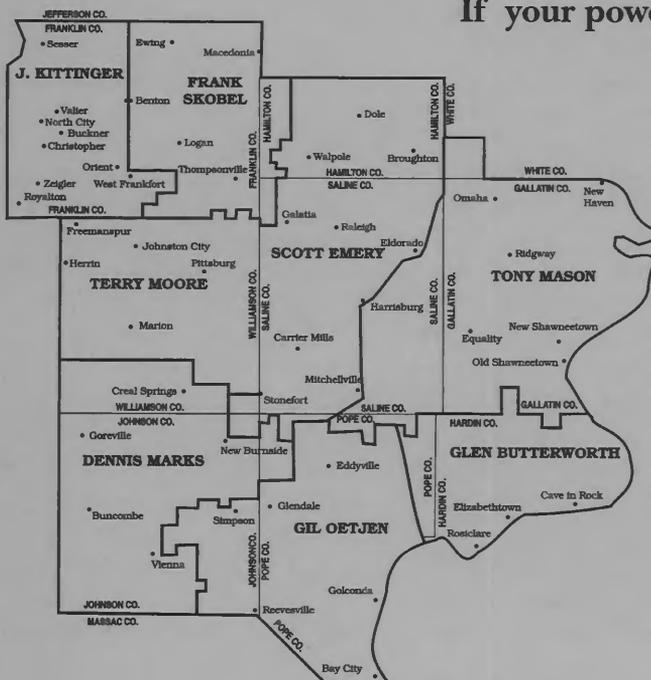


The above surplus equipment is available for sale and may be viewed at the Eldorado headquarters. Sealed bids are due by 4 p.m., Friday, Oct. 17, 1997. Please designate the UNIT number you wish to bid on, your bid price, name, address and telephone number.

Please mark **"SEALED BID"** on the outside of your envelope and send it to: Mr. Don Allen, Surplus Equipment, SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 251, Eldorado, IL 62930.

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The SOUTHEASTERN LIGHT

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

General Manager's Comments

James M. "Mick" Cummins



This article by Staff Writer, Louise Cook is reprinted by permission as it appeared in the *Harrisburg Daily Register* and the *Eldorado Daily Journal*.

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SEIEC) played host-for-a-day Wednesday, Sept. 17, to a group of visitors from China. The visitors, primarily electrical engineers, came to the United States to glean ideas that they can take home in hopes of improving their own country's electric utilities.

The tour, approximately one month long, was arranged through the University of Illinois in Chicago, as a part of its China-American economic development program. The Eldorado co-op was chosen as one stop on the tour because its service to rural customers is something the Chinese wish to learn, in order to service their own rural populations.

This is the fifth time such a group has toured Illinois Electric Cooperative facilities.

"We love having them," says Mick Cummins, General Manager at SEIEC. "They are interested in what we're doing and how we're doing it, and we're interested in helping them." He adds the visitors say they are very impressed with the way co-ops do business.

Xun Dian Tong, Chief Engineer with the Heilongjiang Province Electrifica-

tion of the Countryside Bureau, says his first impression of the United States was of the hospitality and warmth of the people.

He finds SouthEastern's attitudes towards its customers very impressive. "We are really impressed with the conscientiousness of the workers here about their customers," he said through an interpreter. "They work hard to satisfy the customers. This is the thing in China we wish to improve."

He also is impressed with the way the Co-op sets rates, manages the utility, and utilizes computer technology. "These are the things we could learn a lot from and improve where we are in China," he says.

The transportation system in the United States is more advanced than that in China, as well, and he would like to see China become more like this country in that respect.

Xun says he has a very good impression of America generally, and the trip here has been a wonderful experience for him. "The United States is beautiful," he says, "and the people are very friendly. The environment is beautiful, and the houses are beautiful." Xun feels many of the advantages he sees in the United States are a benefit of the free market system, and hopes reforms currently under way in China will bring similar advantages to China.

Chinese engineers visit SEIEC



The group paused to have a photo made with members of the SEIEC staff. Robin Holloway, operations superintendent, is standing at far left, and Bob Kielhorn, property and right-of-way manager, is sixth from left. Gregory Cruse, manager of administrative and financial services, is just right of Kielhorn. Allen Litherland, computer services and special projects manager, is tenth from left, and James M. "Mick" Cummins, manager, is next. Xun Diantong, head of the Chinese delegation, is to the right of Cummins. Ray Harbison, manager of member services and industrial development, is sixteenth from left, and Don Allen, fleet and purchasing manager, is to the right of him. Connie Nudo, computer analyst, is fourth from right.

Twenty-seven Chinese rural electric engineers recently spent several days learning how their American counterparts from southern Illinois provide electric service to rural areas. The group members visited SouthEastern Illinois Power Cooperative, Marion, and SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Eldorado.

The group of engineers was the fifth in a series to visit Illinois electric cooperatives through professional training programs coordinated by the University of Illinois-Chicago. The delegation arrived in the United States in early September and spent the week of September 15 in downstate Illinois.

"We enjoyed the visit from the Chinese engineers," says James "Mick" Cummins, SouthEastern Illinois Electric general manager. "Their group was very bright and in-

quisitive and they seemed to learn a great deal from their visit to our co-op, and we learned from them as well," he said. While at SouthEastern, the group toured the cooperative's electric distribution facilities, learned about load management and toured the business office. They also visited Southeastern Illinois College, south of Eldorado.

"It was our honor to spend the day with them. We shared information about all facets of our cooperative's operations. I

think we opened a lot of eyes. They were impressed that we would share this information and take the time to demonstrate how we provide service to our members," Cummins said. "This was our first opportunity to host a group from a foreign country. We tried to make the most of the experience and enjoyed learning about their nation and their culture, as well as how they provide electric service in rural China," he added.

Following the day-long tour hosted by SouthEastern Illinois Electric, the group visited the Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) generation facilities at Lake of Egypt, south of Marion. Following a welcome and overview of SIPC operations by the power cooperative's staff, the group toured generation facilities. SIPC is jointly



Group members examine a residential electric meter.



Members of the group examine a piece of equipment. They found a lot of the equipment interesting, and cameras were much in evidence.



Xun Diantong, left, head of the Chinese delegation, presents a gift to Robert Birge, vice president of business at SIC, as a token of his appreciation for a tour of the college.

owned by SEIEC; Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola; and Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, Steeleville.

Tim Reeves, SIPC president and general manager, and David Martin of Metropolis, SIPC board chairman, welcomed the Chinese engineers to the power cooperative.

"We're glad to be your hosts for the day and hope you enjoy this visit to southern Illinois," noted Martin. He presented each of the Chinese visitors with a

packet of materials from Metropolis and southern Illinois, including Superman t-shirts.

Reeves and his staff led the Chinese on a tour of SIPC generation, transmission and administrative operations. Following morning tours of the Lake of Egypt operations, SIPC staffers showed their guests the power cooperative's newest substation south of McLeansboro near Dale.

"This substation has some of the latest technology related to our industry," Reeves noted.

"The members of their group were very interested in the facility, the equipment that we use and how we incorporate technology into our operations. They shared with us that the Chinese utilities generally control their electrical operations manually, using labor rather than technology. Some of their engineers were amazed by this technology."

The group was the second in re-



Xun Diantong, center, head of the Chinese group, listens to an interpreter as he translates remarks made by Robin Holloway, SEIEC operations superintendent, right center.



The delegation stopped often for souvenir photos, and this one was taken on the steps of Southeastern Illinois College (SIC), south of Eldorado. Robert Birge SIC vice president of business, hosted the tour. He's pictured second from left on the front row. James M. "Mick" Cummins, manager of SEIEC, is to the right of him in the photo.

cent years to tour Southern Illinois Power Cooperative. A similar group toured SIPC in January of 1996. Both Reeves and Cummins agreed that the visiting engineers were impressed by their American friends' willingness to share information and knowledge.



The SOUTHEASTERN LIGHT

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

General Manager's Comments

James M. "Mick" Cummins



In September of this year, your Cooperative's Board of Trustees was involved in a two-day strategic planning session which was held at SouthEastern's Eldorado office. One of the most heavily discussed and investigated areas was that of energy deregulation which has been implemented in eight states, is pending in six others, and is being considered in Illinois. After reviewing the activities of some of the larger investor owned utilities in other states, and being somewhat shocked by some of their misleading advertisements, your Board established specific goals for doing business in a deregulated environment. Those goals are summed up in the following statement:

"SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc. is a member owned, non-profit Service organization whose mission is to provide reliable Energy and other services which benefit and Involve our membership and Enhance our Community"

Of course slogans, mottoes and mission statements are easy to pen and are often taken for granted; in other words, "talk is cheap", but in this case the words will be backed up with action, because commencing on November 1, 1997, the Eldorado office will be open Saturdays from 8:00 through 12:00 noon for those members needing to do business with our billing or engineering departments. In addition, our rates which are already very competitive, will be reduced for most customer classes in the fall of 1998.

Electric rates can be a complicated and confusing subject and experts are predicting that deregulation will make them even more so. At SouthEastern, our rates are the same year around and there are no fuel cost adjustments. The following summary is a comparison of our 1996 rates to those of Central Illinois Public Service Company and Illinois Power. The IP and CIPS rates are average bills based on 4 months at the utilities summer rate, and 8 months at their winter rate. All rates include the Illinois Public Utility Revenue Tax which adds the lesser of 5% or .0032 cents per kilowatt hour to the consumer's electric bill.

(Continued on page 16b)

(General Manager Comment's continued from 16a)

The fuel adjustment charge which is calculated into the CIPS & Illinois Power rate varies from month to month, therefore, a customer served by IP or CIPS could have charges that are higher or lower than the amounts shown.

Kwh/month	Illinois Power	CIPS	SouthEastern Electric Coop
0	\$ 9.96	\$ 5.01	\$ 8.75
600	\$ 69.36	\$ 53.48	\$ 59.22
900	\$ 96.36	\$ 77.72	\$ 76.83
1200	\$ 123.35	\$ 101.96	\$ 94.44
2000	\$ 195.35	\$ 166.59	\$ 141.40
3000	\$ 285.34	\$ 247.39	\$ 200.03
5000	\$ 465.32	\$ 408.98	\$ 316.58

SouthEastern serves about six customers per mile compared to the thirty-five or so per mile served by utilities such as CIPS and Illinois Power, consequently our charges for no monthly usage or very little monthly usage must be structured to recover our fixed costs. In the fall of 1998, SouthEastern's rates will be restructured to provide additional savings to residences using over 300 kilowatt hours per month. See you next month, and as always, "We'll keep the lights on for you."



***From dusk to dawn, for security, safety and attractiveness,
outdoor lights cost just pennies a day.***

Rent a high pressure sodium, 90-watt security light from SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative for only \$6 per month, and protect your home and family. Proper lighting at night improves the security of your property and protects it from vandalism and thefts. Falls and other injuries can also be avoided by lighting dark areas.

Reminder

Members with existing mercury vapor lights can exchange them for the high pressure sodium at no additional cost.

For more information, call
SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative at
(800) 833-2611 or (618) 273-2611

Thinking of insulating? Do your homework first

If the economic crash that lasted from 1929 until the beginning of World War II was known as the Great Depression, then the approach of fall and the winter that inevitably follows might well be known as "the not-so-great depression."

As the leaves begin to turn and as summer tapers off into autumn, many of us again begin thinking about how difficult it was to heat our homes last year. If you're included in that group, you may be wise to look at the possibility of adding insulation to your home.

Many homes, especially rural ones, were built before the energy crunch of the early 1970s, when fuel was cheap and it was a snap to warm a home: you just turned up the thermostat. The cost amounted to little more than pin money. Insulation was considered an unnecessary expense and was often installed in bare minimum quantities, if at all.

With the rude awakening that came with the Arab oil embargo also came the realization that jogging up the old thermostat had some very real consequences on the energy bill.

But a lack of insulation is usually not the only culprit. Older homes were also built less "tight" than newer ones, simply because it was easier for the builder. Again, heating was no problem. You just added cheap heat.

At any rate, most older homes need both more insulation and tightening up before they'll be both comfortable and affordable to heat.

If you want to build a new house or addition, it's a fairly simple matter to have insulation installed as construction progresses, and that's by far the best bet. If you're even thinking of building, be sure to emphasize to your contractor that you want plenty of insulation and that you want your home sealed well, too.

This column deals primarily with those who need to have insulation added, and assumes that the easy installation during construction is not an option.

Please note that it's the R-value that counts, not just the thickness of the insulation.

At any rate, if you're adding insulation in an attic, you may have the option of putting in fiberglass or mineral wool batts (long rolls), or you can have loose-fill insulation blown in.

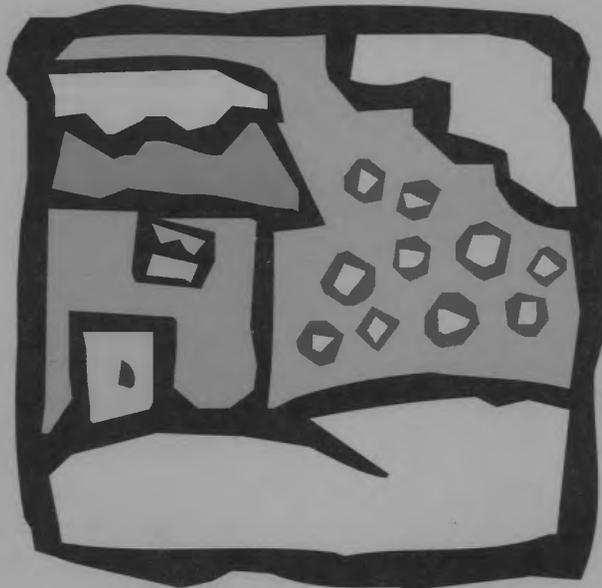
If you need to add insulation to existing walls, you may be limited to loose-fill insulation, since it comes in bags and can be blown into spaces using special equipment. On outer walls, the installer simply drills a hole in each stud cavity and blows in a certain amount of insulation. Then he re-seals the hole.

There are three kinds of loose-fill insulation, and your co-op representative will tell you of his preferences. The first is mineral wool, which is spun smelter slag. Fiberglass is much like it, but is spun from molten glass. Both are about equally environmentally benign, and both have similar properties.

Many experts like cellulose insulation, since it does a good job and uses recycled materials that might otherwise be wasted or wind up in landfills. Cellulose is made from finely chopped paper or cardboard, which is treated for fire retardance and to repel insects.

Installation of some insulation products is beyond the capability of the less handy, but may be a viable option for a home handyman. If you decide to try it, be sure to wear a good respirator, goggles, and suitable clothing. The stuff tends to fly everywhere, and it's extremely uncomfortable if you get much of it on you.

You may want to talk to the people at your co-op. Ask them for a copy of the booklet, "A Builder's Guide to Energy Efficient Construction Standards." While it's intended to spell out ways to build a new home so it'll be as energy efficient as possible, it has a lot of good information for those who just need to caulk, weatherstrip and insulate. It's a good publication, and it's free.



(IEC) Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarship Fund established by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC), Springfield, Illinois, offers two \$1,000 scholarships each year to high school seniors. The AIEC board of directors created this memorial fund in January 1994, to honor deceased members of the electric cooperative family throughout Illinois.

Winners are required to use the scholarship to pay educational costs. They must plan full-time enrollment (at least 12 credit hours) at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university, or vocational/technical school in Illinois, and begin undergraduate studies within a year of being notified they have won.

Scholarships are divided into two categories and the applicant is eligible for only one of the two categories:

- Sons or daughters of members/consumers: SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SEIEC) will evaluate all entries and submit the best application to the IEC Memorial Scholarship Committee for judging.
- Sons or daughters of employees/directors: All applications will be forwarded directly to the

IEC Memorial Scholarship Committee for judging.

Scholarships are awarded on grade point average, college entrance test scores, work experience, volunteer service, participation in school and community activities, biographical statement and knowledge of electric cooperatives as demonstrated by a short essay.

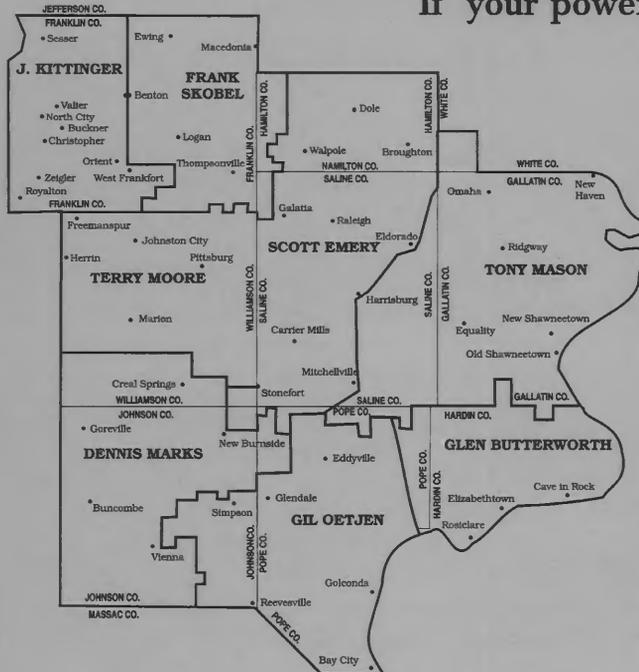
The scholarship committee will review all applicants and select the semifinalists. The Northern Illinois University scholarship selection committee will select the winner in each category based on criteria supplied by the IEC Memorial Scholarship Committee.

Deadline for receipt of completed applications and submissions is Jan. 1. Scholarship winners will be notified by May 1. Scholarships are for one year and are not renewable.

If you have questions concerning the scholarship fund or would like to make a tax-deductible donation, call SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative at (800) 833-2611 or contact Don Wood at the AIEC in Springfield, phone (217) 529-5561.

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