

**CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS**  
**An Equal Opportunity Employer (M/F/H)**

## Looking for home financing?

If you're looking to buy, sell, or move to a new home or are interested in refinancing or a home equity loan, check out Corn Belt Electric Cooperative's new EC Home™ program. EC Home™ brings a superior package of home mortgage financing and related real estate services to you with just one phone call. It offers a variety of services and the opportunity to work with experts who can coordinate all aspects of your "home event." Services you can receive through EC Home™ include the following:

- Totally paper-free, verbal application.
- Prequalification, preapproval and personal mortgage counselling within 24 hours.
- Access to more than 50 types of mortgage products, including no money down and guaranteed rural housing loans.

- New home, refinancing or home equity loan opportunities.
- Affordable, preferred EC Home™ interest rates.
- Opportunities for Cash Back bonuses.
- Discounts on moving van, self-move rentals and related services.
- Access to top real estate professionals, appraisers and inspectors.
- Guaranteed service satisfaction.



To receive more information on our EC Home™ program, please call toll free (888) 324-6631 or call Corn Belt Electric Cooperative at (800) 879-0339 Ext. 228. We look forward to answering your questions and getting you into your dream home.

## Serious thoughts

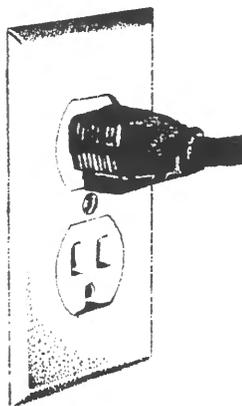
The Consumer Federation of America (CFA) has joined the roster of groups concerned about the impact of electricity deregulation.

"While we hope that consumers will eventually see the benefits of competition in lower electricity prices, serious marketplace problems must be overcome before those benefits can be realized," says Jack Gillis, CFA spokesman.

The nonprofit consumer advocacy group, based in Washington, wants to ensure that:

- Competition won't mean unauthorized changes in service for consumers;
- Consumers have protection against "the inevitable middlemen" in a competitive market;
- Lower income groups continue to have "universal and affordable" electricity;
- Discounts given to large industrial users will not be paid for by consumers who can't buy power in bulk.

*from October, 1997, Rural Electrification Magazine*



## Reason rules

A major, five-year study conducted by scientists at the National Cancer Institute and the University of Minnesota found no risk of leukemia from exposure to electric and magnetic fields.

The study, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, compared data from 638 children with leukemia in nine states with data from 620 healthy children. Researchers measured EMFs inside the children's homes and recorded the size and proximity of electric power lines. The children with cancer had no greater exposure to EMFs than healthy children.

"We basically found nothing," says Leslie Robison, one of the study's authors and a cancer researcher at the University of Minnesota School of Medicine.

In an editorial, the *New England Journal of Medicine* said that earlier studies of leukemia and EMFs were flawed and that the public outcry about power lines "may be driven more by passion than by reason."

"It is said that hundreds of millions of dollars have gone into studies that never had much promise of finding a way to prevent the tragedy of cancer in children," wrote Edward W. Campion, an internist and *New England Journal* deputy editor. from October 1997, Rural Electrification Magazine

## Office closed

The Corn Belt Electric Cooperative office will be closed Thursday, Jan. 1. In the event of an electrical emergency, please phone:  
**(800) 879-0339**



No more lugging bottled water!  
Pure water at your fingertips!



## PureWater

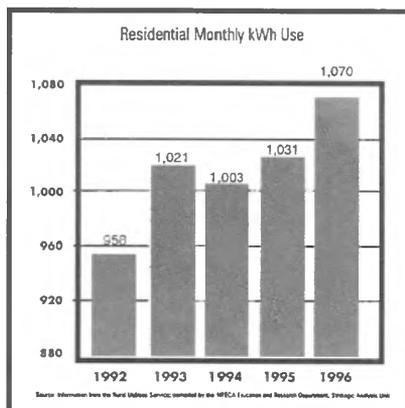
Filtration System

only \$600 and only from

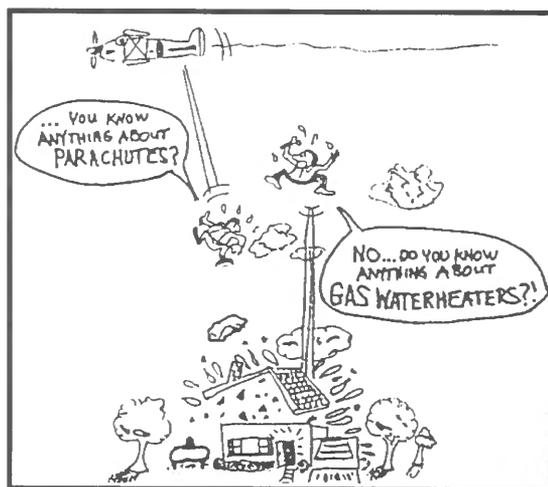
**Corn Belt Electric Cooperative**  
Comparable units cost \$1,000 or more  
Use Visa/MasterCard or pay over 3 months same as cash

## How do you stack up against the average co-op user?

Are you average? "Average" in this case refers to the number of kilowatt hours (kwh) of electricity your household uses each month. According to the Rural Utilities Service, the average co-op household in America uses 1,070 kwh per month, up from 958 kwh in 1992 — an increase of 11.7 percent.



**Source:** Information from the Rural Utilities Service, compiled by the NRECA Education and Research Department, Strategic Analysis Unit



## Electric water heaters

Flameless, ventless, odorless, explosionless, silent, clean, maintenance-free, safe, child-proof, low-priced, produces no carbon monoxide, competitive with gas — and we'll help you buy one with up to \$125 cash!

### Reporting an outage

Dial-local 309-662-5330 Toll-free 800-879-0339

#### WITH TOUCHTONE SERVICE

Our answering machine will tell you to press "1" to get into the outage reporting system. Then follow instructions.

1. Enter **your** area code and phone number using your touch pad.
2. Answer questions using touch pad.
3. Hang up.

#### WITHOUT TOUCHTONE SERVICE

Your call will be answered by our telephone system. If you will hold or wait, you will be put into VOICE MAIL.

1. Tell **your** name, area code, phone number, the time and date.
2. Tell of wire down, tree on line, etc.
3. Hang up.

**Only emergency power problems are dealt with after business hours. Please phone the office with any other business Monday thru Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.**

To have underground cable located call J.U.L.I.E. toll free 800-892-0123



**NOTE: JULIE will not locate underground wiring that is beyond the CBEC meter. Consult the Yellow Pages — Electrical Contractors for this service.**



When you replace an appliance, be sure the new one has a battery backup for the digital clock!!! That way, you won't have to reset it after a split-second interruption in the electric supply.

**CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS**

# Construction Progress



The original 1954 exterior block and brick wall totally removed in the new engineering spaces. Note the temporary braces holding up the juncture of the old and new roofs.



Finishing touches — staining wood trim for the windows.



Installing the metal studs for the office walls in the new engineering department space.



Closing in on the completion. Putting the dropped ceiling in the new engineering space.

## Attention estate executors

To assist estate executors in facilitating the closing of an estate, Corn Belt Electric Cooperative offers the option of a lump sum payment of capital credits due the deceased. This can eliminate the confusion and inconvenience associated with distributing future capital credits among the descendants.

In an optional lump sum settlement, any credits due the estate that are 25 years old or older will be paid in full. However, credits of less than 25 years will be discounted.

The lump sum settlement is not a requirement for estate executors but only an option that will allow the estate to be closed more quickly. Please contact our supervisor of member accounts, extension 221, for more information.

**CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS**

# Stuck at home this winter? 4-H to the rescue!

Whether it be a snow day or school holiday, winter usually provides some extra days at home for the youngsters. Don't let these days become long and boring. Turn to 4-H! 4-H project books are filled with ideas for passing the long winter days. Not only is winter a great time to get started on this year's 4-H projects, but checking out the activities in the 4-H manuals can expose your kids

to lots of new things.

Don't know how to enlist them in the program? Call the Cooperative Extension Service in your county. It's listed just like that in the white pages of the phone book. Someone there can tell you how to go about contacting the leader of the 4-H club nearest you. Do it today. Give your kids and yourself and the TV a break!

## Life support registry

Corn Belt Electric Cooperative maintains a registry of members who are dependent upon electrically operated life-support equipment. Unless we are informed, we have no way of knowing that your location should be listed. If someone in your home uses such equipment, send us a copy of a letter from the doctor and we'll add your location to our Life-Support Member Registry.

Should a power failure occur, a phone call to

the office will alert us to the problem and we'll restore service on a priority basis. However, you should plan to operate the equipment manually or with a generator during a service interruption until our crews can get the outage corrected.

On the other hand, if you are listed in our Registry and no longer need to be, call the office so we can bring it up-to-date.

## Electronic Funds Transfer

This is a free service to pay monthly electric bills. We transfer funds on the 25th of every month (or the next work day). Your bank statement will show the amount paid and the date of the transfer.

To apply: (1) Complete the agreement form. The

name on the agreement must match the name on both your electric and your bank accounts. (2) Attach a voided check to the agreement. (3) Return to Corn Belt Electric with your bill payment. Allow three to six weeks for the service to begin.

### Clip and send

I authorize Corn Belt Electric Cooperative and the designated financial institution to begin automatic deductions of my monthly electric bill from:

Checking Account       Savings Account **Please attach a voided check.**

Financial Institution \_\_\_\_\_ Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

This authority remains in effect until Corn Belt Electric Cooperative, my financial institution or I terminate this agreement in writing.

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Corn Belt Electric Account # \_\_\_\_\_

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CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS  
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## March 28 — *Mark Your Calendar* — March 28 ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS/OWNERS OF CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

To be held at Normal Community West High School

8:30 - 10:00 a.m. Registration — Coffee, Tea, Milk, Donuts and Rolls Served  
10:00 - Noon Annual Meeting of Members - Reports from the Chairman of the Board of Directors, the President and the Treasurer. Election of board members. Entertainment and drawings for prizes during the meeting.  
Noon Dinner served in the cafeteria. Mail the reservation form (below) today!

Watch for the Annual Meeting Booklet in the next issue of Illinois Country Living magazine.

*March 28 — Mark Your Calendar — March 28*

*Please cut out and complete the dinner reservation form and return it to the office before March 26th.*

### 60th annual meeting

Please make \_\_\_\_\_ dinner reservations for

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Map location number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Area Code - Telephone number

## March 28 — *Mark Your Calendar* — March 28

### Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!

You won't care because you won't be wrestling a snowshovel or a snowblower if you've installed electric snow melting cable. Just think of it. Stay snug in the house while your neighbors freeze their noses and toes to clean their walks and drives. And they'll probably be doing it this evening too. You won't, because electricity does it for you — automatically!

**Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!**

# Don't let your dishwasher flush \$\$\$ down the drain

Add up how much electricity all those appliances in your home use, and pretty soon you're talking real money (to paraphrase Everett Dirksen).

About 80 percent of the energy used by a dishwasher is for hot water, not for electricity to run the washer motor. So, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recommends doing the following to make your dishwasher more efficient and save money:

- Check the owner's manual for the recommended water temperature. Many washers have internal heating elements that heat the water in the machine to the desired temperature. This could allow you to lower the temperature of the incoming water from your water heater if it is set too high.

- Scrape, don't rinse, off large pieces of food and bones from dishes. Soak or prewash only when there is burned-on or dried-out food.
- Fill your dishwasher before each use — but don't overload.
- Do not use the "rinse hold" on your machine for just a few soiled dishes. This setting uses three to seven gallons of hot water.
- Let your dishes air dry instead of using the heat-drying option.
- Relax and enjoy the convenience of having a dishwasher. They use less water than hand washing — about six gallons less per load — and they do a better job of killing germs because they use hotter water than you would use with hand washing.

## Electronic funds transfer

Pay your electric bill the effortless way with

### ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER!

On the 25th of the month your bank pays your bill from your account to ours.

Never make out another check to CBEC!

## Balanced budget program

Join at any time—No zero balance required  
No "catch-up" month—Each bill is a 12-month  
Averaged bill—No high seasonal bills on the

## Balanced budget program!

For Details

Phone (309) 662-5330 or (800) 879-0339  
then press Option #2 on your touchpad  
Corn Belt Electric Cooperative  
The "user-owned" electric utility

## Moisture and house wrap

For now, it looks like house wrap, one of the best selling building materials, is losing the war with water. When water penetrates exterior siding, house wrap is supposed to keep the sheathing dry. But recent research by the University of Massachusetts' Paul Fiste and Building Science Corporation's Joe Lstiburek show that house wrap breaks down when exposed to surfactants and extractives commonly found in other building materials. Surfactants are widely used in soap and extractives are naturally released from cedar and redwood. Degraded house wrap is less effective than asphalt-impregnated building felt. Fiste is unwilling to draw specific conclusions based on these early results. Lstiburek, however, says that the house wrap failures are yet another reason to construct exterior walls with vented rain screens.

## Reporting an outage

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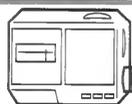
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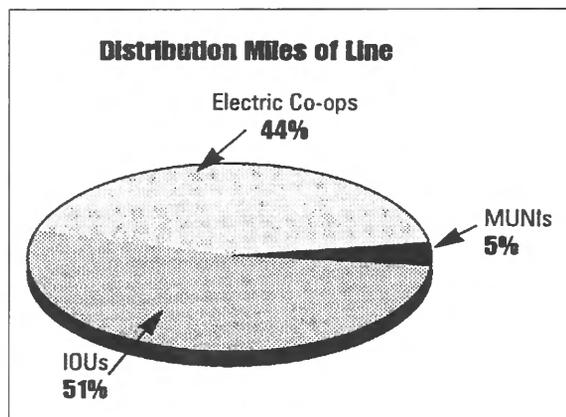
CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

## Co-ops own large portion of electricity distribution lines

America's electric cooperatives serve 11 percent of the nation's customers and own power plants that generate 5 percent of the electricity. However, co-ops own a whopping 44 percent of the distribution lines in the United States — more than 2 million miles of lines in 46 states.

The reason is simple. Many electric co-ops serve sparsely populated rural areas where homes, farms and businesses are relatively far apart. So, co-ops must build and maintain many miles of expensive distribution lines to serve consumer-members.

The average electric co-op has 5.76 customers per mile of distribution line while the average investor-owned electric utility (IOU) has 34.85 customers and the average municipally owned utility ("muni") has 47.76 customers per mile of line.



## New electric heat tapes

Are you using an electric heat tape in your home that is more than three years old? The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates there are about 2,000 fires, 10 deaths and 100 injuries each year involving heat tapes. CPSC recommends using new, certified heat tapes to help prevent these fires.

If you are not sure you have heat tapes (perhaps you are renting a home), you should know that heat tapes are used to keep water pipes from freezing. Consequently, they are usually installed underneath porches and homes, especially mobile homes, or, sometimes, in attics.

Here are some things you should know about new, certified heat tapes:

- Presently, the Underwriters Laboratories (UL), the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) and Factory Mutual Research Corporation are certifying heat tapes.
- Heat tapes are designed for particular uses. Do not use heat tapes designed for water pipes on gutters, driveways or fuel lines. The package for each tape will list the uses for

which it is intended.

- All certified heat tapes will have a 3-prong plug. Always plug the 3-prong plug into a 3-prong outlet to be assured the tape is grounded. The outlet should be protected with a ground-fault circuit-interrupter (GFCI).
- Do not wrap heat tape over itself unless it is specifically stated in the manufacturers instructions that you may.
- Apply heat tapes directly on the pipe to be protected, never on top of the insulation covering the pipe. Do not cover the heat tape with insulation unless the manufacturer's instructions specifically says it can be done.
- Keep the end-cap of the tape sealed and off the ground to prevent water from getting into it.
- If a tape has a thermostat, check the instructions to see if the thermostat should be placed against the pipe and covered with insulation or if it should be left hanging and uncovered.
- Inspect heat tapes each year and replace them if you notice signs of deterioration.

## Heat your home electrically!

Compare the cost for the 7-month heating season

On Our Electric  
Heat Rate

5c-13c a square foot

Heating with  
Propane

25c-32c a square foot



## How big is your house?

**Better check it out!!**

**Call the Member  
Services Department  
(309) 662-5330  
or  
(800) 879-0339**

**CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS**

# Demystifying the language of deregulation

Deregulation is a misnomer. Reregulation is what to expect. That is, as the industry is unbundled (see below) new regulations will be written governing the pricing of transmitting electricity, generating the power and delivering it to the end users.

**Unbundling** — Refers to the requirement that a utility separate the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity into three distinct entities. An unbundled electric bill would list all costs associated with providing electricity to the end-user or a bill could arrive from each of the separate entities.

**Interruptible Rate** — A low rate offered to electricity customers willing to have their electric service interrupted (shut off) for specific periods during the year. This saves the utility from providing power when it costs the most to produce or to purchase.

**Municipal or Muni** — An electric utility owned by a city to provide service for its residents inside the city limits. Often, a city will annex more territory and insist that their electric utility has the right to serve it instead of the utility that has been serving it, perhaps for 75 years or more.

**Public Utilities Commission (PUC)** — This is the term used to describe a state governmental body that, historically, has regulated electric utilities. Each state has its own PUC. In Illinois it is called the Illinois Commerce Commission.

**Public Utilities Holding Company Act (PUHCA)** — Federal legislation dating from the Great Depression of the mid-1930s designed to control the abuses of corporations set up as electric utility holding companies. At the time, 15 holding companies controlled about 85 percent of the electricity produced in the U.S. The proponents of deregulation want to do away with the act.

## Ten simple ways to save energy on the job or at home

1. Use your desktop lamp; why light a tennis court to read a sheet of paper?

2. Use compact fluorescent lamps instead of incandescent.

3. For fewer than three copies, use the printer; for more, use the copier.

4. Laser printers use 300 watts; inkjets use only 10 for similar quality.

5. Using the "stand-by" button on your copier will lighten your energy load by 70 percent.

6. A computer monitor uses 60 watts of power;

turn it off if you leave for more than 10 minutes.

7. Recycling paper reduces water use by 60 percent, energy by 70 percent and cuts pollution in half.

8. Relax and take mass transit — it uses 25 times less energy (if it is an option).

9. Burn carbohydrates, not hydrocarbons: ride your bike to work.

10. Airplanes burn 70 gallons of fuel a minute. Travel by a real super-saver — teleconference.

## Four directors nominated for reelection to board

The Nominating Committee met on December 17, 1997, at the office of the Cooperative to nominate candidates for four board positions to be filled by election at our 60th annual meeting.

The committee nominated the following members for election: Gary Frankeberger, District I; Ralph Steiger, District II; Stephen Schertz, Dis-

trict III; and David Foulke, District V.

The annual meeting will be held at Normal Community West High School on Saturday, March 28, 1998. Watch for the Annual Meeting Booklet in next month's issue of Illinois Country Living magazine.

## Farm credit system

If you think the only form of financial service-cooperatives are credit unions, you're wrong. America's Farm Credit System is a co-op business, owned by the farmers to whom it makes loans.

The System raises funds by selling bonds in the nation's capital markets. It includes three Banks for Cooperatives and eight regional Farm Credit Banks that supervise 238 local, member-owned Farm Credit associations.

Formed in 1916 by Congress to ensure the availability of credit for U.S. farmers, the System in 1996 had loans outstanding of \$39.5 billion, 26 percent of all loans outstanding to U.S. agriculture. In all, the Farm Credit System provides real estate loans, operating loans, home mortgage loans, crop insurance and other financial services to more than 500,000 members.

America's cooperatives: sophisticated, effective and serving the needs of their members.

**CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS**

PHONE NUMBERS  
309-662-5330  
800-879-0339

# Corn Belt Electric News

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

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CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS  
An Equal Opportunity Employer (M/F/H)

## Official meeting notice

Pursuant to the provisions of the bylaws, official notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the members of Corn Belt Electric Cooperative Inc. will be held at the auditorium in Normal Community West High School, Normal, Illinois, at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 28, 1998, to take action on the following matters:

1. Reading of the notice of the meeting and proof of the due publication or mailing thereof, or the waiver or waivers of notice of the meeting as the case may be.
2. Reading of unapproved minutes of the annual meeting of members held March 15, 1997, and taking of the necessary action thereof.
3. To receive reports of officers, directors, employees and committees.
4. To elect four (4) directors: One from District I (McLean, Champaign and Ford counties); one from District II (Tazewell and Logan counties); one from District III (Woodford and Livingston counties); One from District V (Macon and Piatt counties).
5. Unfinished business.
6. New business.

Respectfully,  
Gary Frankeberger  
Secretary-Treasurer



CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

# Agenda

8:30 to 10 a.m. .... **Registration of Members**  
Coffee & Donuts

10 a.m.  
Call to Order ..... Rae F. Payne, *Chairman*  
Invocation ..... Rev. Clarence Young  
Early Bird Prize Drawing

## Business Meeting

Roll Call ..... W. S. Bach, *Attorney*  
Reading of Notice of Meeting and Proof of Mailing ..... Gary Frankeberger, *Secretary-Treasurer*  
Minutes of Previous Meeting ..... Gary Frankeberger, *Secretary-Treasurer*  
Report of Officer ..... Rae F. Payne, *Chairman*  
Introduction of Directors ..... Rae F. Payne, *Chairman*  
Election of Directors ..... Alvin Lamar  
Report of Nominating Committee .....  
Appointment of Tellers .....  
Voting .....  
Chairman's Report ..... Rae F. Payne, *Chairman*  
President's Report ..... J.D. Reeves, *President*  
Entertainment ..... Derry Brownfield  
Questions From the Floor ..... J. D. Reeves, *President*

## Other Business

Introduction of Visitors  
Report of Election Results

**Each member or spouse registered prior to election and present at time of drawing is entitled to one chance. Prizes will be awarded throughout the meeting.**

## Adjournment

Dinner (Immediately following the meeting) ..... Catered by Golden Glow Catering

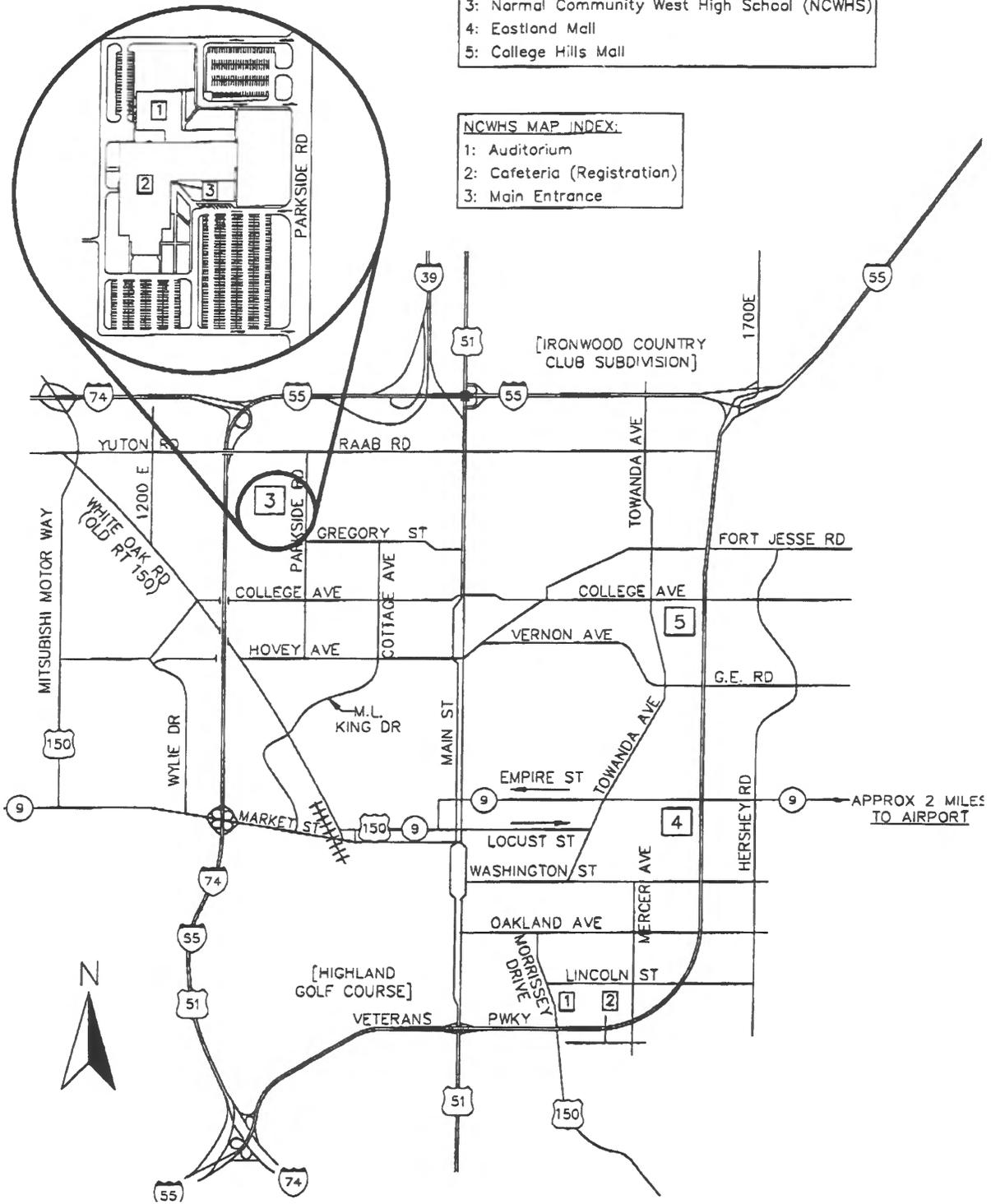
# Map of Bloomington-Normal

## MAP INDEX:

- 1: Corn Belt Electric Cooperative Inc.
- 2: The Radisson Hotel & Conference Center
- 3: Normal Community West High School (NCWHS)
- 4: Eastland Mall
- 5: College Hills Mall

## NCWHS MAP INDEX:

- 1: Auditorium
- 2: Cafeteria (Registration)
- 3: Main Entrance



# Report to members

The past year will be remembered as one of change. Our 60th annual meeting will focus on the changes that have occurred within our own organization as well as for the entire electric utility industry in Illinois.

The 1998 annual meeting will be held on Saturday, March 28th at Normal Community West High School. Refreshments will be served during registration from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. The business meeting will include reports from officers of the cooperative, election of board members, drawings for prizes and, for our entertainment, Mr. Derry Brownfield, an informational and amusing speaker. Following the business meeting, all attending members are invited to a barbecue pork chop and chicken lunch in the school cafeteria.

## Service

Uninterrupted power supply is a goal for all utilities. But it is more than a goal at your cooperative: it is our daily focus and primary purpose. With our lives so dependent upon electricity, the cooperative must make sure that the times you are without it are few and far between. Through system improvements, maintenance and new technology we have been able to reduce outage times for our members by 50 percent. We believe that we can still reduce the number of outages and the amount of time our members are out of power and we will strive to do so.

## Future rate decreases

As has been reported to the membership, Corn Belt Electric Cooperative bought out of its "all requirements" contract with Soyland Power Cooperative in May of last year. This contract required the cooperative to buy power from Soyland through 2015. Buying out the obligation allows the cooperative to go to the open market and secure the lowest-priced power for our members. We borrowed 34.7 million dollars from our lending institution, the Cooperative Finance Corporation, to satisfy our contractual obligations to Soyland. As of Dec. 31, 1997, we had reduced that debt to 30 million dollars. We are paying off the loan by using the difference between market-priced power and the price we were paying to Soyland. Our best estimate for paying off the balance is three and one-half years. Barring unforeseen or unexpected expenses, we should be able to meet that schedule.

With that debt paid we should be able to reduce the rates for our residential consumers by 25 to 30 percent from current prices. Obviously, this will not apply to our Rate 11 accounts. Our nonresidential rates will also be reduced. This reduction should occur in the latter part of 2001 and we

are confident that our rates will then be competitive with any utility in Illinois.

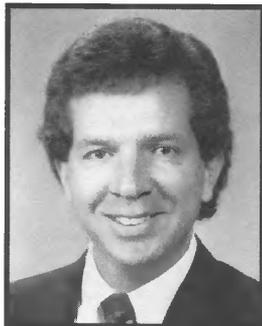
## Deregulation

For the past two years Illinois electric cooperatives have pushed for language in the state's electric utility deregulation legislation that would benefit our members. Just before midnight, Nov. 14, the Illinois House of Representatives passed legislation which will do just that. Following a lead established by the Senate in late October, the House approved H.B. 362 by an overwhelming majority. Governor Jim Edgar, on Dec. 16, signed the bill into law.

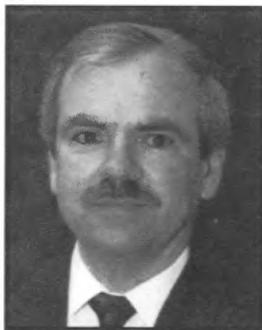
The bill is 261 pages long, very complicated and detailed. In comparison, the five pages dealing with not-for-profit utilities are relatively simple and to the point. It was one of the few portions of the bill that stirred little controversy. The language simply protects the right of self-determination for democratically controlled, not-for-profit utilities, including electric cooperatives and municipal utilities.

Probably the most significant part of the bill is our members' right to act as the guiding force behind our electric cooperative. Which means your elected board of directors has the prerogative to decide if the cooperative will 'opt in' to the deregulated electric utility market. As indicated, the 261-page bill is very complicated and has left some details to interpretation. If the bill is as the board understands it today; and there is not further legislation that could be detrimental to the cooperative, our board is planning to 'opt in'. This will allow our members to buy their power from a supplier of their choice. All members of the cooperative will still have their power distributed by your cooperative. Nothing would change regarding the distribution of the power to you. Your quality of service will remain the same. You still will have a board of directors representing you and an outstanding group of employees ready and willing to meet all of your energy needs.

We are confident that when you have choice you will choose Corn Belt as your power supplier. As previously stated, the cooperative is scheduled to reduce rates prior to May 2002 when all investor-owned utility customers have choice.



**Rae F. Payne**  
*Chairman*



**J. D. Reeves**  
*President*

**Rae F. Payne**  
*Chairman*

**J. D. Reeves**  
*President/General Manager*

# Minutes of nominating committee meeting

The Nominating Committee met on Dec. 17, 1997 at the office of the Cooperative. The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m. with Attorney William S. Bach acting as temporary Chairman. The following members of the committee were present:

Bob Haas, RR 4 Box 291, Clinton 61727; Stanton Malone, RR 1 Box 240A, Maroa 61756; Alvin Lamar, RR 2 Box 309, Bloomington 61704; Ed Allen, 6877 Delavan Road, Delavan 61734; Gary Moncelle, RR 2 Box 96, Lexington 61753; Melvin Schuler, 304 S. Cherry, Lexington 61753; Leo Miller, RR 1 Box 16, Danvers 61732; Arlis Springer, 25349 Litwiller Road, Delavan, 61734; Terry Longman, RR 2 Box 185, El Paso 61738; and Richard Roggy, RR 1 Box 237A, LeRoy 61752.

Alvin Lamar nominated Richard Roggy for Chairman and moved that the nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast. Seconded by Leo Miller. Motion carried.

Arlis Springer nominated Alvin Lamar for Secretary and moved that the nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast. Seconded by Bob Haas. Motion carried.

It was announced that the following directors' terms expire this year:

- |                     |              |             |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------|
| • Gary Frankeberger | District I   | Bloomington |
| • Ralph Steiger     | District II  | Delavan     |
| • Stephen Schertz   | District III | El Paso     |
| • David Foulke      | District V   | Maroa       |

Alvin Lamar nominated Gary Frankeberger to be placed on the ballot for director from District I and moved that the nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast. Seconded by Arlis Springer. Motion carried.

Arlis Springer nominated Ralph Steiger to be placed on the ballot for director from District II and moved that the nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast. Seconded by Stanton Malone. Motion carried.

Terry Longman nominated Stephen Schertz to be placed on the ballot for director from District III and moved that the nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast. Seconded by Leo Miller. Motion carried.

Stanton Malone nominated Laverne Malone to be placed on the ballot for director from District V and moved that the nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast. Seconded by Bob Haas. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the committee, Terry Longman moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Melvin Schuler. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

*Alvin Lamar*  
Secretary

Approved:

*Richard Roggy*  
Chairman

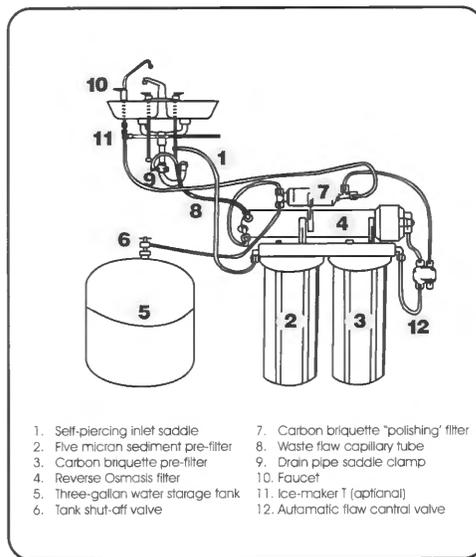


## You deserve PureWater

**Yes you do! And Corn Belt Electric has it.** PureWater produces up to 25 gallons a day of pure, odorless drinking and cooking water, has 4 filters including reverse-osmosis and is comparable to models selling for \$1,000-\$1,200. Makes great ice cubes too.

**The system is only \$600**

*\*Plus tax and installation.*



1. Self-piercing inlet saddle
2. Five micron sediment pre-filter
3. Carbon briquette pre-filter
4. Reverse Osmosis filter
5. Three-gallon water storage tank
6. Tank shut-off valve
7. Carbon briquette "polishing" filter
8. Waste flow capillary tube
9. Drain pipe saddle clamp
10. Faucet
11. Ice-maker T (optional)
12. Automatic flow control valve

**Corn Belt Electric Cooperative**  
**1502 Morrissey Drive • Bloomington 61701**  
**Phone 309-662-5330 or 800-879-0339**  
**press #4 on your touchpad**

## Cooperative Personnel

Jeffrey D. Reeves, *president and general manager*  
 William S. Bach, *attorney*  
 Advantage Engineering, *engineer*  
 Botz, Deal & Company, *certified public accountant*  
 Dorothy Scott, *administrative assistant*

### Utility Services

Ronald A. Stack, *vice president*

### Member Services

Jerry Durlinger, *manager*  
 Ronald McGuire, *meter and serviceman*  
 Tom Moore, *member services representative*  
 Ed Ruhtrup, *meter and serviceman*  
 Amy Stuart, *member services clerk*

### Marketing & Public Affairs

Dave Hawkinson, *director*  
 Emily Anderson, *marketing representative*

### Office Services

Robert Fischbach, *manager*  
 Jeannie Blakemore, *payroll clerk*  
 Pamela Carr, *senior member accounts representative*  
 Jason Carter, *member accounts representative*  
 Carol Hamilton, *member accounts supervisor*  
 Lynn Lauer, *accounting supervisor*  
 Jane Stegall, *billing systems specialist*  
 Gayle Sparrow, *accounts payable clerk*  
 Susan Wingett, *work order clerk*

### Electric Distribution

Tony Campbell, *vice president*  
 Kimberly Bland, *operations clerk I*

## Your neighbors serving as your



William S. Bach  
 Attorney



Stephen S. Schertz  
 Vice Chairman  
 El Paso



Janice Reimer  
 Asst. Secretary-Treasurer  
 Carlock



Thomas Johns  
 Delavan



Ralph L. Steiger  
 Delavan

Jeannie Bruns, *senior storehouseman*  
 Paul Roberts, *mechanic*  
 Melinda Rosenthal, *storehouseman*  
 Wayne Williams, *mechanic*

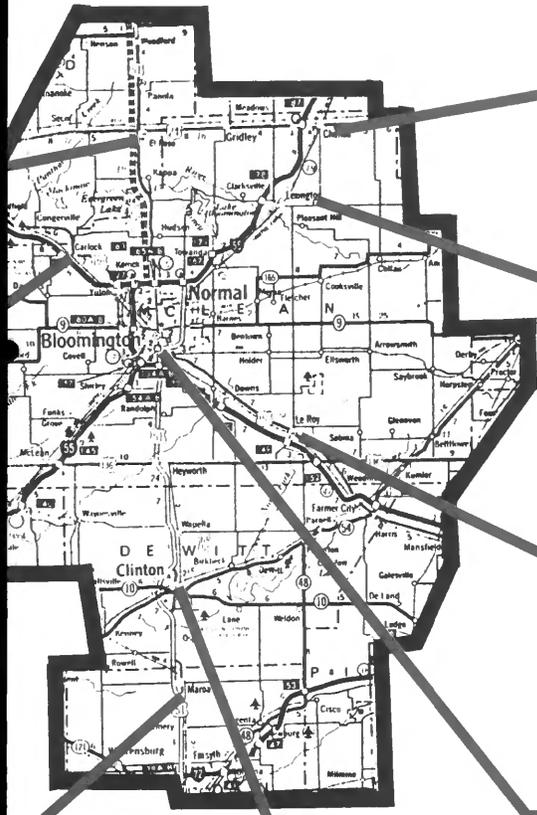
### Construction & Maintenance

Larry Young, *manager*  
 Gary Abfalder, *underground foreman*

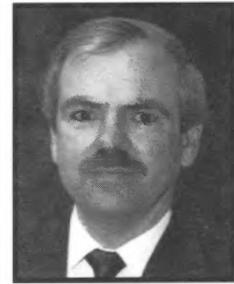
Richard Albert, *construction foreman*  
 Dan Beard, *underground lineman*  
 James Buggar, *underground foreman*  
 Michael Butler, *journeyman lineman*  
 Keith Campbell, *underground foreman*  
 Ryan Campbell, *apprentice lineman*  
 Steve Cimei, *apprentice lineman*  
 Christopher Clark, *apprentice lineman*  
 James Coan, *winch truck operator*  
 Jerry Daugherty, *journeyman lineman*  
 James Dustin, *maintenance foreman*

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

# Cooperative trustees



**Myron E. Erdman**  
Chenoa



**J. D. Reeves**  
*President and  
General Manager*



**John W. H. Tompkins**  
LeRoy



**Michael T. Killian**  
Lexington



**Gary L. Frankeberger**  
*Secretary-Treasurer*  
Bloomington



like



**Scott D. Baum**  
Clinton



**Rae F. Payne**  
*Chairman*  
Bloomington

Scott Farmer, *maintenance foreman*  
Robert Fisher, *journeyman lineman*  
Donald Golden, *maintenance foreman*  
Patrick Hall, *maintenance foreman*  
Bruce Hill, *construction foreman*  
Mark Peterson, *maintenance foreman*  
Steve Rosenthal, *journeyman lineman*  
Robert Smith, *maintenance foreman*  
Steve Streitmatter, *journeyman  
lineman*

Charles West, *construction foreman*  
Tammy Woosley, *operations clerk II*

## Operations

Lyle Hinshaw, *manager*  
Frank Kinnison, *forestry journeyman*  
Calvin Williams, *forestry foreman*

## Engineering Services

Keith Erickson, *manager*

Sandra Carlson, *asst. field engineer*  
Jill Dirr, *engineering clerk*  
Teri Fowler, *engineering clerk*  
Dave Sinha, *field engineer*  
Todd Sovich, *engineering clerk*  
Steve Wheeler, *field engineer*

## Why is geothermal heating and cooling so-o-o popular?

Check the numbers. A *legitimate* estimate of the *heating, cooling and hot water heating costs* for a 2,500 square foot house tells the whole story.

- natural gas @ 45¢ per therm
- propane @ 75¢ per gallon
- kilowatt-hours for heating @ 3.2¢
- kilowatt-hours for cooling @ 11.8¢



In fact, last winter our members who use geothermal heated their homes and the domestic hot water for *less than 10¢ a square foot for the entire winter!*

How big is your house?

Call our Member Services Department.  
We want to talk to you about heating electrically!

### Corn Belt Electric Cooperative

1502 Morrissey Drive • Bloomington 61701  
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### Programs and services offered for your benefit

- Home Loans — Over 50 types of mortgages
- Electric Heating Rate — 3.2¢ per kilowatt hour. Cheaper than propane or natural gas!!
- Surge Sentry System — Whole-house protection from high-voltage surges entering your home on power lines, telephone and cable TV lines or other antenna leads
- Switch 'n' Save lowers your air conditioning costs by \$50 a year
- Cash Rebate up to \$125 to help you buy an electric water heater
- Switch 'n' Save lowers your water heating costs by \$40 a year
- PureWater provides clean, odorless cooking and drinking water for 4¢ a gallon
- Security Systems and Alarms available
- Energy Audits — We'll advise you how to get the most for your ENERGY DOLLAR
- B.B.P. (Balanced Budget Program) Monthly bill is 12 month average — very little variation
- Use Electronic Funds Transfer to pay your monthly bill. From your account to ours automatically!
- Pay with Visa/MasterCard or ATM card
- Parking Lot and Area Lighting Rental
- Program Speakers

### Corn Belt Electric Cooperative

1502 Morrissey Drive, Bloomington, Illinois 61701  
Phone (309) 662-5330 or (800) 879-0339



CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

# Minutes of the annual meeting of members

The 59th annual meeting of the members of Corn Belt Electric Cooperative Inc. was held at the Normal Community West High School, Normal, Ill., on March 15, 1997. The meeting was called to order by President Rae F. Payne, who acted as Chairman of the meeting. Gary Frankeberger, Secretary-Treasurer, acted as secretary of the meeting.

The meeting began with an invocation given by the Reverend Clarence Young. The Chairman then called on William S. Bach, attorney for the Cooperative, who read the notice of the meeting. Attorney Bach reported that the committee on registration had registered more than 150 members present at the meeting. Attorney Bach also reported that proper notice of the meeting had been given and that a quorum was present for the transaction of business. The list of attending members is attached to these minutes and made a part hereof as Exhibit A, and the proof of the mailing of the notice to the active members is made a part hereof and incorporated herein as Exhibit B.

Since a quorum was present and notice had been given as provided by the by-laws, the Chairman declared the meeting legally convened for the transaction of business. The Chairman called for the reading of the minutes of the annual meeting of members held on March 9, 1996. Motion was made by Harold Krug, seconded and carried that the reading of the minutes of the 1996 annual meeting be dispensed with and that the minutes of that meeting as printed be approved. The Chairman directed that the minutes of the annual meeting held March 9, 1996, as printed in the official minutes of the meeting of March 9, 1996, be made a part of the minutes of this meeting.

Gary Frankeberger, Secretary-

Treasurer of the Cooperative presented the Treasurer's report. Mr. Frankeberger reported that Corn Belt Electric is in good standing financially.

Chairman Payne, after introducing the Directors of the Cooperative present at the meeting, called upon Arlis Springer to present the report of the Nominating Committee. Mr. Springer reported that there were expired terms of two directors from District I, one director from District II and one director from District IV. On behalf of the nominating committee, he placed in nomination for the office of director the names of Myron Erdman and Janice Reimer from District I, Thomas Johns from District II, and Scott Baum from District IV. The Chairman then turned the meeting over to Attorney Bach for conducting the election of directors. Attorney Bach indicated that since no other nominations had been made as provided by the by-laws, that the election of directors could be conducted by voice vote. On a motion made by William Rolley, seconded and carried, Myron Erdman, Janice Reimer, Thomas Johns and Scott Baum were elected to serve as directors of the Cooperative each for a term of three years. The Chairman declared the directors duly elected and requested that inspectors of election, John Butterfield, Stanton Malone and W. H. Morgenthaler file their certificate. The certificate of inspectors of election is incorporated herein and attached to these minutes as Exhibit C.

Chairman Rae Payne spoke to the assembled members on proposed de-regulation in the utility industry. Corn Belt Electric's concern is the interest of their members. Just because the Cooperative has many consumers in the outlying area, they will not be forgotten. Mr. Payne reminded the members that investor-owned utilities wanted to serve only people in cities and towns fifty years ago. They chose to forget the rural area. The cooperatives are going to need to stick together as there will be some form of competition coming within the next few years. The cooperatives must have smooth and good transition prior to future acts.

Chairman Payne called upon Attorney William Bach to explain the by-

law changes proposed by the Board of Directors. The form of these by-law changes is that set forth in the notice of annual meeting sent to the members. After discussion, upon motion made by Frank Thorpe, seconded and carried, the proposed by-law changes were approved by the members.

The Chairman then called upon Jeff Reeves, President and Manager of the Cooperative to report on the status of the Cooperative from the management's perspective. Manager Reeves reported for the first time in its 59-year history, the Cooperative ceased borrowing money from the federal government and spent a record \$1.8 million upgrading and expanding electrical distribution lines. Manager Reeves announced two new initiatives for the Cooperative involving a PureWater filtration system and ClearTalk two-way radio service. There have been 2,500 members who have saved 25-30 percent by using the Rate 11 interrupt service.

Then Harry Hahn, who is an Abe Lincoln look-alike, entertained the Annual Meeting members.

Manager Reeves entertained questions from the members. Hearing no questions from the floor, the Chairman then called for any old business or new business to come before the meeting. There being none on motion made, seconded and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



# Balance sheet

## Members' Financial Report as of December 31, 1997

	1997	1996	1995
<b>Assets</b>			
Total Utility Plant	\$ 64,138,101	\$ 60,046,209	\$ 54,308,321
Accumulated Depreciation	15,549,954	14,610,890	13,564,296
Net Utility Plant	\$ 48,588,147	\$ 45,435,319	\$ 40,744,025
Investment in Associated Organizations	1,962,626	1,795,544	1,749,024
Other Investments	907,534	403,819	356,733
Temporary Investments	19,418	292,094	3,639,470
Accounts Receivable	3,814,720	4,393,404	3,833,161
Materials and Supplies	1,093,225	1,362,501	1,389,762
Prepaid Expenses	125,840	143,450	186,339
Other Receivables & Current Assets	11,945	11,945	34,450
Deferred Debits*	30,072,710	131,174	35,322
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 86,596,165</b>	<b>\$ 53,969,250</b>	<b>\$ 51,968,286</b>
<b>Member's Equity and Liabilities</b>			
Member's Patronage Capital	\$ 22,045,529	\$ 19,977,431	\$ 18,828,750
Other Equities	258,434	191,499	238,265
Total Member's Equity	\$ 22,303,963	\$ 20,168,930	\$ 19,067,015
Long-Term Debt RUS	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 20,314,158
Long-Term Debt NRUCFC	26,726,775	26,100,002	8,620,556
Accum. Prov. for Post-Retirement Benefits	\$ 1,297,102	\$ 1,268,810	\$ 1,229,643
Notes Payable*	31,342,025	1,000,000	0
Accounts Payable	1,424,663	1,663,341	1,597,293
Consumer Deposits	100,695	125,588	150,513
Other Current & Accrued Liabilities	802,661	1,011,168	717,780
Deferred Credits **	2,598,281	2,631,411	271,328
<b>Total Members Equity &amp; Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 86,596,165</b>	<b>\$ 53,969,250</b>	<b>\$ 51,968,286</b>

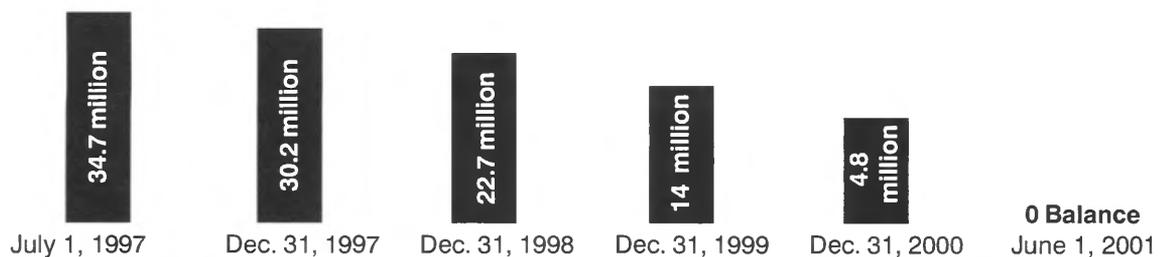
\* includes Soyland Buyout Costs

\*\* includes RUS Buyout Discount

## Facts about your cooperative

	1997	1996	1995
Miles of line -----	3,047	3,011	2,981
Member accounts -----	17,304	16,690	15,911
Members per mile of line -----	5.68	5.54	5.34
kwh purchased -----	264,387,096	255,057,184	244,946,686
kwh sold & used -----	245,382,795	234,861,039	226,759,288
Percent loss -----	7.19%	7.92%	7.43%
Avg. monthly kwh used per residential member -----	869	876	891
Avg. monthly bill per residential member -----	\$97.20	\$99.55	\$106.07
Avg. cost per kwh per residential member -----	\$0.1119	\$0.1136	\$0.1190
Full-time employees -----	59	61	59
Area meter readers -----	51	51	46

## Repayment Schedule for Soyland Buyout Loan



CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

# Statement of revenue and expenses

For the Year Ending December 31, 1997

Revenues	1997	1996	1995
Sales of Electric Energy	\$ 25,710,585	\$ 24,879,771	\$ 25,040,654
Other Electric Revenues	154,862	143,965	148,215
Other Non-Electric Revenues	30,923	31,677	32,853
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 25,896,370</b>	<b>\$ 25,055,413</b>	<b>\$ 25,221,722</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Cost of Purchased Power	\$ 15,524,572	\$ 15,752,888	\$ 15,498,548
Operating Expenses	216,010	176,481	136,941
Maintenance Expense	2,000,141	1,803,303	1,676,205
Billing, Accounting, & Administration	2,587,422	2,121,423	2,045,306
Depreciation Expense	1,659,766	1,520,763	1,412,969
Tax Expense	405,106	389,825	529,559
Interest Expense on Long-Term Debt	1,860,216	1,676,367	1,691,574
Other Deductions	(96,061)	19,332	7,763
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 24,157,172</b>	<b>\$ 23,460,382</b>	<b>\$ 22,998,865</b>
<b>Operating Margins</b>	<b>\$1,739,198</b>	<b>\$1,595,031</b>	<b>\$ 2,222,857</b>
<b>Non-Operating Margins</b>			
Interest on Investments	\$ 64,632	\$ 178,708	\$ 312,351
Other Non-Operating Margins (Loss)	130,738	(11,031)	1,356
CFC and Other Patronage Capital	154,808	90,180	122,848
<b>Total Margins</b>	<b>\$ 2,089,376</b>	<b>\$ 1,852,888</b>	<b>\$ 2,659,412</b>
Member's Patronage Capital Beginning of Year	\$ 19,977,431	\$ 18,828,741	\$ 16,694,330
Capital Credits to be Allocated for This Year	2,089,376	1,852,888	2,659,412
Retirement of Capital Credits	(21,279)	(704,198)	(525,001)
Members' Patronage Capital End of Year	\$ 22,045,528	\$ 19,977,431	\$ 18,828,741



**Derry Brownfield**

## Derry Brownfield

### Founder of the Brownfield Network and "The Derry Brownfield Show"

Derry Brownfield was born in 1932 and grew up during the Depression. He is a farmer and a broadcaster. Derry attended the College of Agriculture at the University of Missouri where he received his B.S. and M.S. degrees. He taught Vocational Agriculture several years before going to work as a Marketing Specialist with the Missouri Department of Agriculture. Derry served as Director of the Kansas City Livestock Market Foundation at the Kansas City Stockyards prior to establishing himself in farm broadcasting.

Derry started farming when he was sixteen years old and received the Future Farmers of America State Farmer degree in 1949. Since that time the Brownfield Farm has grown to over 1,000 acres maintaining a herd of 200 registered Charolais cows.

In 1972, Derry and his partner established the Brownfield Network which now serves 190 radio stations throughout the Midwest with farm news and market information.

In 1994, Derry started his own syndicated radio talk show and he is one of the most popular radio talk show hosts in America. The Derry Brownfield Show can be heard on over 80 radio stations in 23 states. With his entertaining sense of humor and witty commentary he has captured audiences for over 30 years. His ability to present an informative talk show while being light and colorful is why he has a large loyal listening audience.

Derry Brownfield is a practical farmer, a practical business man and a very entertaining speaker. He travels extensively throughout the country speaking about his common sense points of view.

# Easy Pay Ways

## Electronic funds transfer

Pay your electric bill the effortless way with Electronic Funds Transfer. On the 25th of the month your bank pays your bill from your account to ours. Never make out another check to CBEC!

## Balanced budget program

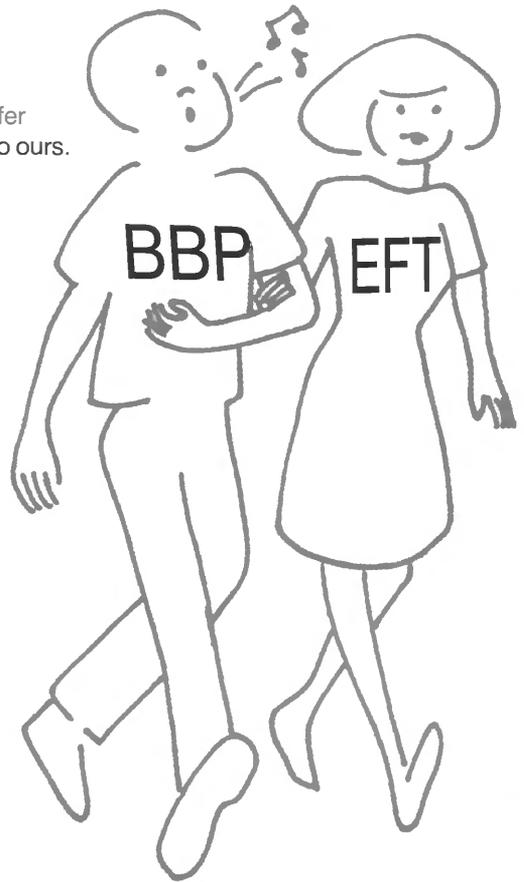
Join at any time — No zero balance required  
No "catch-up" month — Each bill is a 12-month average — No high summer bills on the

## Balanced budget program!

For Details  
Phone the Office Services Department  
(309) 662-5330 or (800) 879-0339  
Press #2 on your touchpad

## Corn Belt Electric Cooperative

1502 Morrissey Drive, Bloomington, Illinois 61701  
Phone (309) 662-5330 or (800) 879-0339



## Will you attend? Let us know

Registration for the 60th annual meeting of your cooperative is from 8:30 to 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 28. In your February bill stuffer, you received your dinner reservation form. Please mail or bring this to the cooperative office not later than March 26 to let us know how many will be eating. There is no charge for the meal.

We're looking forward to making your 60th annual meeting a success.

### 60th annual meeting

Please make \_\_\_\_\_ dinner reservations for

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Map location number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Area Code-Telephone number

**CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS**

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS  
A TOUCHSTONE ENERGY<sup>SM</sup> PARTNER  
E.O.E. (M/F/H)

## Guest Editorial

by Glenn English

The nearly 1,000 electric cooperatives across the country are actively involved today in the debate over the future of the electric utility industry. We are in this fight to protect the interests of electric consumers.

As Congress gets back to work after its traditional winter break, one specific issue that is likely to be hotly debated in the United States Senate is the repeal of a law that governs the kinds of business activities and mergers in which giant corporate utility companies can be involved. That law is the Public Utility Holding Company Act (PUHCA). It provides important safeguards that protect small business owners and residential consumers from huge monopolies that hurt the ability of average consumers to find competitive prices on energy services. These consumer safeguards need to be preserved as an important part of the electric utility restructuring debate.

Before this law was enacted in 1935, 16 giant corporations controlled 85 percent of the nation's power supply. Today, while some investor-owned utilities are publicly endorsing competition, their mergers and acquisitions threaten to kill any chance of competition actually developing.

If the important consumer safeguards in this law are not preserved, these big companies will only get larger and their concern for average consumers will diminish.

Companies like the giant Southern Company are actively working to eliminate these consumer protections in an effort to change the electric utility industry to their advantage. But their interests are not in the best interests of consumers. If they succeed, they will have an open invitation to form even bigger monopolies to control access to energy and non-energy related services. If fewer and bigger companies come to dominate the energy marketplace, competition will decrease, and prices will increase.

The Southern Company included a picture of a gorilla on the cover of a recent Corporate Annual Report with a caption that read, "Where does a 900 pound gorilla sit? — The answer — Anywhere it wants." The problem is that gorilla is likely to end up sitting on and hurting a lot of small residential and small business people as it fights with the other oversized companies it is competing with. How many

big gorillas do you know that care about what you or I think?

Electric cooperatives, on the other hand, will always be consumer-driven organizations. Electric cooperatives grow because people want what we provide.

What is best for the consumer is best for their electric cooperative. What hurts the consumer hurts their electric cooperative.

One of the clearest differences that can be drawn in the debate over the future of the electric utility industry is the differing priorities between electric cooperatives and others in our industry. While others are fighting to tear down consumer protection rules in an effort to increase their control of the market and their profits, electric cooperatives are actively committed to positive pro-consumer change in the laws governing electric utilities. That will be our priority as congress debates changing the Public Utility Holding Company Act.

*Glenn English is Chief Executive Officer for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association*

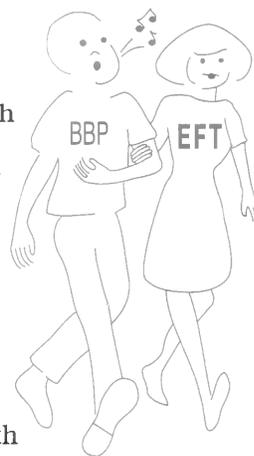
## Easy Pay Ways

### Balanced Budget Program

Join at any time — No zero balance required  
No "catch-up" month — Each bill is a 12-month average — No high summer bills on the Balanced Budget Program!

### Electronic Funds Transfer

Pay your electric bill the effortless way with Electronic Funds Transfer. On the 25th of the month your bank pays your bill from your account to ours. Never write another check to CBEC!



## BBP and EFT go arm-in-arm

Phone the Office Services Department for details (press #2 on your touchpad).

# How an electric water heater works

Did you know you can heat water electrically cheaper than you can with propane? Well, you can. And, if you're going to replace your water heater with an electric, CBEC will contribute toward the cost of it too. Call the Member Services Department (press #4 on your touchpad) for all the details.

Most residential electric water heaters purchased today are the 240-volt, double element type. Each heating element is typically 4,500-watts although other sizes can be found.

An electric water heater utilizes a quite simple electrical circuit and contains just a few parts — an upper thermostat and heating element and a lower thermostat and element. A failure of any component is rare. When there is, the elements and the thermostats are easy to replace. Thermostats are usually set at the factory to heat the water to 130 or 140 degrees. Generally, for residential use, 120 degrees is adequate from both a sanitary and a safety standpoint. In addition, it will take less electricity to heat water to 120 degrees. The homeowner should check the thermostats to insure that they are indeed set at 120 — after the power has been shut off to the heater. The thermostats and the elements are located behind the removable panels and insulation near the top and the bottom of the heater.

Here's how it works:

1. Hot water is drawn from the top of the heater

when a hot water tap is turned on. Cold replenishment water will begin to flow into the tank at the same rate as the hot water is leaving. It enters through the top of the heater but the entry pipe (the dip tube) is long enough to reach the bottom of the tank.

2. As the cold, entering water mixes with the heated water, the temperature will drop below the set-point of the lower thermostat and it will turn on the lower element. Obviously then, the lower element will operate much more often than the upper. The upper will operate only when most of the hot is drawn from the tank.

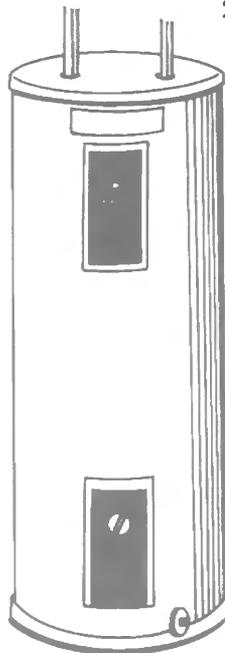
3. When that occurs the upper thermostat will sense water cooler than 120 degrees and will allow electricity to flow to the upper element only. Even though the contacts on both thermostats are closed when sensing cold water, in this case only the top element will heat because the top thermostat is an interlocking switch and will not allow electricity to flow to both elements at once.

4. The upper element heats only the top one-fourth of the water. Once that water reaches the temperature set on the upper thermostat, the upper element turns off and the lower element comes on.

5. When the water temperature in the lower 3/4 of the tank reaches the set-point of the lower thermostat, the power is turned off at the upper thermostat to both elements.

As with any water heater, a bucket of water should be drawn from the heater's spigot at least once a month to flush out any deposits on the bottom of the tank. A better flush is obtained if the water is turned off so the incoming water won't roil the bottom water. Be sure to turn the water back on after the flush.

**Next month — Troubleshooting electric hot water heaters**



## Office closed

The Corn Belt Electric Cooperative office will be closed April 10 in observance of Good Friday.

In the event of an electrical emergency, please phone our dispatcher at (800) 879-0339

To have underground cable located call J.U.L.I.E. toll free 800-892-0123

**NOTE: JULIE will not locate underground wiring that is beyond the CBEC meter. Consult the Yellow Pages — Electrical Contractors for this service.**



When you replace an appliance, be sure the new one has a battery backup for the digital clock!!! That way, you won't have to reset it after a split-second interruption in the electric supply

## Reporting an outage

Dial-local 309-662-5330 Toll-free 800-879-0339

### WITH TOUCHTONE SERVICE

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1. Enter **your** area code and phone number using your touch pad.
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3. Hang up.

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Your call will be answered by our telephone system. If you will hold or wait, you will be put into VOICE MAIL.

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2. Tell of wire down, tree on line, etc.
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*Only emergency power problems are dealt with after business hours. Please phone the office with any other business Monday thru Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.*

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

# Postdated checks

Corn Belt Electric Cooperative will not accept postdated checks to be held and deposited at some later date.

The large number of payments handled on a daily basis makes it impractical to give special handling to certain payments. Also, following special handling instructions for certain payments involves additional expenses.

Moreover, our auditors recommend that all payments be deposited promptly.

Please do not send postdated checks to your co-

operative. All checks are deposited immediately on the same day received, and if a check is returned by a bank due to being postdated or due to insufficient funds, there is a \$10 additional charge passed on to the member. Your payment to take care of the returned check and additional charges must then be made by means other than personal check.

If you mail your payment, please mail it early enough to be certain it will be in the office not later than the 5th of the month to take advantage of the net amount.

## Please Mr. Farmer Please

It's that time of year when your heart rate increases, your feet get itchy and you're preparing to crank up your equipment.

Please, as you're working along the roadsides, try to remember to keep the implements away from the poles and the guy wires. Our contract inspector finds dozens of poles and guy wires each year that could have been damaged only by you.

Some need to be replaced — *expensive*. Some need the ground wires spliced — *expensive*.

What the damage assures is increased costs for the cooperative and more out-of-power situations. Not only that, you could end up with a live wire on you or your equipment — that could be *deadly*.

## Residential electricity consumption projected to increase

According to a study by the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), total residential energy consumption is projected to increase by 17 percent between 1995 and 2015. As a result, demand for electricity will grow by almost 14 percent because 81 percent of the growth in total energy use is from increased use of electricity, the study says.

Sustained growth in housing in the South, where almost all new homes use central air conditioning, is an important component of the national trend, the report continues, along with increasing use of consumer electronics, such as personal computers and home security systems.

Natural gas use in the residential sector, on the other hand, is projected to grow by only 0.7 percent a year through 2015, according to the report.

The study reports that newly constructed homes are, on average, larger than existing homes, with correspondingly greater needs for heating, cooling and lighting. Under current building codes and appliance standards, however, energy use per square foot is typically lower for new construction than for the existing housing stock.

Further reductions in residential energy use per square foot could result from additional gains in end-use efficiency and from more stringent building codes

that would require more insulation, better windows and more efficient building design, the study concludes.



### The Surge Sentry System

**Total Home Protection  
From Surges**

Call the  
Member Services Department  
(press #4 on your touchpad)

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

# Energy saving tips

*Doug Rye, the owner of RyeNovators, Inc., is nationally-known as a builder and a renovator of super-energy efficient homes and apartments. In his seminar he asks how you keep warm in a jet airplane when the outside temperature is -30 degrees, the windchill is -300 degrees and the wall of the plane is only a couple of inches thick? Simple, the aircraft has no air infiltration.*

Doug Rye says, "If you build a house and then have high energy bills, it's your own cotton pickin' fault!" This architect from Arkansas is convinced that the way to low heating and cooling bills is to reduce the rate of air infiltration into and out of your home. In other words, "close the door." That's another way of saying to seal all those nooks, cracks and crannies that let air sweep through the typical house being built today.

"When I'm asked to look at a house, I usually find that problems of comfort and high utility bills go hand in hand. My favorite first technique is to perform a blower door test. Running the test shows the level of air infiltration through the house, including leaks in ductwork. The average house I test has tremendous leakage, losing 50 to 75 percent of all its air every hour. Obviously, this is going to affect heating and cooling costs and not in a good way. I find this air

infiltration is by far the dominant house energy problem. The levels we often find are like leaving a door open all year."

Doug is known as The King of Caulk and Talk. He says when a house is under construction is the time to seal it against air infiltration using good quality caulk and cellulose insulation. The caulking is used where the bottom outside wall plate sits on the subfloor, around windows and doors and anyplace else that air can penetrate. He likes cellulose insulation over all others because it gives the best value for the dollar. Wet-sprayed cellulose in the outside walls will seal every nook, crack and cranny and will usually eliminate the expense of a house wrap since air cannot move through the cellulose. Dry cellulose blown into the attic to a thickness of at least 12 inches will insure a snug home.

## Why do you receive this magazine?

Electric cooperatives began publishing periodicals and newsletters in the 1940s to communicate with their members when we were being attacked in extensive advertising and publicity campaigns. Today, distorted and otherwise inaccurate information is still a problem. And attacks continue in the political arena.

The Illinois Country Living magazine is mailed to you monthly at a cost to the co-op of less than a first-class postage stamp. The magazine is almost entirely funded by the advertisers. It is chock-full of articles dealing with horticulture, home projects, recipes, safety, energy efficiency, technology, and personal finance — all good, wholesome family-magazine topics. And, from time to time, Illinois' leaders provide commentary on matters important to rural Illinois.

While the magazine articles are interesting, useful and informative, that isn't the primary reason you receive it. Presenting news about your own electric utility is. Corn Belt Electric News begins on page 16 of the magazine every month. Our pages are produced with the intention of informing the membership about the operation of their cooperative.

Of course, some issues are "more newsy" than others. But each is written to inform. Most articles used in our section of the magazine promote strategies and programs that can save the member money. Safety, efficient use of energy, peak shaving, system efficiency, etc., all can contribute to lowering our operating costs and to help maintain rate stability. Promoting electrical safety can help save the lives of cooperative members and save money for ratepayers

by moderating insurance premiums and court claims. We keep you informed of new, efficient electric technologies such as geothermal heating and cooling systems; of peak-shaving programs aimed at saving you and the co-op money; of the progress of research into the effects of electric and magnetic fields (EMF), deregulation of the electric utility industry; of the introduction of new electric processes that are more efficient than their "other fuel" counterparts and friendlier to the environment as well.

With more than 17,000 accounts, printed communications are the most cost-effective method to use to inform. If we were a stock-issuing company and failed to communicate the news and progress of the company to you as a stockholder, you would be disappointed at the least. We don't issue shares of stock but you are an owner of the cooperative nonetheless. As an owner you are entitled to be informed and we are obligated to keep you abreast of its operation.

Don't lug, lug, lug, the glug, glug, glug use the



**PureWater**  
**Filtration System**

**only \$600**

and only from Corn Belt Electric Cooperative  
Comparable units cost \$1,000 or more  
Use Visa/MasterCard or pay over 3 months same as cash

**CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS**

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS  
A Touchstone Energy<sup>SM</sup> Partner  
E.O.E. (M/F/H)

## Corn Belt now part of Touchstone

Members of Corn Belt Electric Cooperative learned that the organization is joining with hundreds of other electric cooperatives across the nation in a partnership to distinguish themselves as preferred providers of electricity and other services throughout the United States.

Member-owners of the cooperative learned of the new alliance at CBEC's 60th annual meeting held March 28 at Normal Community West High School.

Corn Belt Electric Cooperative will join the Touchstone Energy branding campaign, said cooperative President Jeffrey D. Reeves. Touchstone Energy is an initiative undertaken by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), of which Corn Belt is a member. NRECA members, at their 1996 annual meeting, adopted a resolution that began a vigorous research phase that crystallized electric cooperatives' identity. The nature of that identity, Reeves said, is expressed in the Touchstone Energy slogan: "The power of human connections."

Reeves said the research found:



- Electric cooperatives hold an enviable market niche based on their unique relationship with their consumer-members.

- Electric cooperatives' strongest asset is their ability to be responsive energy providers that allow consumers to have a real voice in how services are provided, and

- Consumers say electric cooperatives are efficient, responsive and an integral part of local communities because co-op employees are close to their

communities and are fast to respond to their concerns.

Consumers nationwide say that electric cooperatives are local enough to be accountable, deliver state-of-the-art service, are small enough to be flexible, and care about the community, Reeves said.

"The most decisive battles in the energy wars won't be fought along the power grid, but in the hearts and minds of consumers," he said.

By aligning with other cooperatives in the Touchstone Energy campaign, Reeves said, Corn Belt is promising to be a dedicated community service organization committed to providing high quality and responsive utility service. As a Touchstone cooperative, our employees are pledging to operate with integrity, accountability, innovation and a spirit of community awareness.

Gary Frankeberger, secretary-treasurer, in his report, noted "Change in the electric utility industry brings opportunities. Opportunities lead to success. Opportunity is something a fool waits for, but a wise man rushes down the

Continued on page 16b...



Corn Belt Electric Cooperative members elected one new member to the board of directors and re-elected three others at the 60th Annual Meeting on March 28. From left are Gary Frankeberger of Bloomington, Ralph Steiger of Delavan, Laverne Malone of Maroa, and Stephen Schertz of El Paso. Malone is the newly elected member.

## Corn Belt now part of Touchstone *continued from 16a...*

road to meet. Our cooperative is definitely playing the role of the wise man. The cooperative is preparing to meet a variety of opportunities."

In reviewing financial reports, Frankeberger noted the utility's total worth in 1997 was \$64,138,101, up 6.8 percent over 1996. He also noted that total assets were \$86,596,165, a 16 percent increase over the previous year. That's thanks largely to the buyout of its contract with Soyland Power Cooperative the previous year, which enabled the cooperative to buy electricity at a lower cost on the open market.

The cooperative borrowed \$34.7 million to satisfy Soyland obligations. By the end of 1997, that debt had been reduced to \$30.2 million and the loan is being paid off with the difference between market-priced power and the price we formerly paid to Soyland. Frankeberger said it is expected that debt will be retired inside four years, at which time the cooperative also hopes to reduce rates significantly — perhaps by as much as 25 to 30 percent.

"Corn Belt prices should be

very, very competitive, especially if some of the additional positioning that we're working on right now pays off as expected. No, the management of the cooperative is not playing the fool and waiting for opportunity. The management is creating opportunity," Frankeberger said.

The cooperative's membership base grew by 614 members, or 3.3 percent, from 16,690 to 17,304, Frankeberger said. However, he said, the most meaningful line item in the reports is "average monthly bill per residential member," which was down 2.3 percent, from \$99.55 to 97.20. It's the fourth consecutive year for the decline, he said.

"Your cooperative is in sound financial condition," Frankeberger said. "It's growing and it's healthy."

Members elected one new member to the board of directors, and re-elected three others. Laverne Malone of Maroa will replace David Foulke of Maroa, who retired, on the board of directors. Re-elected were Gary Frankeberger of Bloomington, Ralph Steiger of Delavan, and Stephen Schertz of El Paso. In a brief reorganizational meeting, board members re-elected Rae F. Payne



**A member holds her attendance prize.**

of Bloomington as chairman, Schertz as vice chairman, Frankeberger as secretary-treasurer, and Janice Reimer of Carlock as assistant secretary-treasurer.

Corn Belt serves 17,304 members in McLean, Woodford, Tazewell, Logan, Macon, DeWitt, Piatt, Ford, Livingston and Champaign.



**The catered dinner was a popular event.**



**The audience enjoyed the entertainment provided by Derry Brownfield.**

**CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS**

# Community events

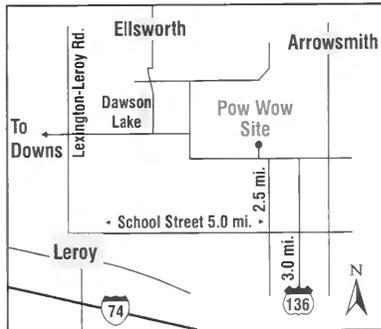
## Allapamillo Wipieaki Kikapoaki The Homecoming of the Kickapoo Nation Pow Wow

May 30th and 31st on  
The Emmett Farm, Leroy

Saturday — 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Adults \$5 — Seniors and Children over 6 - \$3  
For more information phone (708) 383-6773

- From I-74 drive north through Leroy to School Street,
- turn right (east) to Road 3100 (approx. 5 miles),
- turn left (north) to STOP sign, turn left (west) on Road 750 North
- to first lane on the right (grey barn)



## Easy Pay Ways

### Balanced Budget Program

Join at any time — No zero balance required  
No “catch-up” month — Each bill is a 12-month average — No high summer bills on the Balanced Budget Program!

### Electronic Funds Transfer

Pay your electric bill the effortless way with Electronic Funds Transfer. On the 25th of the month your bank pays your bill from your account to ours. Never write another check to CBEC!

### BBP and EFT go arm-in-arm

Phone the Office Services Department for details (press #2 on your touchpad).

## Please, Mr. Farmer, please

You, no doubt, are working in the fields now and going as fast and as long as you can to get the crops in the ground before the neighbors.

However, as you are aware, haste can sometimes make waste. As when you are working along the road side of the field and collide with one of our poles or downguys. In this case, you are not only making waste, you are also making a lot of work and expense for the cooperative. We do not need the work. We have plenty of that. We certainly do not need the expense. We have more than enough thank you. You and we definitely do not need a fatal accident as a result of your carelessness and haste. It could happen. Oh yes, your neighbors won't be happy either while their power is out.

Our contract inspector finds dozens of poles and guy wires each year that only you could have damaged. Please be extra careful when working around our poles. Slow down, pay attention and quit farming the ditches!

## Internet websites

For those of you pursuing information regarding the electric industry, watch for this spot in our monthly publications for websites that can help in your search.

Site: [www.state.il.us/icc](http://www.state.il.us/icc)  
Illinois Commerce Commission  
Information about  
deregulation in Illinois.

A 178k zipped file of the recently enacted House Bill 362 that deals with deregulation of the electric utility industry.

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## Don't Dig the Dirt 'till You Call J.U.L.I.E.

To have underground  
cable located  
Call J.U.L.I.E. TOLL FREE  
(800) 892-0123



**Note:** JULIE will not locate underground wiring that is beyond our meter. To have this done, phone the largest electric contractor in the city nearest you.

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

## ENERGY SAVING TIPS

*Doug Rye, the owner of RyeNovators, Inc., is nationally-known as an architect, a builder and a renovator of super-energy efficient homes and apartments. In his seminar he asks how you keep warm in a jet airplane when the outside temperature is -30 degrees, the wind-chill factor is -300 degrees and the wall of the plane is only a couple of inches thick? Simple, the aircraft has no air infiltration.*

Doug Rye- the architect from Arkansas — says, "If you build a house and then have high energy bills, it's your own cotton pickin' fault!"

When he is asked to cure high energy costs, the first thing he does is to perform a blower door test. A blower door is a unit that mounts in an exterior door opening that has a powerful fan mounted in it as well as fan speed and pressure gauges. Running the test easily shows the rate of infiltration of air entering the building through the nooks, cracks and crannies built into today's homes. Usually, a lighted incense or smoke stick is used to pinpoint exactly where the air is entering as the fan in the blower door operates. The stick is held near suspected openings such as around windows and doors to detect air movement. The fan duplicates the wind as it goes past the building and sucks out the conditioned air.

If the house has gas or propane appliances,

which produce carbon monoxide, the owner must work with a well-qualified energy consultant to make sure the energy improvements don't create an unsafe living environment. Is it any wonder the gas industry says a house "has to breathe"? Of course, a total-electric home doesn't have this problem.

The number two cause of high heating and, especially, high cooling costs is leaky ductwork. Some homes have unconnected ductwork in attics and crawlspaces! Have all the joints sealed professionally. *Do not* use duct tape.

Doug recommends at least 12" of cellulose insulation in the attic. Cellulose is preferred because "you get the biggest bang for the buck." If you are already using another insulating material, top it off with cellulose to at least the 12" level. More is even better. If you have, or are installing, upstairs walls that back up to attic spaces (known as "knee walls"), heavy insulation is critical to having a comfortable upstairs. Knee walls are the most critical for insulation because they have such extreme temperatures behind them. Apply rigid insulation board and then fill the wall cavity with cellulose insulation.

In a crawl space, "6 mil" plastic sheeting should be spread on the ground and "wet spray" cellulose insulation should be applied to the interior of the foundation walls. This will keep your floors warmer in the winter, keep the pipes from freezing, and is usually cheaper and more desirable than insulating the floor itself.

**Next month:** *More Energy Saving Tips from Doug Rye — The Arkansas Architect*

## A Touchstone Energy partner

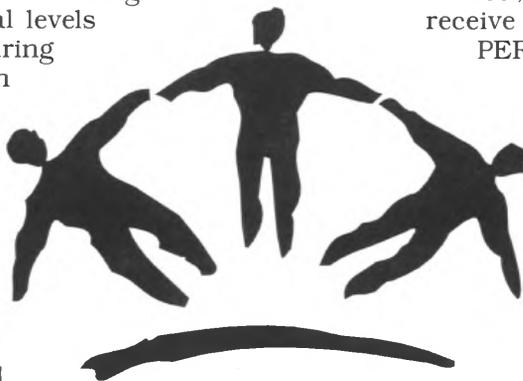
It's official, our cooperative is now a member of Touchstone Energy, a nationwide branding and marketing effort sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The reason behind this branding initiative is the number of legislative and regulatory actions being taken on the state and federal levels that are leading to a restructuring of many utility operations. In light of these changes, we are joining forces with some 400 other electric cooperatives through the Touchstone Energy brand. Touchstone Energy identifies cooperative utilities as providing superior customer service while maintaining a strong local presence and commitment.

We are not changing the name of Corn Belt Electric Cooperative. As can be seen on the NEWSLINE banner, we are only announcing that we are a part of and a partner in this nationwide branding effort. Our name and our logo will still be our major identifiers. The announce-

ment is only an addition that will be recognized across the USA. We shall expand the use of The Touchstone Energy Partner campaign to include it in our advertising and on our equipment, stationery, signs and the like.

You, our members, will continue to receive the high quality, responsive, PERSONalized service you've come to know and to expect from our personnel. You can be confident that whatever changes come, you will benefit by them. Watch for good changes coming your way as your board of directors positions your cooperative for competition and superior service in the next century.

And, no — the brand name Touchstone has nothing to do with the Disney motion picture subsidiary. While the names are similar, the name Touchstone Energy is licensed solely for use by the electric cooperatives that choose to become official Partners.



CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

## CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS A Touchstone Energy<sup>SM</sup> Partner

E.O.E. (M/F/H)

### A Touchstone Energy<sup>SM</sup> partner

As deregulation and restructuring dramatically change America's electric utility industry, nearly 400 (and growing) of the country's cooperative electric utilities (including Corn Belt Electric) have united under the Touchstone Energy brand to prepare for competition in the marketplace. By working together across the country, this new alliance, which serves over four million customers, will, collectively, provide more power nationwide than almost any other electric utility.

A national advertising and branding campaign was launched on April 4th to introduce the effort. Perhaps you saw some of the commercials on television. It continues in newspapers, magazines, television and radio across the nation.

The campaign is designed to promote the core strengths of electric cooperatives — accountability, integrity, innovation, personal service and the long-standing community commitment that electric cooperatives offer to electricity consum-

ers. It stresses the importance of each cooperative's strong local commitment to its community while promoting the Touchstone Energy partnership that gives each partner access to all the resources of a national organization.

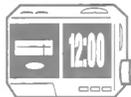
"Touchstone Energy represents electric cooperatives' unique characteristics in a marketplace where differences matter more and more every day as competition increases," said Michael Miller, Chairman of the Touchstone Energy Executive Council. "It is a name that conveys the human element in providing local service. The brand conveys electric cooperative strength and stability — a benchmark of service against which all others can be measured."

"Changes are happening fast, and countless people all across the country will be affected by deregulation," continued Mr. Miller. "Research shows that customers of electric cooperatives have extremely high satisfaction levels. We believe we have a tremendous opportunity to promote our competitive advantages and let our customers know they can be associated with an energy provider that is service motivated, not profit driven."

**Touchstone Energy**  
The power of human connections

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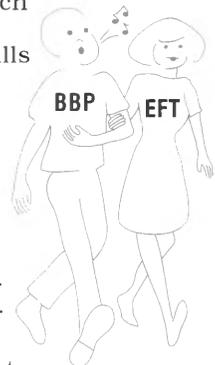
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Pay your electric bill the effortless way with Electronic Funds Transfer. On the 25th of the month your bank pays your bill from your account to ours. Never write another check to CBEC!



### BBP and EFT go arm-in-arm

Phone the Office Services Department for details (press #2 on your touchpad).

## Senior citizen exemptions

The Supervisor of Assessments of McLean County has asked that we print the following to alert our elder members of the programs available to them to help save money.

1. Senior Citizen Homestead Exemption
  - Must have general Homestead Exemption
  - One-time application
  - 65 years of age or older
  - Owner occupant of residence as of January 1 of the year of application or renewal certificate
  - \$2,000 reduction of equalized assessed value
2. Senior Citizen Certificate of Exempt Status
  - Annual certificate must be signed and returned to the office of the Supervisor of Assessments
  - Deadline is May 31 each year
3. Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption
  - Yearly application
  - 65 years of age or older
  - Total household income of no more than \$35,000
  - Owner occupant of residence Jan. 1 of application year and prior tax year
4. Senior Citizen Real Estate Tax Deferral
  - 65 years of age or older by June 1 of year

- of application
- State pays your taxes, places a lien on your property
- Upon taxpayer death or sale of property, the state recovers taxes plus interest
- Deadline for filing is March 1
- County Treasurer has additional information
- Phone (309) 888-5180

For further information on these programs you may phone the office of the McLean County Supervisor of Assessments at (309) 888-5130. The office is located at the McLean County Law and Justice Center, 104 West Front Street in downtown Bloomington.

Those members not living in McLean County should contact the Supervisor of Assessments in their home county. The Information Operator will probably have to be consulted since they are not usually listed in the phone book by the title or by the county name.

## Vacations and bills

Your electric bill is due on receipt and past due after the 5th of the month. If the 5th happens to fall on a weekend, the following Monday is the past-due date.

Vacations are almost always planned weeks, if not months, in advance. They are not spur-of-the-moment decisions. You'll know in advance that you are going to be gone over the fifth of the month. Make sure your electric bill is paid before you leave. Either mail the payment to the office or use the convenient drive-up, drop-in facility at the front of our building. With that done, the cooperative and you are assured that there will be no late payment charges, trip charges,

disconnections, arguments, hurt feelings, etc., etc.

And if you're lucky enough to be able to get away for three or four weeks at one time, call the office to get an estimate of your charges, then follow the old payment routine.

Better yet, why not enlist in our Automatic Funds Transfer program. On the 25th of every month, your bank pays your bill from your account to ours. Never again will you have to write another check to Corn Belt and never again will you have to lick a stamp for Corn Belt. You'll love the convenience. Call the Office Services Department—#2 on your touchpad.

### Planning a new home?

## Geothermal heating and cooling

Heats for 1/3 the cost of propane — 1/2 that of gas. (About 10¢/sq. ft./winter)  
Cools for about \$20 a month. And, heats most of the domestic hot water!

Call the Member Services Dept. for details — #4 on your touchpad



### Switch 'n' Save

#### \$50 This Summer on the Cost of Cooling

You Get A FREE Radio-Controlled Switch On Your Air Conditioner Plus \$50 Of FREE Electricity!

(must use at least 400 kwh/month)



### Switch 'n' Save

Call The Member Services Department

(press #4 on your touchpad)

**CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS**

# Attention Rate 11 subscribers

June 15 marks the beginning of the "Curtaiment Season". You can expect to have your power shut off four or five times between June 15 and Sept. 15. The curtailment occurs only on weekdays, never on weekends or holidays. The curtailment will be for 3 hours maximum.

As early as possible on the morning of the day the shut-off occurs, we FAX a message to that effect to radio stations. They broadcast the announcement either as a news item on their regularly scheduled newscasts or periodically during their morning programming schedule. So tune in one of the following sometime during the mornings to find out if you will be affected that day.

<u>STATION</u>	<u>DIAL POSITION</u>	<u>STATION</u>	<u>DIAL POSITION</u>
WJBC-AM Bloomington	1230	WBNQ-FM Bloomington	101.5
WHOW-AM Clinton	1520	WHOW-FM Clinton	96.0
WIRL-AM Peoria	1290	WSWT-FM Peoria	107.0
WDZ -AM Decatur	1050	WGLT-FM Normal	89.0
		WDZQ-FM Decatur	95.1
		WCIC-FM Pekin	91.5 and 99.5
		WBWN-FM Bloomington	104.0



## Whole-house surge protection

Ask About

### The Expanded Surge Sentry System

for ALL your electronic equipment whether connected to the power line, the phone line, or the TV line.



## Wasted watts

Do you have vampires in your house? Of course you do. We all do. They are those appliances that suck electricity from your outlets even when they're turned off. The phenomenon is called "standby power loss" and it has moved to the front burner at the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency. These agencies estimate that of the \$3.5 billion Americans spend each year to run their electronic gear, \$1 billion is spent to power it when it's shut off.

Overall, small appliances and electronics are proliferating so fast that by the year 2015, the total power they use could account for half the electricity that flows into American homes, up from 30 percent today, energy officials say. If they're right, such devices will be using as much current as — heating, cooling, cooking, lighting and refrigeration combined. Designing efficient electronics must be a priority or the gear could wipe out much of the nation's gains in energy conservation, says John Morrill of the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), a Washington, D.C., think tank.

Standby power is used by anything electronic with a remote control, a clock, a timer, or a memory. Cordless phones use standby power so calls can ring the handset anytime. Doorbells and other devices with transformers use power to step down your home's 120 volts to the few volts they need. As with any transformer, much of the power is lost as heat. Not so bad in the winter, but expensive to cool in the summer.

In the average household, standby power usage adds up to about 50 watts, or about 450 kilowatt-hours a year, says Jennifer Thorne, as ACEEE researcher. The tab for that many kWhs is about \$50 a year. The EPA says the nationwide total equals the output of six power plants.

Federal officials this year expanded the Energy Star program, which sets voluntary efficiency guidelines for manufacturers of computer gear and major appliances — and now VCRs and TV sets. The EPA may extend the program to cable boxes and telephone and audio equipment, says Stephan Sylvan, who heads the EPA program.

### Some sample "vampires" and their wattages:

microwave open	4	digital satellite TV	15	security system	18
cordless phone	3	cable-TV box	12	doorbell	2
answering machine	3	compact audio	11	garage door opener	5
electric toothbrush	2	color TV	at least 6	cordless tools	2
baby monitor	1	w/TV Guide	at least 25		

**CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS**

## Watch out Mr. Farmer

As you're cruising through your fields these days, try to remember that you're towing pieces of wide equipment behind you. That equipment, as you drive on the road side of the field, can, and often does, snag our equipment.

Now, we know it isn't intentionally done. But it happens just the same. Our pole and line inspector discovers dozens of damaged poles and guys each year that only you could have damaged. The cost of repair and the loss of revenue during the loss of power adds to the cost of power for the membership.

We (both of us) have been lucky over the years that a tractor operator hasn't been injured or electrocuted during these busy planting seasons and momentary carelessness. We hope our luck holds. We hope your luck holds. But, let's face it. We're both overdue.

So drive carefully, watch out for the poles and guywires. We appreciate your consideration and thoughtfulness.

**City or well water is not safe!**

Make it pure with a  
**PureWater**  
Filtration System

only **\$600**

**Removes up to 100% of contaminants**

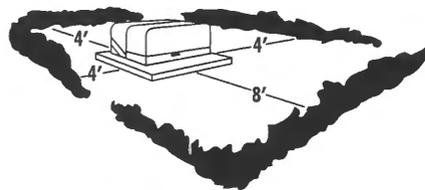
Comparable units cost \$1,000 or more

**Use Visa/MasterCard or pay  
over 3 months same as cash**

**Phone the Office Services Department  
Press #4 on your touchpad**

## And please be cooperative

**Do not plant, stack or build anything** within 8 feet of the front or 4 feet of the sides and back of a pad-mounted transformer.



## Internet websites

For those of you pursuing information regarding the electric industry, watch for this spot in our monthly publications for websites that can help in your search.

**Site:**

**[www.energyonline.com](http://www.energyonline.com)**

*-Energy Online-*

Provides business/regulatory information on energy industries. Click on **Database** to find production and market quotes such as the California-Oregon Border and Palo Verde reports

## What everyone should know about electric safety

Safe Wiring includes the following features:

- **AMP-LE POWER** — The metal box for circuit breakers or fuses should be rated for at least 100 amps. If it isn't clearly labeled, or if your home's power is delivered through ungrounded outlets designed for 2-prong plugs, have the wiring inspected and upgraded by a qualified electrician.

- **THREE KINDS OF CIRCUITS** — (1) Fixed-equipment circuits for each high-wattage appliance such as the range, air-conditioner, water heater, etc. (2) General-purpose circuits (usually 15 amps) for lights and low-wattage appliances (radio, TV, floor lamp, etc.) (3) Kitchen, laundry, dining-area circuits (usually 20 amps) for portable medium-wattage appliances (toaster, iron, coffeemaker, etc.)

- **GROUND-FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS (GFCI)** — These devices quickly shut off power when problems occur, to minimize electrical shock hazards. Outlets in potentially wet locations like bathrooms, outdoors, etc., should be protected by a GFCI.

**CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS**

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS  
A Touchstone Energy<sup>SM</sup> Partner  
E.O.E. (M/F/H)

## Youth Day in Springfield

Four of our six scholarship winners enjoying the company of four very gracious and very busy elected officials on the floor of the House of Representatives. Seated are Paul Peng and Kimberly Goodwin of U-High. Standing left to right are Representative N. Duane Noland, Decatur; Trevor Martin, El Paso High; Andrew Weatherford, Argenta-Oreana High; Representative William E. Brady, Bloomington; Representative Jay Ackerman, Morton; and Senator John W. Maitland, Jr., Bloomington. Katie Bourke and Christopher Walk, both of Normal Community High School were unable to attend Youth Day.



## A Touchstone Energy Partner — Why?

In an increasingly competitive marketplace, electric cooperatives need to take advantage of the most important asset we have that distinguishes us from all other electric utilities: our ties to community as expressed in integrity, accountability, and innovation. The Touchstone Energy brand represents a promise that we are consumer-driven businesses, provides a meaningful declaration to the public of who we are, what we believe and why we are the superior choice for energy services. The Touchstone Energy brand's goal is to build and communicate the value of cooperatives to the community and to consumers by allowing us to define who we are and why we are superior to our competitors.

The purpose of a brand is to give consumers a short-cut to processing all the information involved in choosing a product or a service. A brand stands for everything about a company. It directly influences customer's buying decisions. A strong brand, which allows a company to gain market share and/or charge premium prices, can be one of a company's largest business assets. For example, Coca-Cola's brand is worth

about \$43 billion.

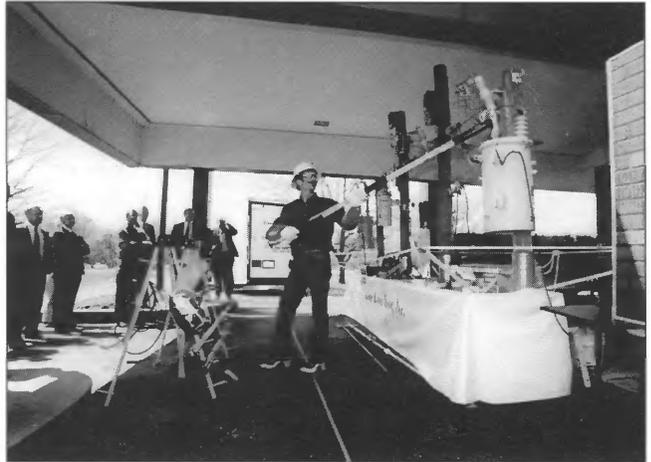
The formula for building a brand is not as simple as the one for creating a logo or waging an advertising campaign. To do the job right, a company must know its customers, target the right ones with the right products and services, and own a unique attribute — something that can be leveraged, matters to customers, and differentiates the company or brand.

The Touchstone Energy brand is just that and a little bit more. It is a national co-brand. Kind of like the True Value brand is used by locally owned hardware stores across the country, Touchstone Energy will have national strength and recognition, plus the strength of being co-opted with the local cooperative's logo and reputation for quality service and community involvement.

Customers perceive "branding" as a value statement. A strong brand influences customer preference and builds credibility. Touchstone Energy will help existing and potential customers gain familiarity and trust of cooperatives over their competition.

# High-voltage fireworks

If you've ever wanted to see what causes your power to go off, come out to the McLean County Fair to see the Live Line Demonstration at the Corn Belt Electric booth. We'll have four shows every day between noon and 7 p.m. The fair runs from July 28 through August 1. The display is constructed with the same poles, transformers, and line hardware that we use to serve electricity to you. And, it has 7,200 volts running through it too. The instructor demonstrates, with a lot of sizzles, pops, and bangs just how and what causes a line outage. It's exciting, frightening and eye-popping. The demonstration will educate you on how to protect yourself or someone else from injury or death by electric shock.



**Don't be afraid and don't miss it! See you at the fair.**

## Problems on member's side of meter

For almost 60 years our employees have taken it for granted that if a member is out of power it was their responsibility to get the power back on. They have done so even when the problem was not on our system but in the member's equipment.

Of late, that practice has become cost prohibitive to the cooperative with the increased costs of doing business and the greater number of accounts that we serve. Accordingly, beginning September 1, 1998, the cooperative will assess a \$50 charge to any member who calls in a power outage and the problem is discovered to be on the member's side of the meter. The \$50 covers only a portion of the expense involved in dispatching a crew and their equipment.

We regret that it was necessary to make this decision, but feel that it is right and just in light of present circumstances.

So remember, before you call to report an

outage, do the following:

a. Determine if the neighbors on your line are also out of power. If they have lights, chances are that you still have electricity to your home.

b. Check your main fuses or the main circuit breaker. If the meter is on the pole, there is probably a fuse box directly beneath the meter. Check here first. The same holds true for mobile homes and some apartments. There is usually a cut-off switch beneath the meter. Often a failed cartridge fuse will show no sign that it has failed. *You should have new ones of the same size on hand.* Turn the power off and replace the old cartridge fuse with a new one. Most of the time this will restore your power and is what our linemen have done countless times in the past.

A main circuit breaker that has tripped is easy to spot. It will be in the "OFF" position. Simply turn it on and that will probably restore your electricity.

## Mr. Farmer:

In last month's issue of the "Illinois Country Living" magazine and Corn Belt Electric's NEWSLINE, an article appeared entitled "Mr. Farmer." The intent was one of safety for farmers working in the fields in the spring and fall. Although the message was well intended the verbiage and language was not well chosen and was inappropriate. The purpose was never to insult, chide or berate anyone, but one of SAFETY as the operator farms around poles and guy wires. Our goal

is to prevent injury and outages to you and continue our 60-year partnership of progress.

Your Board of Directors at its May meeting discussed this error in judgement and has put in place safeguards to eliminate this from ever occurring again. The Cooperative extends a sincere apology and regret that this article was ever printed as written. We are sorry to any and all who have been offended.

**WE ARE SORRY!!!**

# What to do in an electrical storm

Lightning surges from the clouds to ground along the best conductor around. **Don't be that conductor.**

If you are outside in a storm, these are the things to do:

- Seek shelter. The best shelter is a house or building.
- Get in a car or a truck.
- On a golf course, get in your golf cart.
- Caught afoot in the open? Seek low ground.

Sit or lie down; it may be uncomfortable, but it may save your life.

Things not to do:

- On a golf course? Don't continue to play. And never hold a metal club in your hand.
- Don't swim. If you are in the water, get out! If you are in a boat, get to land!
- Stay away from metal objects that are lightning conductors.
- Don't stand under a tree. Instead of providing shelter, a wet tree can attract lightning. Never stand out in the open during a storm.

Lightning is usually attracted to the highest object around. **Don't be that object.**

## Office closed for Independence Day

The Corn Belt Electric Cooperative office will be closed July 3rd. In the event of an electrical emergency, please phone our dispatcher at

**800-879-0339.**

## Electric Industry Websites

Site:

**[www.energysearch.com](http://www.energysearch.com)**

EPRI's *Energysearch* - Excellent for finding energy-related articles and reports. Resources can be sorted by date or by relevance.

## Come see natural energy at work

*You are invited to come and see for yourself a geothermal system in operation.*

## A Geothermal Open House

**Location: 1-1/2 miles north of Merna and 1 mile west**

**Date: July 9**

**Time: 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

This is your opportunity to find out just how much more spendable income you'll have when you invest in a geothermal system for your home or business. A typical geothermal system is 400 percent efficient, delivering four times more energy than it consumes. Corn Belt Electric Cooperative geothermal owners average less than 10¢ a square foot to heat their homes from October through April. That's only \$200 for a 2,000 square foot home — for the entire winter!

And, the savings continue through the summer because geothermal cools for about one-half the cost of a standard air conditioner while heating your hot water for *free*.

***Come see the world's most cheap-to-operate heating/cooling/water heating system.***



**Sponsored by: Bratcher Heating and Air Conditioning, Normal — (309) 454-1611**

# Power supply shortages possible again this summer

According to the North American Electric Reliability Council, there is a strong possibility of power shortages this summer in Illinois and Wisconsin. The same conditions prevail as in 1997; the unavailability of several large nuclear units and other generating stations in the region; and limited transmission line capacity to import the amount of electricity needed from areas with excess generation.

The Mid-America Interconnected Network, Inc. (MAIN) reliability region, especially the northern Illinois, Wisconsin and Illinois Power Company areas, will be facing very difficult operating conditions if the weather is unusually hot for an extended period of time. Like any wire, transmission lines can carry only so much electricity. If they are overloaded, their fuses blow and breakers open just like a circuit in a home operates. To maintain reliability of the system, MAIN will implement what is called Transmission Loading Relief Procedures to manage the loadings on the various elements of the transmission system in this region. These procedures include the initia-

tion of rolling blackouts or power outages.

A rolling blackout means that complete circuits or even complete substations throughout the region are remotely disconnected by MAIN for two hours then turned back on as other complete circuits or substations are disconnected. This will continue until the demand for electricity in the MAIN region slacks off sometime during the evening or that night.

When a peak demand situation is predicted, a warning will be issued. Radio stations will be asked to make peak alert announcements and voluntary load reduction by consumers will be urged. Peak demand can occur anytime between noon and 8 p.m. on any given day. Rolling blackouts are the last resort to keep the transmission network intact and to keep all generating units on-line.

If you have questions or concerns about your electric service, contact Ron Stack (Ext. 233) or Jerry Durlinger (Ext. 228) at Corn Belt Electric Cooperative.

## Outage phone call glitches — solved?

It seems as though the more automated we get in this computer age, the more susceptible we are to things not operating quickly and smoothly and to our complete satisfaction.

Take our outage reporting equipment for example. After the wind storm of May 19, some members made us aware of some shortcomings in it. During that storm, when lots of members were phoning us, the machine failed to hang up after the caller had. That happened with all 8 lines that are dedicated to the outage system. Consequently, the next callers experienced a never-ending ringing while fully expecting to have their call answered after someone else had completed their call.

After investigating and discovering the reason for this glitch, new equipment was ordered that is supposed to effectively communicate with the central office switching station and should eliminate the problem.

**To have underground cable located call J.U.L.I.E. toll free 800-892-0123**



**NOTE: JULIE will not locate underground wiring that is beyond the CBEC meter. Consult the Yellow Pages — Electrical Contractors for this service.**

In case it does not and further modifications are needed, we suggest the following procedure to use during future storms.

When you phone to report an out-of-power situation and then encounter the-ringing-but-no-answer dilemma, hang up and call again. This time, instead of pressing "1" on your touchpad as instructed, enter any one of the following extension numbers: 302, 303, 304, 305, 306 or 307. This will give you a better chance of getting your call answered. If you still have difficulties with this approach, please do let us know about it at your earliest convenience.

### Reporting an outage

**Dial-local 309-662-5330 Toll-free 800-879-0339**

#### WITH TOUCHTONE SERVICE

Our answering machine will tell you to press "1" to get into the outage reporting system. Then follow instructions.

1. Enter **your** area code and phone number using your touch pad.
2. Answer questions using touch pad.
3. Hang up.

#### WITHOUT TOUCHTONE SERVICE

Your call will be answered by our telephone system. If you will hold or wait, you will be put into VOICE MAIL.

1. Tell **your** name, area code, phone number, the time and date.
2. Tell of wire down, tree on line, etc.
3. Hang up.

*Only emergency power problems are dealt with after business hours. Please phone the office with any other business Monday thru Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.*

**CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS**

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These procedures include the initiation of rolling blackouts.

A rolling blackout means that complete circuits or even complete substations throughout the region are remotely disconnected by MAIN for two-hours; then turned back on as other complete circuits or substations are disconnected. This will continue until the demand for electricity in the MAIN region slacks off sometime during the evening or that night.

When a peak demand situation is predicted, a warning will be issued. Radio stations will be asked to make peak alert announcements and voluntary load reduction by consumers will be urged. Peak demand can occur anytime between noon and 8 p.m. on any given day. Rolling blackouts are the last resort to keep the transmission network intact and to keep all generating units on-line.

If you have questions or concerns about your electric service, contact Jerry Durlinger (ext. 228) or Dave Hawkinson (ext. 235) at Corn Belt Electric Cooperative.

## Problems on member's side of meter

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Of late, that practice has become cost prohibitive to the cooperative with the increased costs of doing business and the greater number of accounts that we serve. Accordingly, at the May board meeting, policy was changed. Beginning **Sept. 1**, the cooperative will assess a **\$50 charge** to any member who calls in a power outage and the problem is discovered to be on the member's side of the meter. The \$50 covers only a portion of the expense involved in dispatching a crew and their equipment.

So remember, before you call to report an outage, do the following:

a) Determine if the neighbors on your line are also out of power. If they have lights, chances are that you still have electricity to your home.

b) **Check your main fuses or the main circuit breaker.** If the meter is on the pole, there is probably a fuse box directly beneath the meter. Check here first. The same holds true for mobile homes and some apartments. There is usually a cut off switch beneath the meter. Often a failed cartridge fuse will show no sign that it has failed. **You should have new ones of the same size on hand.** Turn the power off and replace the old cartridge fuse with a new one. Most of the time this will restore your power and is what our linemen have done countless times in the past.

A main circuit breaker that has tripped is easy to spot. It will be in the "OFF" position. Simply turn it on and that will probably restore your electricity.

### YOU KNOW WHAT?

Using geothermal, you could be cooling your home for about a nickel a square foot — for the whole summer!!

## Rate reduction and CBEC

Next month, according to the Electric Utility Deregulation Bill signed by Governor Edgar in November last year, customers of *investor-owned electric utilities* will begin seeing the first phase (15 percent) of a mandated 20 percent reduction in their basic electric rates. CILCO customers receive a 5 percent reduction.

As announced at the 1998 Annual Meeting of Members in March, Corn Belt Electric members will experience an estimated 25 to 30 percent reduction of residential rates when our Soyland buyout loan is repaid during 2001. Monthly payments are being met by using the difference between the old Soyland wholesale price and the new market based price, plus any margin surplus.

You'll remember that our contract with Soyland Power Cooperative was an "all requirements" agreement to run through 2015. "All requirements" means that we were obligated to purchase all of our electricity from them regardless of the price they needed to charge. Borrowing and paying \$34.7 million to Soyland was the expedient and prudent decision to make for our membership. We fully expect our rates to be competitive when the loan is repaid.

## Outage phone call glitches

It seems as though the more automated and computerized we get, the more susceptible we are to things not operating quickly and smoothly and to our complete satisfaction.

Many members have made us aware of some shortcomings in our outage reporting equipment. It fails to hang up after a caller has disconnected. Consequently, the next caller experiences a never-ending ringing.

All possible solutions to correct the problem are being evaluated with the manufacturers. This may take several weeks or several months. Until it is fixed, we suggest using the following procedure when you do not get an answer.

When you phone to report an out-of-power situation and then encounter the-ringing-but-no-answer dilemma, hang up and call again. This time, instead of pressing "1" on your touchpad as instructed, enter any one of the following extension numbers: 302, 303, 304, 305, 306 or 307. This will give you a better chance of getting your call answered. If you still have difficulties with this approach, please do let us know about it at your earliest convenience.

We apologize for this situation.

### Rate 11 radio stations

WJBC-AM Bloomington	@	1230	WBNQ-FM Bloomington	@	101.5
WHOW-AM Clinton	@	1520	WBWN-FM Bloomington	@	104.0
WIRL-AM Peoria	@	1290	WHOW-FM Clinton	@	96.0
WDZ -AM Decatur	@	1050	WSWT-FM Peoria	@	107.0
WDZQ-FM Decatur	@	95.1	WGLT-FM Normal	@	89.0
WCIC-FM Pekin	@	91.5 & 99.5			



When you replace an appliance, be sure the new one has a battery backup for the digital clock!!! That way, you won't have to reset it after a split-second interruption in the electric supply

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CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

# High-voltage fireworks

If you've ever wanted to see what causes your power to go off, come out to the McLean County Fair to see the Live Line Demonstration at the Corn Belt Electric booth. We'll have demonstrations every day between noon and 7 p.m. The fair runs from July 28 through Aug. 1 at the Interstate Center on State Route 9 west from Exit 160 of I55/74.

The display is constructed with the same poles, transformers, and line hardware that we use to serve electricity to you. And, it has 7,200 volts running through it too. The instructor demonstrates, with a lot of sizzles, pops, and bangs just how and what causes a line outage. It's exciting, frightening and eye-popping. The demonstration will educate on how to protect yourself or someone else from injury or death by electrocution.

Don't be afraid and don't miss it! See you at the fair.



## ENERGY SAVING TIPS

### Electrical safety tips

Here are some safety tips about the electrical load center where electricity enters a building. It is commonly called a fuse box. It will have either main fuses or a main breaker for shutting off all power to the household.

- Be sure to have extra fuses on hand of the exact sizes required for the main and for the branch circuits. Typically, a "fuse box" will have both cartridge and screw-in types. Without a continuity tester there is usually no way to tell if a cartridge fuse has failed. Try a new one. Screw-in types have a window that shows a piece of metal in it. That is the fuse. If it is burnt in two, screw in a new fuse of the same amperage.

- If a breaker has tripped, simply flip it from the "OFF" to the "ON" position like a light switch.

- Before doing either of the above, determine what caused the problem and correct it. It may be as simple as unplugging an appliance.

- Unless you are an electrician yourself, never attempt to make repairs, especially those involving broken or frayed wires.

- If there is a power outage, do not call Corn Belt Electric until you have checked with your neighbors to see if they still have electricity. If they have, your main fuse or fuses have probably failed. Replace them with new ones. If you report a power outage to CBEC, a crew will be dispatched to discover and correct the problem on our lines. Effective Sept. 1, 1998, if the problem is found to be in your equipment, a \$50 charge will be assessed to help cover our costs.

- If blown fuses or a tripped breaker is a continuing nuisance, call an electrician. You may have a real and very dangerous problem that could cause a fire.

## Easy Pay Ways

### Balanced Budget Program

Join at any time — No zero balance required — No "catch-up" month — Each bill is a 12-month average — No high summer bills on the Balanced Budget Program!

### Electronic Funds Transfer

Pay your electric bill the effortless way with Electronic Funds Transfer. On the 25th of the month your bank pays your bill from your account to ours. Never write another check to CBEC!

### BBP and EFT go arm-in-arm

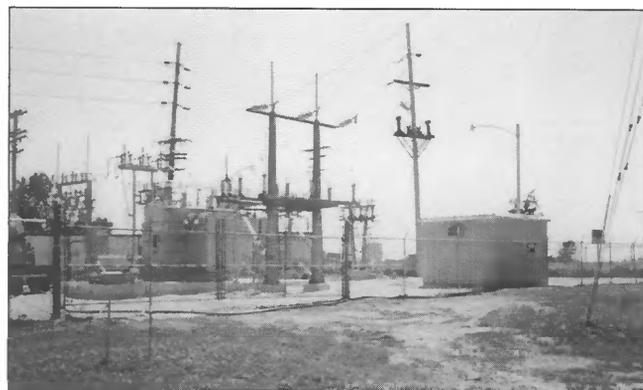
Phone the Office Services Department for details (press #2 on your touchpad).



CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

## Parkside substation back in service

Just in time for the summertime peak season, the new and improved Parkside Substation along I-55/74 was placed in service July 2. Consumers served from the old Parkside were transferred to other substations and it was deenergized the first week of January. Deconstruction began immediately. A new roadway had to be built to handle the heavy loads of old equipment leaving and new arriving. With a colder winter and less rain this spring, the work would have been completed sometime in May. Still, six-months represents a near record turnaround time. The new Parkside has



twice the capacity of the old and will adequately serve the west side of Bloomington-Normal for many years to come.

## Please tell us how we're doing

Corn Belt Electric Cooperative wants to provide excellent service and value to all members and your comments are important.

Our employees will offer a survey card to any and all members they contact. We ask that you take a few moments to answer the six questions posed on the card, fold it, tape the edge and drop it in the mail. The postage is already paid.

We've been told by members that they like our promptness, work habits and the manners of our employees and the fact that a cooperative staff person is always available to assist and answer questions. Of course, we're very flattered. But we

want a broader sampling than that.

That's why we're asking every CBEC member who has contact with our employees to tell us about their service experience and to give us some ideas on how we can improve.

So, if an employee doesn't offer the survey card, be sure to ask for one. They all have them. Or, if you come to the office, fill one out. They're on the front counter and in each department.

After all, we're working for you and our goal is to do the best we can for each of the cooperative's members.

## Winter rate begins with September usage

We have approximately 3,900 members on Residential Interruptible Rate 11 who enjoy the same cost per each kilowatt hour 12 months of the year. However, the majority of our members are served under Residential Rate 1. Rate 1 has two separate schedules - one for summer and one for winter. The bills received by Rate 1 accounts in August and September (July and August usages) are calculated on the two-month summer schedule.

The two-month Summer Rate 1 is a bit higher

than the Winter and has been since 1979 when Congress enacted the Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act (PURPA) encouraging state Commerce Commissions to set higher summer rates to more accurately reflect the higher cost of generating electricity in the summer. The higher costs come about because the oldest, most inefficient generating plants must be used to meet the higher demand for electricity created, for the most part, by the air conditioning load. These older plants are mostly on standby during the non-summer months.

The 10-month Winter Rate 1	The 2-month Summer Rate 1
Facilities Charge per month \$13.00	Facilities Charge per month \$13.00
First 600 kilowatt-hours 11.32¢ each	All kilowatt-hours @ 11.80¢ each
Next 1200 kilowatt-hours 8.36¢ each	
All kilowatt-hours over 1800 6.90¢ each	

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A Touchstone Energy<sup>SM</sup> Partner  
E.O.E. (M/F/H)

## Keith Campbell retires

Keith Campbell, foreman of a crew that placed our lines underground, retired September 10th. Keith had worked at Corn Belt Electric for 31 years beginning April 10, 1967, as an apprentice winch truck operator.

He became a lineman in 1977 and was chosen to be an underground foreman in 1992.

Keith and his wife, Ginger, reside in rural Downs and plan to do some traveling. Keith is a woodworker and will continue with that hobby. However, he hopes to have more time to pursue his second love — fishing.

"I will miss my fellow employees," Keith says, "but will definitely not miss the 2 a.m. outage calls or the long hours and days spent repairing storm damage."

In Keith's long service at Corn Belt Electric, we have relied heavily on his knowledge and on his professionalism. Any task assigned to him was always done to the highest standards. He will be missed.

Everyone at Corn Belt Electric congratulates him on his retirement and wishes him the best.



## We're finished remodeling



Looking south from the foyer into the new addition to our building. This space is now home to our Marketing and Engineering Departments.



The rearranged and redecorated Office Services Department as viewed from the foyer.

# Touchstone Energy "partners"

More than 450 electric cooperatives have now signed up as Touchstone Energy "partners", giving the new national brand access to more than nine million consumers — more than any other electric utility in the nation. And, the numbers are still growing as more and more co-ops join. Corn Belt Electric Cooperative is very proud to be a "partner" in this unprecedented movement for national identification.

"Touchstone Energy is a big step for cooperatives and represents a whole new way of working together," says Micky Miller, CEO of Nolin RECC in Elizabethtown, Ky., and chairman of the Touchstone Energy Executive Council. "It's a unifying brand and a rallying point we've needed for 30 years. With Touchstone Energy we can be bigger than what we each are individually."

This is the era of "branding." You see it on the business pages of newspapers every day.

Study after study shows that American consumers find comfort in purchasing products with brand names they recognize. Groups that have masterminded successful brand identity campaigns — the dairy farmers behind the "milk mustache" campaign or the hog farmers behind "the other white meat" campaign — have carved out a lucrative place in the hearts of consumers.

"Fortunately, electric cooperatives already have what most investor-owned utilities are scrambling to portray that they have: deep-rooted connections to communities and people," Miller stated. "Our strength comes from the fact that consumers think, 'You were right there when we needed you,'" says Miller. "We don't want co-ops to get away from that. We're building on that identity and the Touchstone Energy brand will tie us all together."

## Update on fuel-cell-powered cars

A new study by Ford Motor Company concludes that zero emission fuel cell engines will deliver on their promise of substantial energy efficiency gains and also compete on price with conventional engines when produced in quantity. A Ford Econoline van operating on a fuel cell could be expected to achieve 32 to 34 miles per gallon without any other energy efficiency improvements, the study concluded. The Econoline currently achieves 11 to 14 miles per gallon in city driving.

The study concludes that a fuel cell engine can be mass produced for \$37 to \$71 per kilowatt, well within the range needed to compete with today's internal combustion engines. Improvements in catalyst utilization could make fuel cells even cheaper.

Ford's study also examined the feasibility of a battery-augmented fuel cell vehicle system, a fuel cell hybrid vehicle, and concluded the hybrid "appears to be as feasible as the packaging of the pure fuel cell powered vehicle," even taking into consideration tradeoffs between battery and fuel cell weight, volume and cost. While both vehicles would achieve excellent energy efficiency, the hybrid would actually deliver slightly higher efficiency because the vehicle could recapture some of the "regenerative" energy from acceleration and braking.

Ford concludes that both fuel cell vehicle types - with or without a battery - are equally feasible and will have roughly the same overall efficiencies and capabilities.

## Reminder

We want to remind the membership of the change in our policy in regards to reporting an out of power situation when the problem is on your side of the meter.

Beginning Sept. 1 our employees will no longer repair damaged or failed equipment belonging to the member. If a member reports a power outage and the problem is discovered to be on the member's side of the meter, the member will be assessed a \$50 charge. The \$50 covers only a portion of the expense involved in dispatching a crew and their equipment.

Before you call the cooperative to report an outage, do the following:

a. Determine if your neighbors are also out of power. If they have lights, chances are that you still have elec-

tricity to your home.

b. **Very cautiously and safely check your main fuses or the main circuit breaker.** If your meter is on a pole, there is probably a fuse box directly below the meter. Check here first. (For mobile homes and some apartments, there is usually a cut-off switch beneath the meter.) Often, a failed cartridge fuse will show no sign of failure. **You should have new ones of the same amperage rating on hand.** Turn the handle to the "OFF" position and replace the old cartridge fuse with a new one. Most of the time this will restore your power. A main circuit breaker that has tripped is easy to spot — it will be in the "OFF" position. Simply turn it on and that will probably restore your electricity.

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

# The great tax hoard — revisited

A year ago in *Illinois Country Living* magazine we reported on what the General Accounting Office calls “the \$74 billion interest-free loans” the federal government has made to the huge, for profit, investor-owned electric utilities. The money is in the form of federal taxes these companies have collected from their customers, but not yet paid. And, they don't have to pay interest on these “loans” either. However, the government has to borrow money - \$5 billion a year plus interest to make up the difference. That adds to your tax bill.

On the other hand, electric cooperatives pay more than \$1.7 billion a year in interest alone on their government loans.

Here are some comments made by government agencies and others about this “deal”.

The IOUs receive “what amounts in effect to an **interest-free loan** equal to the amount of their deferred taxes.” *Public Utilities: Disposition of Excess Deferred Taxes*, U.S. General Accounting Office, September 1991.

“Accumulated deferred income taxes provide sources of interest-free capital to the investor-owned utilities.” *Edison Electric Institute funded study on subsidies: “Subsidies and Unfair Competitive Advantages Available to Publicly-owned and Cooperative Utilities.”* Putnam, Hayes & Bartlett, Inc., September 1994.

“The accumulated deferred federal income tax issue is very complex.... And the way really to boil that all down, the way that works is, it's treated

as **an interest-free loan.**” *Mark Edmunds, Deloitte & Touche, during Department of Energy Southeast Regional Public Meeting on Electrical Industry Restructuring, 1996*

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners indicated in a study that it and others “have long argued to no avail that the investment tax credit should be treated as zero-cost capital for rate making purposes and thus either excluded from rate base or included in the capitalization structure at zero cost.” This study quotes the Congressional Research Service as estimating that this treatment of the investment tax credit provides as much as \$2 billion in annual revenues to IOUs. *Summary of Federal Income Tax Reform Provisions Affecting Utilities*, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), January 1987.

## Examples of Federal Subsidy to investor-owned electric utilities

state	# of companies	total retained taxes
Illinois	5 IOUs	\$7.40 Billion
Texas	8 IOUs	\$6.28 Billion
California	3 IOUs	\$5.77 Billion
New York	7 IOUs	\$4.22 Billion
Ohio	7 IOUs	\$4.18 Billion
Georgia	1 IOU	\$2.89 Billion

Have you written your Congressperson lately?

## Consumers can fix errors on credit reports

If there are detrimental errors on any of your credit reports, you need to fix them — immediately! A bad mark on a credit report can cause big problems when you want to buy a car or a house, obtain a business loan or even rent an apartment.

The Council of Better Business Bureaus has good news for consumers. Recent changes to the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) give consumers new power to fix credit report errors. New responsibilities have been imposed on the credit reporting agencies and businesses that give them information.

If you dispute an entry in your file, the creditor now must conduct an investigation, review all relevant information and report inaccurate or incomplete information to all national credit bureaus. In addition, credit bureaus must now send all relevant evidence you give them about a disputed entry to the informant.

FCRA changes also impose new requirements

on the credit bureaus concerning file information that is disputed by the consumer. For the first time, credit bureaus must consider and transmit to the furnisher all relevant evidence submitted by the consumer.

Credit reporting agencies now have a 30-day limit to resolve a consumer's dispute. Once information is deleted, the credit bureau can no longer reinsert it unless the entity supplying the information certifies that the item is complete and accurate. In addition, the credit bureau must notify you within five days.

Obtain copies of your credit reports yearly. By law, information can remain on a credit report for up to seven years — bankruptcy information up to 10 years.

For information on how to obtain copies of your credit reports, contact the Council of Better Business Bureaus, 4200 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22203. Telephone (703) 276-0100; Fax (703) 525-8277. Visit their website at [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org).

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

## ENERGY SAVING TIPS

A test house in Pittsburgh is challenging the assumption that a house in a cold climate requires a vented attic. Traditionally, unvented attics have not been used in cold climates for fear of ice dam problems. Innovative Business and Construction Solutions (IBACOS), under the Department of Energy's Building America Program, designed the building to keep heat and moisture off the underside of the roof with innovative framing, insulation, and HVAC techniques. IBACOS claims that the improved envelope made it possible to downsize the heating and cooling equipment and save an estimated 40 percent in operating costs. The performance of the vacant house is being monitored by the National Renew-

able Energy Laboratory for a full year.  
*from Energy Design Update, Jan. 1998 - Web site: cutter.com/energy.*

The National Association of Home Builders announced the winners of its 1998 Energy/Value Housing Awards for outstanding energy and resource efficiency in the design, construction and marketing of new homes. The winning homes share several features among which are ground source heat pumps (geothermal) with desuperheaters to provide free hot water; air sealing and upgraded insulation levels of the shell and ductwork; and properly sized heating and cooling equipment. All of which we have advocated in this column for many years. Many of the winning builders guarantee annual heating and cooling costs.

*from Home Energy May/June 1998 - Web site: www.nahbrc.org.*

## Electricity industry websites

Site:

[www.southernco.com](http://www.southernco.com)

### *Southern Company*

Atlanta-based, is the largest generator of electricity in the U.S. It is the parent company for five large utilities and subsidiaries employing 27,000. Southern Company had a \$10 million print and TV ad campaign in 1997 promoting its image and brand name and aimed at large con-

sumers, financial analysts and business leaders. It is the first holding company to receive SEC approval to sell electricity and gas at retail level — through its unregulated subsidiary, Southern Holdings Inc. Fortune magazine ranked it "most respected utility" in 1995-97.

## Play it safe around electricity

Watch overhead when boating. Masts, fishing poles, or tall radio antennae could contact overhead wires.

Also, always look up and watch for overhead power lines when you are fishing.

When sky diving, ballooning paragliding,

hanggliding or flying model airplanes, you should check first for transmission lines and overhead power lines.

Remember to keep electrical equipment at least ten feet from a pool and wet surfaces.

*Reporting An Outage??*

**If your equipment is the cause you'll be charged \$50**

**Before you call CBEC:**

1. Look around the neighborhood to see if other homes on your line have lights.
2. If they do, you probably still have electricity.
3. Often, inserting a new fuse or switching the breakers to "on" will restore your power.
4. If we send a crew out and the problem is in your equipment, we'll bill you \$50 to partly recover our costs in sending the crew.

**To have underground cable located call J.U.L.I.E. toll free 800-892-0123**



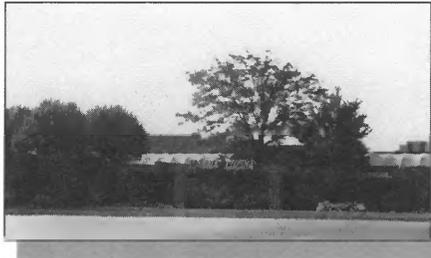
**NOTE: JULIE will not locate underground wiring that is beyond the CBEC meter. Consult the Yellow Pages — Electrical Contractors for this service.**

**CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS**

**CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS**  
**A Touchstone Energy<sup>SM</sup> Partner**  
E.O.E. (M/F/H)

## For your dining pleasure

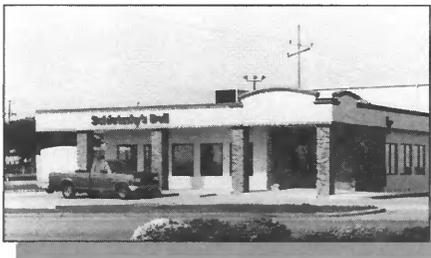
Corn Belt Electric proudly serves electricity to a vast and varied array of commercial accounts within our ten-county service territory. Allow us to introduce some fine eating establishments located in proximity to the intersection of Veterans Parkway and Route 150.



**Sonoma Grill**  
Wood-fired California pizza and pasta



**TGI Friday's**  
In here, it's always Friday!



**Schlotsky's Deli**  
Home of delicious hot sandwiches served on our famous, baked-fresh-daily bun



**Ned Kelly's Steakhouse**  
Great steaks and seafood served in a casual Australian atmosphere



**Longhorn Smokehouse**  
Real Texas barbecue



**Grady's**  
The place in McLean County for fun and pizza



**Henry Wellington's**  
A family restaurant



**Tachibana Japanese Restaurant**  
Japanese cuisine at its best!

## Buldings, bins and power lines

Before the erection of any buildings or grain bins on the farm is begun, please contact our engineering department to look over the plats and the plans to make sure the clearances from overhead lines meet the specifications of the National Electrical Code. If they do not, our staff can make suggestions as to the location of the structure that can save a lot of money and time.

If we have to move or revamp our facilities there is a cost to the property owner. We ask that you contact our engineering department for details and allow ample time for construction to be completed.

Safety First! We want your installation to be safe for the installers, you and our linemen.

So, before doing any building on the farm, call our engineering staff at (800) 879-0339 or (309) 662-5330 Ext. 237.

## Natural gas marketing efforts

Since the first of the year, your cooperative has made great strides in our first-ever efforts in marketing natural gas.

You may remember the announcement at our annual meeting in March that we had entered this deregulated industry as a result of a pilot program initiated by Northern Illinois Gas Company. This is a three-year pilot called Customer Select that began on January 1st. NICOR offered 20,000 of their commercial and industrial accounts the opportunity to choose their natural gas supplier in 1998. We joined a long list of huge, well-known and some not-so-well-known marketers to sell the product to this initial group.

As it turned out, approximately 10,000 of those accounts asked NI Gas to continue to supply them. Our Marketing Department then went through an educational process to learn

about the industry, the market and the product before and while they were contacting prospects. And, they are still learning.

Obviously, it didn't take very long for the 14 marketers to wade through the available 10,000 accounts. By mid-February, the competition was completed and Corn Belt Electric had accounted for itself very well indeed.

Corn Belt Electric Cooperative will participate in the next NICOR Select program in an effort to expand our existing customer base. In addition, the marketing department works daily to contact transport customers, those larger users who buy from the pipeline.

Natural gas is another important energy product Corn Belt Electric Cooperative is pleased to offer to its commercial and industrial members and customers in the central Illinois market area.

## Help with electric bills

If you anticipate difficulty in paying an electric bill this winter, contact the agency in the following list that serves your county. Ask about the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Please call for an appointment before going to the agency.

County	Agency
Dewitt	Central Illinois Economic Development Corp.
Logan	1800 Fifth Street Road
Platt	Lincoln Phone (217) 732-2159
Macon	Decatur-Macon County Opportunities Corp. 1122 East Marietta Street Decatur Phone (217) 428-2193
Ford	East Central Illinois Community Action Agency 56 North Vermilion Street Danville Phone (217) 443-2705
Livingston	Mid-Central Community Action, Inc.
McLean	923 East Grove Street Bloomington Phone (309) 829-0691
Tazewell	Tazwood Community Services
Woodford	2005 South Main Street Morton Phones (309) 694-4391 or (309) 266-9941

### LIHEAP Eligibility

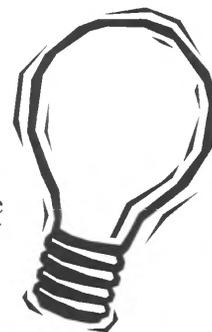
No. people	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Monthly Income	\$839	\$1,123	\$1,407	\$1,691	\$1,975	\$2,259	\$2,543	\$2,827

## Rate reduction and CBEC

Last August, as mandated in the 1997 Illinois Electric Utility Deregulation Bill, customers of the investor-owned utilities began receiving a 15 percent reduction in their basic electric rate. CILCO customers experienced a 5 percent reduction.

It was announced at Corn Belt's annual meeting last March that our rates will drop by 25-30 percent in 2001 when our \$34.7 million Soyland Power Cooperative buyout loan is repaid. As of this writing, we are on target with our repayments. The monthly payments are being met by using existing rate level margins plus the difference between the price we paid for power from Soyland and the price we are now paying on the open market.

Our contract with Soyland was an "all requirements" agreement to run through 2015. All requirements means that we were obligated to purchase all of our electricity from them regardless of the price they wanted to charge. The board decided this was an unacceptable risk for the membership. The decision was made to obtain the financing and cancel our membership in Soyland.



## Two new journeyman linemen

The management and the employees of Corn Belt Electric congratulate Ryan Campbell and Steve Cimei upon their graduation from the Lineman Apprenticeship Program. They received their Journeyman Certificates this summer. Both are now full-fledged Journeyman Linemen capable of safely and competently performing any and all work on our overhead and underground lines. Their accomplishment brings to 18 the total number of linemen in our 27 person Construction and Maintenance Department. Due to attrition, these numbers remain the same year after year.

Lineman apprentices endure four years of self-study and classroom instruction while gaining daily practical experience as a member of a line crew. As in any other educational environment, periodic tests are given and a final exam is administered at the end of each year.

And studying doesn't end with the award of the Journeyman Certificate. All members of the department are constantly learning about and being trained to use the new products and materials that are continually being introduced to our industry.

Even more time is spent studying matters of safety. Each month the department personnel meet with a state association safety director. Accidents that have happened at electric utilities across the

nation are discussed in detail to determine if work habits could or should be changed to prevent the accident happening here. Every year all members of the line crews rehearse a poletop rescue of a 180-pound mannequin that represents an unconscious person who has experienced a high-voltage contact. And, as is required of all our personnel, the line people complete First Aid and CPR training every year.

Linemen are a special breed. They have to have the courage, the knowledge and the will to work with something that can't be seen, heard or smelled but yet is highly dangerous. They have the dedication to restore power in the worst of weather. There is no nine-to-five occupation. They work until the job is done.

As owners of the cooperative, our members can take great pride in the professionalism and the competence of all the employees.



Ryan Campbell



Steve Cimei

## Winter rate began with September usage

We have approximately 3,900 members on Residential Interruptible Rate 11 who enjoy the same cost per each kilowatt hour 12 months of the year. However, the majority of you are served under Residential Rate 1. Rate 1 has two separate schedules — one for summer and one for winter. The bills received by Rate 1 accounts in October and for the following nine months will be calculated on the winter schedule. The summer schedule is used for July and August billing periods only.

The two-month Summer Rate 1 is a bit higher than the Winter and has been since 1979 when Congress enacted the Public Utilities Regu-

latory Policy Act (PURPA) encouraging state Commerce Commissions to set higher summer rates to more accurately reflect the higher cost of generating electricity in the summer. The higher costs come about because the oldest, most inefficient

generating plants must be used to meet the higher demand for electricity created, for the most part, by the air conditioning load. These older plants are mostly on standby during the non-summer months.

### The 10-month Winter Rate 1

Facilities Charge	
per month .....	\$13.00
First 600	
kilowatt-hours .....	each 11.32¢
Next 1200	
kilowatt-hours .....	8.32¢ each
All kilowatt-hours	
over 1800 .....	6.90¢ each

### The 12-month Rate 11

Facilities Charge	
per month .....	\$13.00
All kilowatt-hours year-round	@ 5.75¢

### Attention recipients of:

**Medicaid, Food Stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance, or Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP).**

**You may be eligible for telephone installation charges of up to \$40 less than the standard cost.**

**You may also be eligible for a \$5.25 monthly reduction in the cost of basic local phone service.**

**Call your local telephone company and ask if you qualify for**

### Link-Up or Lifeline

*Link-Up and Lifeline are federally funded programs.*

## ENERGY SAVING TIPS

### Replace that old air conditioner now!

Now that you've used the old air conditioner for another summer, you've discovered again that it doesn't do its job efficiently, cheaply or well. You suspected it last summer, now you know it for certain. You may even have had the serviceman hint at the same thing.

Whenever a member calls the office for advice on this topic, we tell him or her to replace it not with a common air conditioner but with a heat pump. Today's heat pumps can lower your cooling costs dramatically — 30-40 percent — because they are 300 percent efficient and can produce \$3 of cooling for each \$1 on your electric bill.

Heat pumps are phenomenally inexpensive to heat and to cool with because technology has made them smarter and more efficient. Manufacturers now produce one-speed, two-speed, and infinite-speed compressors and fans so they operate at just the level they need to provide your comfort. When more heat or cooling is required, the need is sensed by the electronics and the next level kicks in. Even the old industrial screw-compressor has been upgraded and improved and is being used in residential heat pumps. It's called a scroll-compressor in this application. The more years it operates, the more worn it becomes, the better it works, the quieter it operates and the cheaper it provides your winter and summer comfort.

As James Dulley says in his Cut Your Utility Bills newspaper column: "If you now have a propane or gas furnace, installing a new heat pump in place of an old central air conditioner can lower year-round utility bills. In mild weather, an electric heat pump can heat cheaper than an old furnace. In harsher weather the new pump and the old furnace work in tandem to provide your comfort." And, with Corn Belt's low 3.2 cent heating rate, the cost will be even cheaper than it was with the furnace alone.

Here's how. Our average wintertime temperature is about 35 degrees. A heat pump is most economical to operate down to about 30-32 degrees. Oh, it'll still provide adequate heating much lower than that, but the heat output per dollar input begins to taper off. So the heat pump provides heating for the home for most of the time. When the temperature is right, the controls automatically shut off the heat pump and bring on the old furnace. The old furnace is now working at its highest efficiency. You're saving money on your heating bill because you are using much less gas and are buying the electricity to power the heat pump at 1975 prices.

Every heating/cooling contractor carries a line of heat pumps. Ask for a price on replacing your old A/C with a heat pump. Two things to be aware of: Heating Season Performance Factor for highest heating efficiency and the Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio for cooling efficiency. The higher the better. And ask him to calculate your heating costs with the new machine coupled to your old furnace and using our 3.2 cent heating rate.

Or call the office and ask for the Member Service Department. We'll assist in any way we can.

### Easy Pay Ways

#### Balanced Budget Program

Join at any time — No zero balance required — No "catch-up" month — Each bill is a 12-month average — No high summer bills on the Balanced Budget Program!

#### Electronic Funds Transfer

Pay your electric bill the effortless way with Electronic Funds Transfer. On the 5th of the month your bank pays your bill from your account to ours. Never write another check to CBEC!

**Phone the Office Services Department for details (press #2 on your touchpad).**

### BBP and EFT go arm-in-arm



### To Report an outage

Phone 309-662-5330 or 800-879-0339

#### WITH TOUCHTONE SERVICE

When our outage system machine answers your phone call:

1. Use your touch pad to enter **your** area code/phone number
2. Answer questions using touch pad.
3. Hang up.

#### WITHOUT TOUCHTONE SERVICE

When our outage system machine answers your phone call:

1. Listen to message
2. Report outage by voice
  - a. You have 20 seconds to record
  - b. Tell **your** name, area code/phone number
  - c. Tell of wire down, tree on line, etc.
3. Hang up.

**Only emergency power problems are dealt with after business hours. Please phone the office with any other business Monday thru Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.**

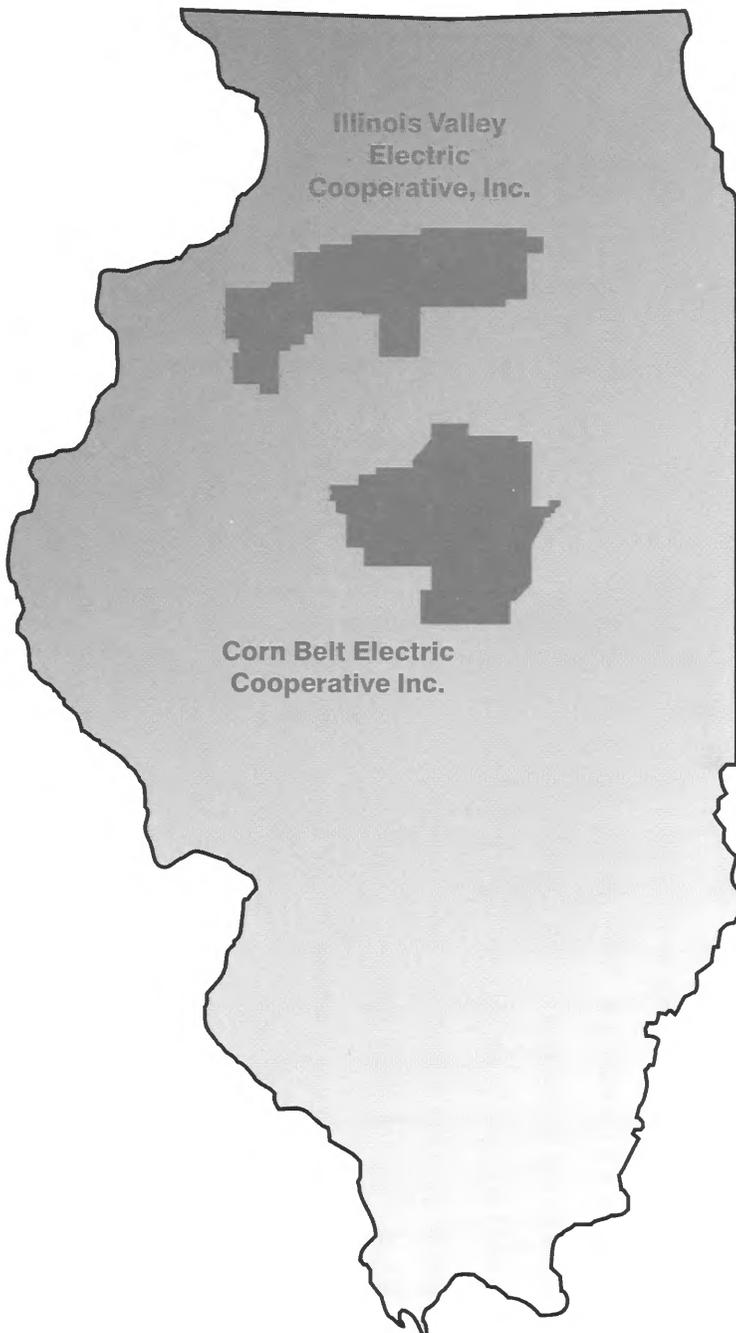
### Reporting An Outage?? If Your Equipment is the Cause You'll Be Charged \$50

#### Before you call CBEC:

1. Look around the neighborhood to see if other homes on your line have lights.
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3. Often, inserting a new fuse or switching the breaker to "on" will restore your power.
4. If we send a crew out and the problem is in your equipment, we'll bill you \$50 to partly recover our costs in sending the crew.

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS  
A Touchstone Energy<sup>SM</sup> Partner  
E.O.E. (M/F/H)

## Official meeting notice



Pursuant to the provisions of the bylaws, official notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the members of Corn Belt Electric Cooperative Inc. will be held at the Interstate Center, 2301 W. Market Street, Bloomington, Illinois at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 10, 1998 to take action on the following matters:

1. Reading of the notice of the meeting and proof of the due publication or mailing thereof, or the waiver or waivers of notice of the meeting as the case may be.
2. To receive reports of officers, directors, employees and committees.
3. To vote on the plan of merger of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. into Corn Belt Electric Cooperative Inc.
4. New business.

Respectfully,  
Gary Frankeberger  
Secretary-Treasurer

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP  
TO VOTE ON THE MERGER OF  
ILLINOIS VALLEY ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.  
INTO  
CORN BELT ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE INC.**

**The special member meeting will be held at  
the Interstate Center  
2301 West Market - Bloomington  
7:00 PM Tuesday, November 10, 1998**

***It is very important that you be  
there to vote your opinion!!!***

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**Informational meetings on the merger will  
be held at the following locations**

**Dee-Mack H.S.  
401 E. 5<sup>th</sup>  
Mackinaw, IL**

**at 7 p.m.**

**Oct. 27**

**Corn Belt Electric  
Cooperative  
1502 Morrissey  
Drive**

**Bloomington, IL**

**at 7 p.m.**

**Oct. 28**

**Elks Lodge  
1520 E. South St.  
Clinton, IL**

**at 7 p.m.**

**Oct. 29**

**CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS**

# Agenda

5:30 to 7 p.m. .... Registration of members  
 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. .... Bratwurst meal served

## 7 p.m.

Call to Order ..... Rae F. Payne, Chairman  
 Early Bird Prize Drawing

## Business Meeting

Roll Call ..... W. S. Bach, Attorney  
 Reading of Notice of Meeting and Proof of Mailing ..... W. S. Bach, Attorney  
 Chairman's Report ..... Rae F. Payne, Chairman  
 Introduction of Visitors ..... J. D. Reeves, President  
 President's Summary of Merger ..... J. D. Reeves, President  
 Questions From the Floor ..... J. D. Reeves, President

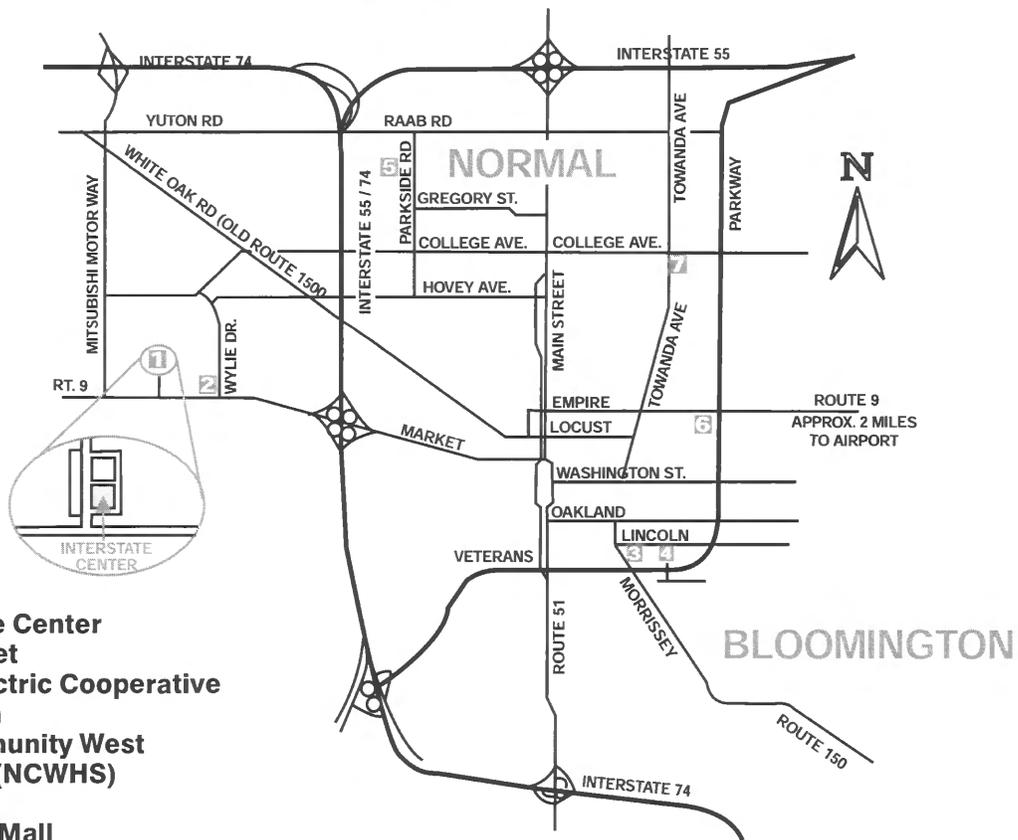
Appointment of Tellers ..... Rae F. Payne, Chairman  
 Vote on Plan of Merger ..... W. S. Bach, Attorney

## Other Business

Report of Voting Results  
 Drawing for the last prize

Each member or spouse registered prior to the vote and present at the time of the drawing is entitled to one chance. Prizes will be awarded before and after the meeting.

## MAP OF BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL



### Map index:

- 1: The Interstate Center
- 2: Farm and Fleet
- 3: Corn Belt Electric Cooperative
- 4: The Radisson
- 5: Normal Community West High School (NCWHS)
- 6: Eastland Mall
- 7: College Hills Mall

**CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS**

## Chairman's report

To cut expenses and to share resources, the board of directors of your cooperative will be asking the membership to vote on the merger of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative of Princeton, Illinois, into Corn Belt Electric Cooperative. The merger plan was examined by the management of each cooperative and by a financial banker over the last eight months. Ten-year savings of \$5.5 million for Illinois Valley members and \$4.4 million for Corn Belt members is indicated.

For the past 60 years, both cooperatives have provided reliable electric power and quality service. Under the proposed new name of Corn Belt Energy Corporation, we will still be committed to this high level of service. And we expect you will demand even more from us in the future.

After examining the merger plan, the boards of both cooperatives voted in August to bring it to their respective memberships. Our members will vote on the plan of merger, which includes the proposed bylaw changes providing for four new directors on the Corn Belt Board to represent the members and the service area of Illinois Valley. Illinois Valley members will vote to approve being merged into Corn Belt.

Economies of scale resulting from the merger/acquisition will benefit the members of both cooperatives. Shared services, combined purchasing, common accounting, centralized billing, reduced administrative costs and greater technical services will help save expenses and create new opportunities.

You will still be represented by your eleven-person board of directors. However, the plan of merger calls for four directors from the Illinois Valley service area to be added to our eleven, making a fifteen person board, giving each service area equal representation.

Facilities in Princeton and in Bloomington will be maintained and a work force will staff both. All

current employees will be offered a job following the merger. Some job duties may change.

The proposed merger plan calls for the new combined cooperative to have two separate rate schedules based on the actual distribution costs in each existing cooperative's service area. Common shared costs such as billing, accounting, and administration will be incorporated into the rate schedules based on the number of members within each service area.

Corn Belt Electric Cooperative was incorporated in September 1938, and serves approximately 18,000 members in McLean, Woodford, Tazewell, Logan, Macon, Dewitt, Piatt, Ford, Livingston and Champaign counties. Corn Belt has over 3,000 miles of line.

Illinois Valley was incorporated in March 1939, and serves approximately 6,000 members in Kendall, LaSalle, Putnam, Marshall, Bureau, Stark, Henry, and Knox counties. Illinois Valley owns more than 1,700 miles of line and has total assets of \$24.5 million.

The boards of directors of Illinois Valley and Corn Belt are committed to offer their memberships choice when the deregulation of the electric utility industry takes place.

If approved, the merger/acquisition would result in combined total assets of more than \$87 million.

Both cooperative memberships will vote on the plan of merger on Nov. 10, 1998. Your vote gives the cooperative direction for the future.



Ray F. Payne  
Chairman

# PLAN & AGREEMENT OF MERGER BETWEEN CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. & ILLINOIS VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

THIS PLAN & AGREEMENT OF MERGER ("Plan") is made and entered into as of the 25th day of August, 1998, by and between **CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, 1502 Morrissey Drive, P.O. Box 816, Bloomington, Illinois 61702-0816 ("Corn Belt" or "Surviving Corporation"), and **ILLINOIS VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, Routes 6 & 34 West, P.O. Box 70, Princeton, Illinois 61356 ("IVEC" or "Merging Corporation").

## RECITALS

**WHEREAS**, Corn Belt is an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, which is governed by the General Not-for-Profit Act of 1986 (805 ILCS 105/101.1, et seq.) ("Not-for-Profit Act"); and

**WHEREAS**, IVEC is an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, also governed by the Not-for-Profit Act; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 111.05 of the Not-for-Profit Act requires corporations that plan to merge to adopt a Plan of Merger, initially by the Board of Directors and ultimately by the members of the corporation pursuant to Section 111.20, Not-for-Profit Act; and

**WHEREAS**, this document represents a proposed plan and agreement for the merger of IVEC into Corn Belt, which Plan, once adopted by the Board of Directors of both Corn Belt and IVEC pursuant to Section 111.20(a) of the Not-for-Profit Act, will be submitted to IVEC's and Corn Belt's members in accordance with the provisions of Section 111.20 of the Not-for-Profit Act;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, and subject to the provisions of the Not-for-Profit Act, Corn Belt and IVEC hereby agree as follows:

### **1. CORPORATE INFORMATION:**

**1.1 Corn Belt Corporate Information:** Corn Belt is an Illinois not-for-profit corporation

in good standing, which was incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois under Certificate Number 7435, issued by the Secretary of State of Illinois, on September 22, 1938. The Registered Office of Corn Belt is 1502 Morrissey Drive, Bloomington, Illinois 61702-0816, and its Registered Agent at said address is Jeffrey D. Reeves. The purpose for which Corn Belt is organized is to provide electrification on a cooperative basis and administer and operate an organization on a cooperative basis to produce or furnish goods, services or facilities primarily for the benefit of its members or consumers of such goods, services and facilities. Corn Belt has 15,102 active members and 17,781 meters as of August 4, 1998. Each active member of Corn Belt has one vote for purposes of membership decisions under the By-Laws, and Articles of Incorporation of Corn Belt, and the Not-for-Profit Act.

**1.2 IVEC Corporate Information:** IVEC is an Illinois not-for-profit corporation in good standing, which was incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois under Certificate Number 8244, issued by the Secretary of State of Illinois, on March 31, 1939. The Registered Office of IVEC is Routes 6 & 34

West, P.O. Box 70, Princeton, Illinois 61356, and its Registered Agent at said address is Timothy L. Christensen. The purpose for which IVEC is organized is to generally generate, manufacture, purchase, acquire and accumulate electrical energy for its members and to transit, distribute, furnish, sell and dispose of such electric energy to its members only and to do all things reasonably necessary or incident thereto to accomplish the foregoing. IVEC has 4,951 active members and 6,106 meters as of the 31st day of July, 1998. Each active member of IVEC has one vote for purposes of membership decisions under the By-Laws, and Articles of Incorporation of Corn Belt, and the Not-for-Profit Act.

### **2. MERGER:**

**2.1 Merging & Surviving Corporations:** The Boards of Directors of both Corn Belt and IVEC deem it advisable that IVEC, as the Merging Corporation, merge into Corn Belt, as the Surviving Corporation, on the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth and in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Not-for-Profit Act, which permits such merger.

**2.2 Approval by Boards of Directors:** Corn Belt's Board of Directors approved this Plan at a regular meeting of its Board of

Directors on the 28th day of August, 1998, and directed that the same be submitted to Corn Belt's membership for ultimate approval as required by Section 11.20(b) and (c) of the Not-for-Profit Act. IVEC's Board of Directors approved this Plan of Merger at a regular meeting of its Board of Directors on the 28th day of August, 1998, and directed that the same be submitted to IVEC's membership for ultimate approval as required by Section 11.20(b) and (c) of the Not-for-Profit Act.

**2.3 Effective Date:** The effective date of this merger shall be the first day of the month immediately following the approval of the Plan by the members of both Corn Belt and IVEC and the issuance of an appropriate Certificate of Merger by the Secretary of State of Illinois, said date, however, not being more than thirty (30) days subsequent to the issuance of the Certificate of Merger by the Secretary of State of Illinois.

**2.4 Single Corporation:** On and after the effective date of the merger, Corn Belt and IVEC shall be a single corporation with Corn Belt as the Surviving Corporation and the separate existence of IVEC shall cease, except to the extent provided by the laws of the State of Illinois after the merger of IVEC into Corn Belt.

**2.5 Rights & Privileges:** On and after the date of the merger, Corn Belt shall thereupon possess all of the rights, privileges, immunities and franchises, as of a public as well of a private nature previously owned or enjoyed by IVEC; and all property, real, personal, mixed and all debts due on whatever account, and all other choses in action, and all and every other interest of, or belong to, or due to IVEC shall be taken and deemed to be vested in Corn Belt, the Surviving Corporation, without any further act or deed. The title

to all real estate or any interest therein, shall be vested in Corn Belt and shall not be deemed to revert, nor shall title to said real estate in any way be impaired by reason of this merger.

**2.6 Obligations:** On and after the date of the merger, Corn Belt shall thenceforth be responsible for and liable for each and every liability and obligation of IVEC; and any claim, existing or threatened, or any action or proceeding pending or threatened by or against IVEC may be prosecuted to judgment against Corn Belt as if the merger had not taken place and Corn Belt may be substituted in IVEC's place in any pending proceedings. Neither the rights of the creditors, nor any liens upon IVEC's property shall be impaired or affected by the merger herein.

**2.7 By-Laws:** Pursuant to this Plan, Corn Belt's existing By-Laws shall be amended and shall read as described on Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference.

**2.8 Officers:** The Officers of the Surviving Corporation, Corn Belt, shall be:

Chairman of the Board:

Rae F. Payne

Vice Chairman of the Board:

Stephen Schertz

Secretary/Treasurer:

Gary Frankeberger

Asst. Secretary/Treasurer:

Janice Reimer

President:

Jeffrey D. Reeves

Senior Vice President:

Timothy L. Christensen

**2.9 Membership:** Each and every member of IVEC shall, upon the effective date of the merger, immediately become a member of Corn Belt. Those IVEC members who are currently purchasing electrical energy from IVEC at the time the merger becomes effective shall become active members of Corn Belt and those persons who have otherwise qualified for

membership in IVEC, but were not purchasing electrical energy from IVEC at the time of the merger, shall be inactive members of Corn Belt. Each existing membership certificate in IVEC shall be delivered to Corn Belt and the same shall be exchanged for a certificate in Corn Belt so that each holder of a certificate of membership in IVEC immediately prior to the merger shall be a holder of a certificate of membership in Corn Belt after the date of merger.

**2.10 Survivor's Name:** The Surviving Corporation shall be known by the name of Corn Belt Energy Corporation and its Registered Office shall continue to be at 1502 Morrissey Drive, P.O. Box 816, Bloomington, Illinois 61702-0816.

### **3. BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

#### **3.1 Number of Directors:**

The initial number of Directors for the Surviving Corporation shall be 15, with 11 of those Directors being the existing Corn Belt Directors and the remaining 4 Directors being Directors selected from IVEC's former territory in accordance with the provisions of the proposed By-Laws, which are attached hereto as Exhibit A.

**3.2 Corn Belt Directors:** The eleven existing Corn Belt directors shall continue as directors of the Surviving Corporation standing for election as their terms expire in the usual and ordinary course of events.

**3.3 IVEC Directors:** The four directors from IVEC's former territory who shall serve as the initial directors of the Surviving Corporation in accordance with the proposed revised Bylaws attached hereto are the following: District 6 - Dennis Fredrickson, 1660 Illinois Rt. 167, Victoria, IL 61485; District 7 - Charles Meisenheimer, R.R. 1, Box 127, Walnut, IL 61376; District 8 - Albert Hagenbuch, 3483 E. 11th Rd., Utica, IL 61373; District 9 - Robert Angus, R.R. 4, 1499 N.

**4. RATE CLASSES:**

**4.1 IVEC Rate Classes:**

Corn Belt shall cause to be adopted for those members who were IVEC members immediately prior to the merger, a special set of rates that will fairly allocate to former IVEC members the payment of expenses that were unique to the IVEC system including, but not necessarily limited to, the following: depreciation, interest and maintenance and operational expenses of the IVEC distribution system. The current IVEC rate classes are attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference as Exhibit B.

**4.2 Corn Belt Rate Classes:**

Corn Belt shall cause to be adopted for those members who were Corn Belt Members immediately prior to the merger, a special set of rates that will fairly allocate to those Corn Belt members receiving service prior to the merger, the expenses that were unique to the Corn Belt system including, but not necessarily limited to, the following: depreciation, interest and maintenance and operational expenses of the Corn Belt distribution system. The current Corn Belt rate classes are attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference as Exhibit C.

**4.3 Review of Rate Classes:**

Within twelve (12) months from the effective date of the merger, the merged Board shall cause the rates to be modified so as to recognize savings resulting from the merger that may be fairly allocated to the merged membership.

**5. FURTHER ACTS & ASSURANCES:**

**5.1 Assignments/Deeds:** If at any time, the Surviving Corporation shall consider or be advised that any further assignment, deed, transfer, conveyance or documents or assurances in law are necessary or desirable to vest in the

Surviving Corporation, the title to any real or personal property or rights of any kind of IVEC, then IVEC agrees that the proper Officers of Corn Belt and the Directors of Corn Belt shall and will have all of the authority, right, title, interest and power to make all such proper assignments, deeds, transfer, conveyances or documents or assurances in law and to do all other things reasonably necessary, convenient or proper to vest such property or rights in the Surviving Corporation and to otherwise carry out the purposes of this Plan.

**5.2 Expenses of Merger:**

Corn Belt and IVEC shall each pay 1/2 of the expenses necessary for carrying this Plan into effect and accomplishing the merger provided for herein. On and after the effective date of the merger, any such further expenses shall be treated as general administrative expenses which shall be allocated in accordance with the By-Laws of the Surviving Corporation.

**6. SURVIVAL OF REMEDIES:**

**6.1 Remedies Survive:**

Corn Belt survives the merger and, on and after the effective date of the merger, may be served with process in the State of Illinois in any proceeding for the enforcement of any obligation of Corn Belt arising either prior to or on and after the effective date of the merger, including, without limitation, any suit or other proceeding to enforce any right, duty or obligation against either Corn Belt or IVEC that existed before the effective date of the merger herein.

**6.2 Registered Agent:** Corn Belt shall designate and appoint Jeffrey D. Reeves, 1502 Morrissey Drive, Bloomington, Illinois 61702-0816, as its Registered Agent to accept service of process in any such suit or other proceeding or such other person as Corn Belt may designate from

time to time in writing according to the laws of the State of Illinois and rules and regulations of the Office of Secretary of State of the State of Illinois.

**7. NECESSARY ADOPTIONS:**

**7.1 Passage by Board of Directors:** This Plan shall be of no force and effect until each of the following has occurred:

(a) The Plan has been adopted by the Board of Directors of Corn Belt at a regular or special meeting called for the purpose, among other things, of adopting same; and

(b) The Plan has been adopted by the Board of Directors of IVEC at a regular or special meeting called for the purpose, among other things, of adopting same.

(c) The Plan, as adopted by IVEC and Corn Belt's Boards of Directors, is adopted by Corn Belt's and IVEC's memberships according to paragraph 7.2 hereof.

**7.2 Approval by**

**Membership:** This Plan, even though adopted by each of the Board of Directors of Corn Belt and IVEC, shall be of no force or effect unless and until this Plan is adopted by the requisite number of members of IVEC at a regular or special meeting according to the provisions of the Not-for-Profit Act and the By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation of IVEC and adopted by the requisite numbers of members of Corn Belt at a regular or special meeting according to the provisions of the Not-for-Profit Act and the By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation of Corn Belt.

**7.3 Abandonment:** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, this Plan may be abandoned by either Corn Belt or IVEC by an appropriate Resolution of its

Board of Directors at any time prior to its approval or adoption by the membership of Corn Belt or IVEC or by the mutual consent of Corn Belt and IVEC, evidenced by appropriate Resolutions of their respective Boards of Directors at any time prior to the effective date of the merger, even though the same be after the adoption or approval by

the members of Corn Belt or IVEC.

**7.4 Illinois Law Governs:** This Plan shall be governed by the laws of the State of Illinois and, in particular, the Not-for-Profit Act.

**7.5 Authority:** Both Corn Belt and IVEC, by the affixation of the signatures of their respective representatives below,

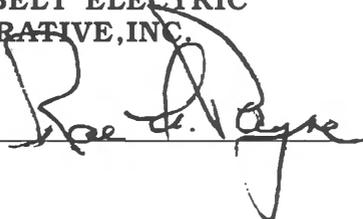
certify and warrant to the other that this Plan was duly approved and adopted by the Board of Directors at a duly called special meeting or regular meeting wherein this Plan was duly considered and adopted. Both Corn Belt and IVEC shall deliver to the other, a certified copy of the Board Resolution adopting this Plan.

**WITNESS** the hands and seals of the parties hereto on the day and year first above written.

**CORN BELT ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

**ILLINOIS VALLEY ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_



BY: \_\_\_\_\_



(SEAL)

(SEAL)

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## **CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.** **ENERGY CORPORATION**

**Principal Office -  
Bloomington, Illinois**

### **ARTICLE I Members**

The aim of Corn Belt Electric Cooperative Inc. **Energy Corporation** (hereinafter called the "Cooperative") is to make electric **and other forms of energy and services** available to its members at the lowest cost consistent with sound economy and good management, and the cooperative shall not be operated for pecuniary profit either to itself or to its members.

#### **BYLAWS**

(As Revised at a **Special Annual Meeting of Members**  
\_\_\_\_\_, **199** March  
15, 1997)

**Section 1. Qualifications and Obligations.** Any person, firm, association, corporation or body politic, or subdivision thereof, will become a member of the Cooperative upon receipt of **energy electric service** from the Cooperative, provided that he or it has first:

- (a) Made written application for membership therein;
- (b) Agreed to purchase from the Cooperative **electric any form of energy as herein specified**;
- (c) Agreed to comply with and be bound by the articles of incorporation and bylaws of the Cooperative and any rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Directors, and

- (d) Paid such membership fees as have been required by action of the Board of Directors and in event that any person whose membership has been canceled for failure to pay any and all charges heretofore made that the same shall have paid in full **on** all delinquent accounts. No member may hold more than one membership in the Cooperative, and no membership in the Cooperative shall be transferable except as provided in these bylaws.

**Section 2. Classification of Members.** All members of the Cooperative shall be either active or inactive members, said memberships and the incidents thereof being as follows:

- (a) **Active members.** All members currently purchasing

**CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS**

electric any form of energy from the Cooperative delivered to the member through one or more service connections shall be the active members of the Cooperative and as such active members shall be permitted to vote upon any proposition submitted to the membership at any meeting of the members of the Cooperative and shall be eligible to hold any elective office in the Cooperative. Active members who meet the criteria described in Article III hereof shall be eligible to hold elective office in the Cooperative.

- (b) **Inactive Members.** Those persons, having otherwise qualified for membership, who are not purchasing electric any form of energy from the Cooperative, either by reason of the fact that said energy has not been made available to such member, or is not then available to said member, shall be inactive members of the Cooperative, and as such shall not be eligible to hold any office in the Cooperative or to vote upon any proposition submitted to the membership of the Cooperative.

Status of membership from inactive to active or vice versa, may change without notice to said member upon purchasing or ceasing to purchase electric any form of energy.

If it shall be determined that it will be impossible to furnish electrical energy to an inactive member, who has never received electric energy from the Cooperative, then and only then may the membership fee, if any, be refunded.

- (c) **Joint Membership.** A husband and wife may shall jointly become and hold one membership, unless otherwise requested in writing and may shall be accepted

into membership upon their joint compliance with the provisions of Section 1 of this Article. Such membership shall be either active or inactive.

Two persons other than husband and wife occupying a dwelling house may hold a joint membership for service to that residence only. In the event that residency in said unit is abandoned by either of said parties that said joint membership shall be terminated as to both parties. In the event that one of said joint members continues to take service in said units a new membership must be issued to be eligible for continued service.

- (d) **Divorce/Annulment.** In case of divorce or annulment, the membership may be continued in the name of either of the joint members, but not both. If the Court granting the Decree of Divorce or Annulment, or any other Court of competent jurisdiction does not determine which spouse is to succeed to the membership, then the parties shall resolve the succession by a written release signed by the spouse whose name is to be dropped from said joint membership. ~~That~~ The release shall be in such form as from time to time prescribed by the Cooperative and shall include the disposition of all capital credits assigned or then earned but not assigned. If, within thirty days from the date of the Decree of Divorce or Annulment the parties have not determined in whose name the membership shall be continued and have not filed such release with the Cooperative, the membership shall then automatically terminate as to both parties and the capital credits to which these members may then be entitled shall remain credited in the Capital Account in the name of both, subject to transfer

only by written order of both parties.

~~If it shall be determined that it will be impossible to furnish an inactive member, who has never received electric energy from the Cooperative, with electric energy, then and only then may the membership fee, if any, be refunded.~~

~~Two persons other than husband and wife occupying a dwelling house may hold a joint membership for service to that residence only. In the event that residency in said unit is abandoned by either of said parties that said joint membership shall be terminated as to both parties. In the event that one of said joint members continues to take service in said units a new membership must be issued to be eligible for continued service.~~

- (e) **Other Classes.** The Board of Directors may, by majority vote, establish other classes of membership from time to time.

### **Section 3. Purchase of Electricity**

**Electrical Energy.** Each member shall, as soon as electric energy is available, purchase from the Cooperative all electric energy to be used on said premises except said member may generate for his own use a portion of said required energy on equipment owned or leased by him. The Cooperative may limit, allocate or apportion the amount of energy furnished at any location, but said apportionment shall not be arbitrary. Temporary cessation of service, through planned or unplanned outages, shall be without liability of the supplier. Rates for all classes of service shall from time to time be fixed by the Directors based on amount of usage and/or demand, unique cost of service and such other factors as the Directors shall deem relative to fixing the price of said energy, including, without limitation, a minimum charge,

regardless of the amount of energy used or consumed, and shall fix a minimum charge regardless of the amount of electric energy consumed. Each member shall pay for all electric energy furnished when billed and all obligations including damage caused by the negligence of said member or agent to any part of the Cooperative distribution system either on the premises of the member or elsewhere. Production or use of electric energy on such premises, regardless of the source thereof by means of facilities which shall be interconnected with Cooperative's facilities, shall be subject to appropriate regulations by law or regulations as shall be fixed from time to time by the Cooperative.

**Section 4. Purchase of Other Forms of Energy.** With regard to the purchase of energy other than electrical energy, each member may, as soon as the particular form of energy is available, purchase from the Cooperative such other energy as the Cooperative may offer for sale from time to time to be used at such location as the member may determine. The Cooperative shall, however, have no obligation, express or implied, to construct any transmission facilities necessary for the transportation of such energy for any member except upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Directors may determine from time to time. The Cooperative may limit, allocate, apportion or terminate the amount of energy furnished at any location. Temporary cessation of service shall be without any liability on behalf of the Cooperative. Rates for all classes of services shall from time to time be fixed by the Directors based upon the amount of usage, cost and/or demand, together with such other factors as the Directors shall deem relative to fixing the price of said energy, including, without limitation, a minimum charge, regardless of the amount of energy used or consumed. Each member shall

pay for all energy furnished when billed and all obligations, including damage caused by the negligence of said member or the member's agent, to any part of the Cooperative's distribution system.

**Section 45. Non-liability for Debts of the Cooperative.** The private property of the members of the Cooperative shall be exempt from execution for the debts of the Cooperative and no member shall be individually liable or responsible for any debts or liabilities of the Cooperative.

**Section 6. Articles/Bylaws Binding.** Each member of the Cooperative agrees to be bound by the provisions contained in the Articles of Incorporation of the Cooperative, these bylaws, and any rules or regulations adopted from time to time by the Board of Directors, even though such rules and regulations may be adopted after the date the member's membership becomes effective.

**Section 57. Expulsion of Members.** The Board of Directors of the Cooperative may, by the affirmative vote of not less than seven of the directors thereof, expel any member who shall have violated or refused to comply with any of the provisions of the certificate of incorporation of the Cooperative or these bylaws or any rules or regulations adopted from time to time by the Board of Directors or who shall have refused to pay for electric energy purchased from the Cooperative when such refusal shall continue for a period in excess of 60 days. Any member so expelled may be reinstated as a member by a vote of the members at any annual or special meeting of the members. The action of the members with respect to any such reinstatement shall be final.

**Section 68. Withdrawal of Membership.** Any member may withdraw from membership upon payment in full of all debts and liabilities of such member to the Cooperative and upon compli-

ance with such terms and conditions as the Board of Directors may prescribe. Refusal to purchase electric energy from the Cooperative, where the same is available, and the purchase of such electric energy from another producer or distributor, shall be considered as an offer of said member to withdraw from the Cooperative and which offer may be accepted without further notice to said member.

**Section 79. Transfer and Termination of Membership.**

- (a) Membership in the Cooperative and a certificate representing the same shall not be transferable except as hereinafter otherwise provided, and upon the death, cessation of existence, expulsion or withdrawal of a member, the membership of such member shall thereupon terminate, and the certificate of membership shall be surrendered forthwith to the Cooperative.
- (b) Termination of membership by expulsion or withdrawal shall operate as a release of all right, title and interest of the member in the property and assets of the Cooperative; and all assigned capital credits shall be immediately transferable to the general funds of the Cooperative, such transfer being deemed a forfeiture as to all funds, and shall not act as a release of any debt or obligation which said former member may owe to said Cooperative unless the Board of Directors, in case of withdrawal of membership, allows assigned patronage capital standing in the name of the member seeking to withdraw to be taken by way of set-off on any outstanding obligation owed to the Cooperative, this right to be exercised in the discretion of the Board of Directors notwithstanding any general limitation upon the withdrawal or retirement of patronage capital.
- (c) Termination of membership

by death, or cessation of existence, shall operate as a release of all right, title and interest of said member in the property and assets of the Cooperative but shall not cancel or terminate the right or title to assigned patronage capital which may be subsequently assigned or transferred on the books of the Cooperative, notwithstanding the original membership of which it was an incident has been terminated.

(d) A membership may be transferred by a member to himself or herself and his or her spouse, as the case may be, jointly upon the written request of such member and compliance by such husband and wife jointly with the provisions of Section 1 of this Article. Such transfer shall be made and recorded on the books of the Cooperative and such joint membership noted on the original certificate representing the membership so transferred.

(e) When a membership is held jointly by a husband and wife, upon the death of either such membership shall be deemed to be held solely by the survivor with the same effect as though such membership had been originally issued solely to him or her, as the case may be, and the joint membership certificate may be surrendered by the survivor and upon the recording of such death on the books of the Cooperative, the certificate may be reissued to and in the name of such survivor; provided, however, that the estate of the deceased shall not be released from any membership debts or liabilities to the Cooperative.

**Section 810. Liens and Rights of Set Off.** The Cooperative shall have a lien on and the right to set off all capital credits allocated or accrued to the account of any member for any debt or sum of money due the Cooperative from that member of

whatever kind, including but not limited, charges for electric energy services including late payments fees. The amount of set-off shall be based upon the present value of the capital credits. This present value shall be computed based on the period of revolvment of capital credits being maintained by the Cooperative at the time of the set-off, or if no schedule for revolvment has been adopted by the Cooperative on the basis of a 25 year revolvment of capital credits. The discount rate to be used in making the computation of the value of the capital credits shall be equal to the "blended interest cost for long term fixed rate financing" then available to the Cooperative through the Cooperative Finance Corporation and the Rural Utilities Service, rounded to the next highest one percent.

## ARTICLE II Meeting of Members

**Section 1. Annual Meeting of the Members.** An annual meeting of the members shall be held on the 10th day of January of each year at the principal office of the Cooperative in the City of Bloomington, County of McLean, State of Illinois, for the purpose of electing Directors, passing upon reports covering the previous fiscal year, and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting. Provided, that the Directors of the Cooperative, at any meeting of the Board, notice of which meeting and the purpose of which having been duly given to the members of such Board, held at least twenty days prior the 10th day of January of any year may change the date of the Annual Meeting of that year to any later day in that year up to and including June 30th and may change the place of meeting to any place in any County in which the Cooperative maintains electric transmission and distribution lines. If the 10th day of January of any year is a Sunday or legal holiday and no other date of meeting has been fixed, then such meeting shall be held on the

next succeeding business day. If the election of Directors shall not be held at the Annual Meeting, or any adjournment thereof, the Board of Directors shall cause the election to be held at a Special Meeting of the members as soon thereafter as conveniently may be. Failure to hold the Annual Meeting at the designated time or place shall not work a forfeiture or dissolution of the Cooperative.

**Section 2. Special Meetings.** Special meetings of the members may be called by at least three (3) Directors or upon a written request signed by at least five per centum (5%) of all the members; and it shall be the duty of the Secretary to cause notice of such meeting to be given as hereinafter provided. Special meetings of the members may be held at any place in any County in which the Cooperative maintains electric transmission and distribution lines.

**Section 3. Notice of Members' Meetings.** Written or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of the meeting and, in case of special meeting, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called, shall be delivered not less than five (5) days nor more than forty (40) days before the date of the meeting either personally or by mail, by or at the direction of the Secretary, or by the persons calling the meeting, to each active member entitled to vote at such meeting. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States Mail, addressed to the member at his address as it appears on the records of the Cooperative, with postage thereon prepaid. Notice to either husband or wife where a membership is held by the two jointly shall constitute notice to both. Notice to all inactive members having no vote at said meetings of members may be given by the publication of said notice in some newspaper of general circulation published in the territory served by the Cooperative, publication to be made at least one time during the time required for the mailing of notice and shall be sufficient if it states the place, day

and hour of meeting. The failure of any member entitled to notice, to receive notice of meeting of the members, shall not invalidate any action which may be taken by the members at any such meeting.

**Section 4. Quorum.** ~~As long as the total number of active members does not exceed one thousand (1000), at least fifteen per centum (15%) of the total number of active members present in person or represented by proxy shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at all meetings of the members provided at least five per centum (5%) of the total number of such members are present in person. In case the total number of active members shall exceed one thousand (1000) then~~ **At least one hundred fifty (150) of the active members present in person or represented by proxy shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at all meetings of the members. If less than a quorum is present at any meeting, a majority of those present in person or represented by Proxy may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice.**

**Section 5. Voting.** At any meeting of the members only the active members may vote. There shall be no vote by proxy. Where the member is not a natural person, being a firm, association, body politic said member shall designate and empower an individual member of said firm, association or body politic with authority to vote on behalf of said member. Corporations by corporate action may designate some individual to cast one vote of the corporation. ~~Joint members of two or more persons shall be entitled to one vote only. All joint members entitled to vote shall be collectively entitled to one vote and no more on each matter submitted and one vote for each Director to be elected.~~ The Cooperative may recognize the right of any one of the joint members to vote for said member. In case of a dispute the right to vote of said member shall be withdrawn.

Each active member shall be entitled to one (1) vote and no more on each matter submitted to vote at a meeting of the members. In voting for Directors each active member may vote one (1) vote for each Director to be elected but may not cumulate votes for one or more nominees.

No fractional votes shall be counted. ~~All joint members entitled to vote collectively shall be entitled to one vote and no more on each matter submitted and one vote for each Director to be elected.~~

At all meetings of members at which a quorum is present all questions shall be decided by a vote of the majority of the members voting thereon except as otherwise provided by law, the Articles of Incorporation or these bylaws.

**Section 6. Order of Business.** The order of business at the annual meeting of the members, and so far as possible at all other meetings of the members, shall be essentially as follows:

1. Call of the roll.
2. Reading of the notice of the meeting and proof of the due publication or mailing thereof, or the waiver or waivers of notice of the meeting as the case may be.
3. Reading of unapproved minutes of previous meeting of the members and the taking of the necessary action thereof.
4. Presentation and consideration of, and acting upon, reports of officers, directors and committees.
5. Election of Directors.
6. Unfinished business.
7. New business.
8. Adjournment.

## ARTICLE III Directors

### Section 1. General Powers.

The Board of Directors shall consist of ~~11~~ **15** members. Except as otherwise provided by law, the certificate of incorporation of the Cooperative or by these bylaws, the Board of Directors shall manage the business, affairs and property of the Cooperative, authorize contracts, fix charges for its services for furnishing electric energy to its members, and for other services rendered for and to its members, and shall otherwise manage the affairs of the Cooperative in such manner as may be necessary, convenient or proper in order to carry out its objects and purposes, provided, however, that the Cooperative shall not be operated for pecuniary profits either to itself or to its members.

### Section 2. Qualifications and Tenure.

In ~~1977~~ **199**, Directors shall be nominated and elected from Districts which are established as follows: District 1: McLean, Champaign and Ford Counties; District 2: Tazewell and Logan Counties; District 3: Woodford and Livingston Counties; District 4: DeWitt County; District 5: Macon and Platt Counties; **District 6: the Townships of Knox, Sparta, Persifer, Copley, Walnut Grove, Truro, Victoria and Lynn in Knox County and the Townships of Clover, Andover, Weller, Cambridge, Munson and Galva in Henry County; District 7: the Townships of Burns, Cornwall, Wethersfield, Kewanee, Annawan, Alba and Yorktown in Henry County; the Townships of Goshen, Elmira and Osceola in Stark County; and the Townships of Neponset, Mineral, Gold, Fairfield, Macon, Concord, Manlius, Greenville, Indian Town, Milo, Wyanet, Bureau, Walnut, Arispie and Wheatland in Bureau County; District 8: the Townships of Princeton, Dover, Leepertown, Selby, Berlin, Hall, Westerfield and Clarion in Bureau County; the Townships of Hennepin, Magnolia and Granville in Putnam County; the Township of Roberts in Marshall County; and the Townships of Peru,**

Dimmick, Troy Grove, Mendota, Deer Park, Utica and Waltham in LaSalle County; District 9: the Townships of Ophir, Meriden, Farm Ridge, South Ottawa, Ottawa, Dayton, Wallace, Freedom, Earl, Grand Rapids, Fall River, Rutland, Serena, Adams, Miller, Serena, Mission and Northville in LaSalle County; and the Township of Big Grove in Kendall County.

To ensure proportional representation based on area and population: Six directors shall be elected from District 1; two directors from District 2; and one director from Districts ~~3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9~~. No more than one director shall, at any time, be elected from any one township of that part of the counties designated as comprising any district.

Directors shall be elected for a three year term and until their successors are elected and qualified. ~~Four directors shall be elected in 1977; three directors in 1978; and four directors in 1979 and thereafter staggering the number to be elected in any one year based on the number whose terms expire in that year.~~ Directors from Districts 1 through 5, inclusive, shall be elected to fill their existing three year terms as they expire. Notwithstanding the foregoing, initial directors for Districts 6 through 9, inclusive, shall be deemed to be vacant seats which shall be filled by a majority vote of the directors, having due regard for the nominees for these initial seats selected by Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. The initial directors, once so appointed shall serve until the following dates, at which time they shall stand for election to a full three year term: Districts 6 and 8 in year 1999; District 7 in year 2000 and District 9 in year 2001. Directors from Districts 6 through 9, inclusive, shall thereafter stand for election for a three year term upon the expiration of the first term to which they are elected after the merger hereunder.

~~Until Directors are elected and qualified pursuant hereto the Directors heretofore elected shall compose the Board of Directors. All directors must meet the qualifications to remain a director. If at any time a director should move out of the township in which he resides at the time of his election into another District said move shall be considered as a resignation. If said move is within the same district he or she may continue in office unless there is another director residing in the same township to which he or she moved, in which case said move shall be considered as a resignation.~~

~~No member shall be eligible to become or remain a Director of the Cooperative who is not an active member of the Cooperative and whose principal place of residence does not receive electric service from the Cooperative, nor who is a close relative of an employee of the Cooperative. No member is further eligible to be a director who is employed by or financially interested in any business firm or corporation competing with or selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing fixtures to the members of the Cooperative. No one shall take or hold office as a Director who is an incumbent or candidate for an elective public office in connection with which a salary is paid. No close relative of any Director, intending to include spouse, all lineals, a spouse of a lineal, parents, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, and their descendants shall be employed by the Cooperative, and in the event that such degree of relationship exists between an employee and a person proposed for Director, that such person shall not be eligible for nomination or election to such position.~~

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a Director of the Cooperative:

(a) Who is not an active member; and

(b) Whose principal place of residence does not receive electric distribution service from the Cooperative; or

(c) Who is an employee, or close relative of an employee, or financially interested, or a close relative of one financially interested in any business, firm or corporation that sells any form of energy, directly or indirectly; or

(d) Who is an employee or close relative of an employee that sells any form of energy or supplies to the Cooperative; or

(e) Who is an employee or close relative of an employee of the Cooperative.

"Close relative", for the purpose of this Article III is intended to include spouse, all children, a spouse of any children, parents, brothers, sisters, uncles and aunts.

When a membership is held jointly by a husband and wife, either one but not both may be elected a Director, provided that neither shall be eligible to become a Director unless both they meet the qualifications hereinabove set forth.

**Section 3. Nominations and Elections.** It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than 90 days nor more than 165 days before the date of a meeting of the members at which one or more Directors are to be elected a committee on nominations consisting of not less than five nor more than eleven **fifteen** active members of the Cooperative, which committee shall be selected so as to give equitable representation on the committee to the geographical areas served or to be served by **districts** of the Cooperative. No officer or Director or any close relative thereof, or **any director's** tenant **or close relative thereof**, or any employee of the Coopera-

tive or any close relative thereof or any other person who does not meet the criteria for being a director herein—officer or Director shall be appointed as a member of such committee on nominations. Each active member shall be notified of the appointment of a Nominating Committee for the election of Directors, and the date and place of the meeting of such committee, at least 5 days prior to the date of such meeting. Notice may be give by one publication of such information not less than 5 days prior to the date of the meeting in Illinois Country Living or such other similar publication of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives or in any one or more newspapers of general circulation published in any county of the State of Illinois wherein is located any of the electric distribution lines of the Cooperative are located.

The committee shall meet together and shall select no more than two nominees for each office or director to be elected. No member of said committee when so acting may nominate himself or herself or any other member of said committee. In selecting a nominee said selection shall give full effect to District representation and shall designate the District in from which said nominee shall run from for election which he or she shall be elected. In the event that one or more Directors' terms are for a term or are for less than three years, said nominations shall include indicate the length of term that each nominee is named being nominated to fill and the District from which he or she is to be elected. A majority of the committee shall constitute a quorum and said selection shall be made by the committee acting and voting as a whole. Not later than 60 days before the meeting of members at which said election is to be held, the nominating committee shall file their report which shall be posted or otherwise conspicuously displayed at the principal office of the Cooperative.

No member of the nominating committee may thereafter propose the name of any addi-

tional nominee by petition, however, the nominating committee may be reconvened from time to time not later than 60 days before the meeting of members to amend its report in case that any nominees should be unable to serve if elected.

Not more than 165 days before the date of a meeting of the members at which one or more directors are to be elected, any fifteen fifty (50) active members of the Cooperative by their written petition, may propose the name of any qualified active member of the Cooperative as an additional nominee to be voted upon by the membership, provided that said petition shall state the term of office to be filled by such nominee, the District from which said nominee seeks to be elected, and such nominee shall only be deemed a candidate for the term and from the District so designated.

A member having signed one petition to nominate shall not be eligible to nominate another person to fill the same or similar office.

The Secretary or someone on his behalf shall post at the principal office of the Cooperative, at the same place where the report of the nominating committee is posted, the names of all persons nominated by petition immediately after the same is are filed. Petitions nominating directors other than those nominated by the committee on nominations must be filed at the principal office of the Cooperative not later than thirty (30) days before the time the meeting of members is to be convened. Only persons nominated by the committee on nominations and by petitions duly filed shall stand for election and no write-in vote shall be considered. No additional nominations shall be made from the floor.

Each candidate for director, whether nominated by the committee on nominations or by petition, shall furnish reasonable biographical informa-

tion to the Cooperative so that the biographical information on the director may be published in the annual meeting booklet.

Ballots shall be prepared by the Secretary or by some person under his direction which shall contain the names of all persons nominated by committee and by petition as above—provided herein, which said petitions have been filed at the principal office of the Cooperative not less than twenty-four (24) hours before the time the meeting of members is to be convened. In each instance the ballot shall state the term of office for which the person has been nominated to fill, and the District from which he or she is to be elected, and whether nominated by the nominating committee or by petition.

~~Petitions nominating directors other than those nominated by the nominating committee must be filed at the principal office of the Cooperative not later than twenty-four (24) hours before the time the meeting of members is to be convened. Only persons nominated by the nominating committee or by petition duly filed shall stand for election and no write-in vote shall be considered. No additional nominations shall be made from the floor.~~

The Secretary shall mail with the notice of meeting a statement of the number of Directors to be elected, the biographical information for each director candidate, and the respective term to which they are to be elected, and the District from which they are to be elected and shall separately show the nominations by petition. Where nominating petitions are filed less than forty-five (45) days before the meeting of members, the biographical information names of said nominees shall may be omitted in the notice of the meeting without invalidating said notice.

Where there is no contest for any office within any District the Director or Directors from that District may be elected by a voice

vote; but if there is a contest in the District for one or more offices the members shall vote by secret ballot, voting for not more than one nominated for each office to be filled. A member is not limited to voting for the nominees from his District. Where there are candidates for any office the ballots shall be counted separately and the nominee receiving the highest number of votes for each office shall be elected to said office.

Notwithstanding anything in this section contained ~~that~~ **each** person so elected shall be considered a de facto Director and ~~that~~ any act of the Board of Directors in which said de facto Director shall participate shall be valid and remain in full force and effect until rescinded.

**Section 4. Vacancies.** Vacancies occurring in the Board of Directors shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining directors. Directors so elected shall hold office for the remaining portion of the term of the Director leaving the Board.

**Section 5. Compensation; Expenses.** Directors ~~as such~~ shall not receive any salary for their services. The Board of Directors by Resolution may fix on a per diem basis a fixed fee for attending meetings of the Board, committee meetings, courses of instruction and state and national meetings and groups or associations of which the Cooperative is a member, which may include insurance benefits. Directors shall also receive advancement or reimbursement for any travel and out of pocket expenses actually, necessarily and reasonably incurred.

No close family member of a director shall receive any compensation for serving the Cooperative.

**Section 6. Rules and Regulations.** The Board of Directors shall have power to make and adopt such rules and regulations not inconsistent with law, the certificate of incorporation of the

Cooperative or these bylaws, as it may deem advisable for the management, administration and regulation of the business and affairs of the Cooperative.

**Section 7. Accounting System and Reports.** The Board of Directors shall cause to be established and maintained a complete accounting system, which among other things, shall be subject to applicable laws and rules and to the regulations of any regulatory body if and as required by law. The Board of Directors shall, after the close of each fiscal year, cause to be made a full and complete audit of the accounts, books and financial condition of the Cooperative as of the end of such fiscal year. Such audit reports shall be submitted to the members at the following annual meeting.

**Section 8. Removal of Directors.**

- (a) Any director missing three or more meetings of the Board of Directors in any one calendar year without reasonable cause may be removed by a majority of the Board of Directors excluding the Director whose incumbency is being voted upon.
- (b) Any active member may bring one or more charges for cause against any one or more Directors ~~by reason thereof~~ by filing with the Secretary such charges in ~~writing together with~~ a petition signed by not less than ten percent (10%) of all active members of the Cooperative, which petition ~~calls~~ **shall be set** for a special meeting of members to hear and act upon said charges.

No special meeting for the removal of director shall be held less than 60 days after the filing of the petition. The petition, ~~and each page thereof,~~ shall state the name and address of each member filing said charges and shall correspond to the name and address as the same appears on the billing record of the Cooperative. It shall further contain a verbatim statement of such charge and

shall identify the name of the Director or Directors against whom said charges are made. Notice of said charge(s) **and a copy of such petition** shall be ~~specifically~~ given immediately to the Director being charged; notice of the pendency of the petition and the date and place of meeting at least 20 days before the convening of said meetings and the specific charges together with the name of the member making said charge. If more than one Director is charged the members shall vote separately on the removal of each Director.

At said meeting the person or persons bringing said charge may be represented by counsel, **and** may present testimony of witness or other evidence in support of said charges; and the **charged** Director(s) ~~charged may~~ **shall** have the same right to present evidence to refute said charge(s). The Board of Directors may appoint a hearing officer to conduct said hearing.

If a Director shall be removed by action of a majority of the members attending said Special Meeting, the Board of Directors shall fill said vacancy as in the case of other vacancies **on the Board of Directors.**

**Section 9. Indemnification of Directors.** The Cooperative shall indemnify any officer, director, employee or agent of the Cooperative against all expenses (including attorneys fees) judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred in connection with any action, suit or proceeding, if such person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to the best interests of the Cooperative and with respect to any criminal action or proceeding if he or she had no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

**ARTICLE IV  
Meeting of Directors**

**Section 1. Regular Meetings.** A ~~regular~~ **reorganizational** meeting of the Board of Directors

shall be held without notice, other than this bylaw, immediately after, and at the same place as; the annual meeting of the members. A regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall also be held monthly at such time and place in any County of the State of Illinois in which the Cooperative maintains electric transmission and distribution lines, as the Board of Directors may provide by resolution. Such regular monthly meetings may be held without notice other than such resolution fixing the time and place thereof.

**Section 2. Special Meetings.** Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President or by any three (3) Directors and may be held at any place within or without the State of Illinois selected by the person or persons calling the meeting.

**Section 3. Notice.** Notice of the time, place and purpose of any special meeting of the Board of Directors shall be given at least five (5) days previous thereto, by written notice, delivered personally or mailed, to each Director at his last known address. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail so addressed, with postage thereon prepaid. The attendance of a Director at any meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except in case a Director shall attend a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting shall not have been lawfully called or convened.

**Section 4. Quorum.** A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board of Directors, provided, that if less than a majority of the Directors are present at said meeting, a majority of the Directors present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice.

**Section 5. Manner of Act-**

**ing.** The act of the majority of the Directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE V Officers

**Section 1. Number.** The officers of the Cooperative shall consist of a Chairman of the Board, Vice Chairman of the Board, President, Secretary, Treasurer, and such other officers as may be determined by the Board of Directors from time to time. The office of the Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person.

**Section 2. Election and Term of Office.** The officers shall be elected, by ballot, annually by and from the Board of Directors at the first meeting of the Board of Directors held after each annual meeting of the members. If the election of officers shall not be held at such meeting, such election shall be held as soon thereafter as conveniently may be. Each officer shall hold office until the first meeting of the Board of Directors following the next succeeding annual meeting of the members or until his successor shall have been duly elected and shall have qualified, subject to the provisions of these bylaws with respect to the removal of officers.

**Section 3. Removal.** Any officer or agent elected or appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed by the Board of Directors whenever in its judgment the best interests of the Cooperative will be served thereby.

**Section 4. Vacancies.** Except as otherwise provided in these bylaws, a vacancy in any office may be filled by the Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of the term.

**Section 5. Chairman of the Board:**

(a) Shall be the principal executive officer of the Cooperative and shall preside at all meet-

ings of the members and of the Board of Directors;

(b) Shall sign, with the Secretary, certificates of membership, the issue of which shall have been authorized by resolution of the Board of Directors, and may sign any deeds, mortgages, deeds of trust, notes, bonds, contracts or other instruments authorized by the Board of Directors to be executed, except in cases in which the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board of Directors or by these bylaws to some other officer or agent of the cooperative, or shall be required by law to be otherwise signed or executed; and

(c) In general, shall perform all duties incident to the office of Chairman of the Board and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors from time to time.

**Section 6. Vice Chairman of the Board.** In the absence of the Chairman of the Board, or in the event of his inability or refusal to act, the Vice Chairman of the Board shall perform the duties of the Chairman of the Board, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the Chairman of the Board and shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the Board of Directors.

**Section 7. Secretary.** The Secretary shall:

(a) keep the minutes of meetings of the members and the Board of Directors in one or more books provided for that purpose;

(b) see that all notices are duly given in accordance with these bylaws or as required by law;

(c) be custodian of the corporate records and of the seal of the Cooperative and see that the seal of the Cooperative is af-

fixed to all certificates of membership prior to the issue thereof and to all documents, the execution of which on behalf of the Cooperative under its seal is duly authorized in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws;

(d) keep a register of the post office address of each member which shall be furnished to the Secretary by such member;

(e) sign with the President certificates of membership, the issue of which shall have been authorized by resolution of the Board of Directors;

(f) have general charge of the books of the Cooperative in which a record of the ~~members~~ **Cooperative's business** is kept;

(g) keep on file at all times a complete copy of the Articles of Incorporation and ~~of these~~ bylaws of the Cooperative containing all amendments thereto, which copy shall always be open to the inspection of any member; and, at the expense of the Cooperative, furnishing a copy of said bylaws and of all amendments thereto to any member upon request of said member; and

(h) in general, perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to ~~him~~ by the Board of Directors.

**Section 8. Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall:

(a) have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds and securities of the Cooperative;

(b) receive and give receipts for monies due and payable to the Cooperative from any source ~~whowhatsoever~~, and deposit all such monies in the name of the Cooperative in such bank or banks as

shall be selected in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws; and

(c) in general perform all the duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the Board of Directors.

**Section 9. President.** The Board of Directors shall appoint a ~~Manager who shall also be~~ President of the Cooperative **who shall be its manager**. The President shall not be required to be a member of the Cooperative, nor shall he be required to be a Director as shall be the case with the officers **Secretary and Treasurer**. The President shall be the Chief ~~Operating~~ **Executive** Officer of the Cooperative and shall perform such duties as the Board of Directors may from time to time require of him and shall have such authority as the Board of Directors may from time to time vest in him.

**Section 10. Bond of Officers.** The Board of Directors shall require the Treasurer or any other officer of the Cooperative charged with responsibility for the custody of any of its funds or property, to be bonded in such sum and with such surety as the Board of Directors shall determine. The Board of Directors in its discretion may also require any other officer, agent or employee of the Cooperative to be bonded in such amount and with such surety as it shall determine.

**Section 11. Compensation.** The compensation, if any, of any officer, agent or employee who is also a Director or close relative of a Director, shall be determined by the members, as provided elsewhere in these bylaws, and the powers, duties and compensation of any other officers, agents and employees shall be fixed by the Board of Directors.

**Section 12. Reports.** The officers of the Cooperative shall submit at each annual meeting of the members reports covering the business of the Cooperative for the previous fiscal year and showing the condition of the Co-

operative at the close of such fiscal year.

## ARTICLE VI Contracts, Checks and Deposits

**Section 1. Contracts.** Except as otherwise provided in these bylaws, the Directors may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Cooperative including the borrowing of money which is **may or may** not secured by mortgage or trust indenture, but not otherwise limited, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

**Section 2. Checks, Drafts, Etc.** All checks, drafts or other orders for the payment of money; and all notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Cooperative shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents, employee or employees of the Cooperative and in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board of Directors.

**Section 3. Deposits.** The Board of Directors may from time to time select such bank or banks in which funds of the Cooperative are to be deposited. Other funds of the Cooperative may be invested in any manner not contrary to the provisions of the Laws of the State of Illinois and not contrary to the articles of incorporation.

## ARTICLE VII Membership Certificates Evidence of Membership

**Section 1. Certificates Evidence of Membership.** Membership in the Cooperative shall be evidenced by ~~an certificate of official~~ **membership list** which shall be in such form and shall contain such ~~provisions~~ **information** as shall be determined by the Board of Directors not contrary to, or inconsistent with, the certificate of incorporation of the Cooperative, or these bylaws.

~~Such certificate shall be signed by the President and the Secretary of the Cooperative and the corporate seal shall be affixed thereto.~~

**Section 2. Issue Issuance of Membership Certificates.** No membership certificate shall be issued ~~or membership approved that does not initially qualify as an~~ **except upon the written request of a member who holds an active membership, or unless the Board of Directors shall determine to issue membership certificates to active members on a regular basis. The Cooperative shall not be required to issue a membership certificate nor recognize an active membership of any member who has had his/her membership previously canceled for failure to pay his/her obligations to the Cooperative and the Board of Directors may refuse, in their discretion, to issue a new membership until all unpaid prior obligations are paid.** If a membership fee is then required such membership fee shall be first paid and if the proposed member has, at any time, had his membership previously canceled for failure to pay his obligations to the Cooperative then the Board of Directors may in their discretion refuse to issue a new membership until all unpaid prior obligations are paid.

**Section 3. Membership Fee.** **The Board of Directors may require the payment of a membership fee for each active membership when the proposed membership becomes activated.**

**Section 34. Lost Certificate.** In case of a lost, destroyed or mutilated certificate, a new certificate may be issued therefor upon such terms and such indemnity to the Cooperative as the Board of Directors may prescribe.

#### **ARTICLE VIII Waiver of Notice**

Any member or Director may waive, in writing, any notice of

meetings required to be given by these bylaws. In case of a joint membership a waiver of notice signed by either husband or wife shall be deemed a waiver of notice of such meeting by both joint members. Presence at any meeting, except where the presence of the member or Director is limited to an appearance to object to or protest form or lack of notice, shall be considered as waiving any notice of said meeting as may otherwise have been required.

#### **ARTICLE IX Non-Profit Operation**

**Section 1. Interest or Dividends on Capital Prohibited.** The Cooperative shall at all times be operated on a Cooperative non-profit basis for the mutual benefit of its members. No interest or dividends shall be paid or payable by the Cooperative on any capital furnished by its members.

**Section 2. Patronage Capital in Connection with Furnishing Electric Energy or Services.** In the furnishing of electric energy **or services to its members,** the Cooperative's operations shall be so conducted that all members will, through their patronage, furnish capital for the Cooperative. In order to induce patronage and to assure that the Cooperative will operate on a non-profit basis, the Cooperative is obligated to account on a patronage basis to all of its members for all amounts received and receivable from the furnishing of electric energy **and/or services** in excess of **the sum of (a) operating costs and expenses properly chargeable against the furnishing of electric energy; and (b) amounts required to offset any losses incurred during the current or any prior fiscal year.**

All such amounts in excess of operating costs and expenses ("**Margins**") at the moment of receipt by the Cooperative are received with the understanding that they are furnished by the member as capital. The Cooperative is obligated to pay by credits to a capital account for

each member all such **Margins** ~~amounts in excess of operating costs and expenses.~~ The books and records of the Cooperative shall be set up and kept in such a manner that at the end of each fiscal year the amount of **such Margins** capital, if any, so furnished by each member, is clearly reflected and credited **in to** an appropriate record ~~to the~~ **for a** capital account ~~of for~~ each member, ~~and~~ **The Cooperative,** shall within a reasonable time after the close of the fiscal year, notify each member of the amount of capital **Margins** so credited to his **capital** account ~~where~~ **when** any account is so credited. All such ~~amounts~~ **Margins** credited to the capital account of any member shall be the same status as though they have been paid to the member in cash in pursuance of a legal obligation to do so and the member had then furnished the Cooperative corresponding amounts for capital.

All other amounts received by the Cooperative from its operations in excess of costs and expenses shall, insofar as permitted by law, be (a) used to offset any losses incurred during the current or any prior fiscal year, and (b) to the extent not needed for that purpose, allocated to its members on a patronage basis and any amount so allocated shall be included as a part of the capital credited to the account of members as herein provided.

In event of the 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 rate 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 Directors shall determine that the financial condition of the Cooperative will not be impaired thereby, the capital then credited to members accounts may be retired in full or in part. The Board of Directors shall determine the method, basis, priority and order of retirement, if any, for all amounts heretofore and hereafter furnished as capital.

Capital credited to the account of each member shall be assignable only on the books of the Cooperative pursuant to written instruction from the assignor unless the Board of Directors acting under policies of general application shall determine otherwise.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these bylaws the Board of Directors at its discretion shall have the power at any time upon the death of any member, if the legal representative of his Estate shall request in writing that the capital credited to such member be retired prior to the time such capital would otherwise be retired under the provisions of these bylaws, to retire capital credited to any such member immediately upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Directors acting under policies of general application and the legal representatives of such member's Estate shall agree upon; provided, however, that the financial condition of the Cooperative will not be impaired thereby.

The members of the Cooperative by dealing with the Cooperative acknowledge that the terms and provisions of the articles of incorporation and bylaws shall constitute and be a contract between the Cooperative and each member and both the Cooperative and the member are bound by such contract as fully as though each member had individually signed a separate instrument containing such terms and provisions. The provisions of this article of the bylaws shall be called to the attention of each member of the Cooperative by posting in a conspicuous place in the Cooperative's office.

#### ARTICLE X

##### Disposition of Property

**Section 1. Disposition of Property.** The Cooperative may not sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any substantial portion of its property unless such sale, lease or other disposition is authorized at a meeting of the

active members thereof by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of all the active members of the Cooperative, and unless the notice of such proposed sale, lease or other disposition shall have been contained in the notice of the meeting; provided, however, that notwithstanding anything herein contained, the Board of the Cooperative, without authorization by the active members thereof shall have full power and authority to authorize the execution and delivery of a mortgage or mortgages or a deed or deeds of trust upon, or the pledging or encumbering of, any or all of the property, assets, rights, privileges, licenses, franchises and permits of the Cooperative, whether acquired or to be acquired, and wherever situated, as well as the revenues and income therefrom, all upon such terms and conditions as the Board shall determine, to secure any indebtedness of the Cooperative; provided further that the Board may upon the authorization of a majority of those active members of the Cooperative present at a meeting of the active members thereof, sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of all or a substantial portion of the property to another Cooperative or foreign corporation doing business in this State pursuant to the Act under which this Cooperative is incorporated; **and, provided further, that the Board may, without authorization or consultation with the active members of the Cooperative, have full power and authority to authorize and approve the merger or consolidation of this Cooperative with or into another cooperative or foreign corporation, being operated on a cooperative basis, and doing business in this State pursuant to the Act under which this Cooperative is incorporated.**

**Section 2. Rights of Members on Dissolution.** Upon dissolution after all debts and liabilities of the Cooperative have been paid, and after all capital furnished through patronage shall have been retired as provided in these bylaws, the re-

maining property and assets of the Cooperative shall be distributed among the members both active and inactive in the proportion which the aggregate patronage of each since the year 1942 bears to the total patronage of all members since said year of 1942.

#### ARTICLE XI Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Cooperative shall begin on the first day of January of each year and end on the thirty-first day of December of the same year.

#### ARTICLE XII Debt Limit

~~That the debt limit of the Cooperative be fixed at \$100,000,000.~~

#### ARTICLE XIII Seal

The corporate seal of the Cooperative shall be in the form of a circle and shall have inscribed thereon the name of the Cooperative and the words 'Corporate Seal, Illinois.'

#### ARTICLE XII Amendments

**Section 1. Amendments to Articles of Incorporation.** The articles of incorporation of the Cooperative may be amended from time to time in the following manner:

- (a) The Board of Directors shall adopt a resolution setting forth the proposed amendment and directing that it be submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members, which may either be a regular annual meeting or a special meeting **of the membership.**
- (b) Written or printed notice setting forth the proposed amendment or a summary of the changes to be affected thereby shall be given to each member within the time and in the manner provided in these bylaws for the giv-

ing of notice of meetings of members. If such meeting be a regular meeting the proposed amendment or summary thereof may be included in the notice of such regular annual meeting.

- (c) At such meeting a vote of the active members shall be taken on the proposed amendment and the proposed amendment shall be adopted upon receiving the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the votes entitled to be cast by members present at such meeting.

Any number of amendments may be submitted to members, and voted upon by them, at one meeting.

After the adoption of the proposed amendment or amendments, the Board of Directors shall authorize the proper officers to take such further steps as may be required by law to effectuate the proposed amendment and amendments to the certificate of incorporation.

**Section 2. Amendments to Bylaws.** These bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed as herein provided in the following manner:

~~The Board of Directors by vote of a majority of directors thereof shall by its resolution approve the language of such amendment and direct that it be submitted to the members at the next annual meeting or to a special meeting. Notice of any meeting in which the bylaws of the Cooperative are to be repealed, altered or amended shall contain a copy of the resolution of the Directors proposing such change or an accurate summary thereof.~~

- (a) The Board of Directors shall adopt a resolution setting forth the proposed amendment and directing that it be submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members, which may either be a regular annual meeting or special meeting of the membership.

- (b) Written or printed notice setting forth the proposed amendment to these bylaws or a summary of the changes to be affected thereby shall be given to each member within the time and in the manner provided in these bylaws for the giving of notice of meetings of members. If such meeting be an annual meeting, the proposed amendment or summary thereof shall be included in the notice of the annual meeting.

- (c) At such meeting, a vote of the active members shall be taken on the proposed amendment and the proposed amendment shall be adopted upon receipt of the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes entitled to be cast by the members present at such meeting.

## Will you attend? Let us know

Registration for the special members' meeting of your cooperative is from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 10. A bratwurst meal will be provided from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. Please mail or bring this reservation form to the cooperative office not later than Nov. 6 to let us know how many will be eating. There is no charge for the meal.

Clip and mail to Corn Belt Electric, P.O. Box 816, Bloomington, IL 61702-0816

### Special Members' Meeting

Please make \_\_\_\_\_ dinner reservations for

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Map location number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Area code-Telephone number

**CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS**



CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS  
A Touchstone Energy<sup>SM</sup> Partner  
E.O.E. (M/F/H)

## Corn Belt, Illinois Valley Electric members vote to merge

Members of Corn Belt Electric Cooperative voted on Tuesday, November 10, to annex Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative (IVEC) into a new corporation to be known as Corn Belt Energy Corporation, with headquarters in the current Bloomington facility. The election was held during a special meeting at the Interstate Center in Bloomington.

Members of the Princeton-based IVEC also voted, on the same day, to merge into Corn Belt Energy Corporation. Members at both elections voted "yes" to the tune of more than 90 percent, with fewer than 10 percent opposing the merger, which will go into effect Jan. 1, 1999.

The new organization will have approximately 24,000 members on about 4,800 miles of line. The merged organization will have combined assets of more than \$87 million.

"The boards of directors of both entities began a joint study eight months ago to determine the feasibility of such a move," says Jeffrey D. Reeves, president/CEO of Corn Belt, "and they decided the time had come to put such a proposal before the memberships of both co-ops with the recommendation that they vote to merge."

Reeves noted that both co-ops would benefit, largely from the economies of scale, partly by sharing overlapping office services, and partly by the opportunities they will have to get into other business ventures as electric utility competition approaches.

"The economies resulting from the merger will ben-

efit the members of both co-ops," emphasized Tim "Kris" Christensen, president/CEO of Illinois Valley "Electric, who will serve in the newly created position of senior vice president. "Shared services, combined purchasing, common accounting, centralized billing and reduced cost of administration should bring about savings of approximately \$5.5 million to IVEC members over the next 10 years, with savings of approximately \$4.4 million accruing to Corn Belt members in the same time frame."

Ronald A. Stack, presently vice president of utility services for CBEC, will continue in that capacity, and A. Jack Best, vice president of IVEC, will serve as manager of the area to be known as the northern region.

The merger plan includes bylaw changes providing for four directors on the former IVEC board to represent the members and service area of IVEC on the Corn Belt board. They are Dennis Fredrickson of Victoria, Robert Angus of Ottawa, Charles Meisenheimer of Walnut and Albert Hagenbuch of Utica.

All told, the new board will be made up of 15 directors. Present CBEC board members are Rae F. Payne of Bloomington, Stephen Schertz of El Paso, Gary Frankeberger of Bloomington, Janice Reimer of Carlock, Scott Baum of Clinton, Myron Erdman of Chenoa, Laverne Malone of Maroa, Thomas Johns of Delavan, Michael Killian of Lexington, Ralph Steiger of Delavan and John W.H. Tompkins of LeRoy.

### Attention estate executors

The cooperative can assist estate executors in closing the estate of a member who has passed on since Jan. 1, 1997. We offer a lump sum payment of capital credits due the deceased. This can eliminate the confusion and inconvenience associated with distributing future capital credits among the descendants.

In an optional lump sum settlement, any credits due the estate that are 25 years old or older will be paid in full. However, credits of less than 25 years will be discounted at the rate of 7.12 percent per year.

The lump sum settlement is not a requirement. It is only an option to allow the estate to be closed more quickly. Please contact our supervisor of member accounts at (800) 879-0339 (Ext. 221) for more information

### Office closed

The Corn Belt Electric Cooperative office will be closed on Dec. 24 and 25 and on Jan. 1. In the event of an electrical emergency, please phone



**(800) 879-0339**

## Help with electric bills

If you anticipate some difficulty in paying an electric bill this winter, contact the agency in the following list that serves your county. Ask about the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

**Please call for an appointment before going to the agency.**

<b>County</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Dewitt	Central Illinois Economic
Logan	Development Corp.
Piatt	1800 Fifth Street Road Lincoln Phone (217) 732-2159
Macon	Decatur-Macon County Opportunities Corp. 1122 East Marietta Street Decatur Phone (217) 428-2193
Ford	East Central Illinois Community Action Agency 56 North Vermilion Street Danville Phone (217) 443-2705
Livingston McLean	Mid-Central Community Action, Inc. 923 East Grove Street Bloomington Phone (309) 829-0691
Tazewell Woodford	Tazewood Community Services 2005 South Main Street Morton Phones (309) 694-4391 or (309) 266-9941

### **Please be cooperative**

Do not plant, stack or build anything within 8 feet of the front or 4 feet of the sides and back of a pad-mounted transformer.



### **Reporting an outage**

Dial-local 309-662-5330 Toll-free 800-879-0339

#### **WITH TOUCHTONE SERVICE**

Our answering machine will tell you to press "1" to get into the outage reporting system. Then follow instructions.

1. Enter **your** area code and phone number using your touch pad.
2. Answer questions using touch pad.
3. Hang up.

#### **WITHOUT TOUCHTONE SERVICE**

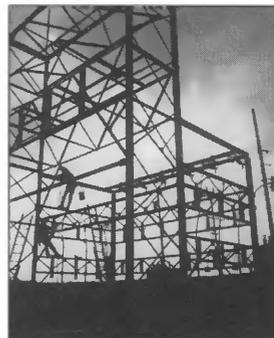
Your call will be answered by our telephone system. If you will hold or wait, you will be put into VOICE MAIL.

1. Tell **your** name, area code, phone number, the time and date.
2. Tell of wire down, tree on line, etc.
3. Hang up.

**Only emergency power problems are dealt with after business hours. Please phone the office with any other business Monday thru Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.**

## Growth spurs substation upgrades

As the Twin Cities continue its unprecedented growth, Corn Belt Electric continues to upgrade our substations to provide adequate electricity to the membership. In the last few years we've extended the capacity of the Normal Substation at the intersection of Airport and GE Roads and the Parkside Substation along I-55/I-74 near the Parkside Junior High School.



The Holder Substation off Ireland Grove Road east of Bloomington serves much of the fast-growing rural Downs area and the eastern and southeastern portions of Bloomington. It is now in the process of being enlarged electrically to ensure an ample supply of power far into the future.

By early September the station had been taken off line and site improvement begun. A wider entrance was built with less of a grade to allow easier ingress and egress primarily for the equipment required to haul the transformer and other bulky pieces. The Illinois Power transmission line was disconnected making it safe for the contractor to begin dismantling the old steelwork. Some new concrete foundations for additional structures were poured and additional steel erected. In mid-October the new, larger transformer was delivered and installed and the superstructure has been modified.

The new and improved Holder Substation will be back on line in the very near future and will have twice the capacity as the original.

These improvements however, do not come cheaply. The transformer itself cost \$350,000. The total value of the construction contract and associated costs will be another \$100,000. This is but one more example that the electric industry is the most capital-intensive industry of all.

### **Reporting An Outage??**

#### **If Your Equipment Is the Cause You'll Be Charged \$50**

#### **Before you call CBEC:**

1. Look around the neighborhood to see if other homes on your line have lights.
2. If they do, you probably still have electricity.
3. Often, inserting a new fuse or switching the breaker to "on" will restore your power.
4. If we send a crew out and the problem is in your equipment, we'll bill you \$50 to partly recover our costs in sending the crew.

**CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS**

## Home computers — Beware!

Although thought to be an uncommon occurrence, lightning actually hits the earth about 100 times per second. The United States experiences over 20 million strikes per year. At any given moment, there are nearly 2,000 thunderstorms occurring over the earth's surface. That means about 100,000 thunderstorms annually for the U.S.

Home computer users must consider their exposure to lightning-caused surges that enter their equipment through data lines and telephone lines. Telephone lines plug into home computers to access the Internet or E-mail. Thus, users run the risk of experiencing "back-door" surges even if a Surge Sentry is installed on the power line to the home. Lightning-caused surges can still enter equipment via telephone lines. This can lead to annoying keyboard lockups or even damaged communications and memory cards. Unfortunately, your homeowners policy may not cover power surge damage to computer equipment. Burnt CPUs, disks and communications cards could cost thousands of dollars to replace.

That's the very reason Corn Belt Electric introduced Surge Sentry Whole-House Surge Protection. **We stock suppressors for every conceivable application - with a guarantee.** For more information about Surge Sentry call the Member Services Department at (800) 879-0339 or (309) 662-5330 (then press # 4 on your touchpad).

## Deregulation, greed and the price for electricity

Was June's spike in electricity prices in sales between utilities a taste of what's to come? If so, it left a sour taste. On those two hot days last June, wholesale prices soared to about \$7,000 per megawatt-hour from an average of around \$30. *The New York Times* reported that Commonwealth Edison Company, the utility that serves Chicago, spent about \$4 million for power that would normally cost about \$200,000 — in a single hour.

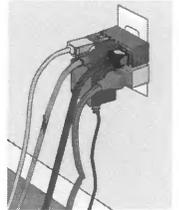
Fortunately, this time around, regulations were in place that prevented power companies from passing the bill along to retail consumers. Had that happened, Illinois Power estimates that its customers would have been faced with an average June electric bill of about \$5,000.

Once the retail market is completely deregulated, the outcome of such a spike could be completely different. "We've been given a glimpse into the future of the electric industry," says Glenn English, chief executive officer of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). "A deregulated future, where kilowatt-hours are traded like pork bellies, and irresponsible power marketers in search of a quick score can cause

## Plug into electrical safety

The National Electrical Safety Foundation (NESF) recommends the following "Plug into Electrical Safety" tips to help prevent injuries or fire.

- Space heaters should be placed at least 3 to 4 feet from flammable material such as curtains, furniture, or newspapers. Extension cords should not be used. Even though electric heaters are equipped with an automatic shut-off device if knocked over, the heaters can still cause fires or serious burns with the residual heat. Make sure the heater has a 3-prong grounded plug and is used in a 3-hole wall outlet.
- Make sure an electric blanket is in good condition. Look for cracks or breaks in the wiring, plugs or connectors and look for charred spots on both sides of the blanket. Any of these conditions indicates a potential fire hazard.
- Do not cover an electric blanket with quilts, blankets or pets. Never "tuck in" the sides or ends of an electric blanket. The heating coils may become damaged or bent and may cause a fire. For the sake of safety, use the blanket to warm the bed prior to retiring. Then turn it off.
- Fuses and circuit breakers are safety devices located on your electric panel. Use the correct size fuses. Replacing a fuse with the wrong or bigger size can be a fire hazard.



hyperinflation — Where on a hot summer day, your local utility might call on you to pull the industry's bacon from the fire, passing along the costs when overextended middlemen can't deliver on their promises of cheap power for everyone."

Enron, the nation's biggest trader of electricity, raked in the dough by selling large amounts of power to utilities at high prices: The company's trading subsidiary reported a doubling of revenue in the second quarter.

Jeffrey Skilling, Enron's president and chief operating officer, told *The Wall Street Journal* that the price spike should not be taken as an indication of long term liquidity.

NRECA contends that there should be a careful study of the forces that led to the price surge, which has made traders reluctant to jump into the market and made utilities think twice about the reliability and credit-worthiness of companies with which they do business.

"Do we really want to rush forward," asks English, "only to find a \$5,000 bill in our mailbox next month?"

*from September 1998, Rural Electrification Magazine*

CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

## Easy Pay Ways

### Balanced Budget Program

Join at any time — No zero balance required — No "catch-up" month — Each bill is a 12-month average — No high summer bills on the Balanced Budget Program!

### Electronic Funds Transfer

Pay your electric bill the effortless way with Electronic Funds Transfer. On the 5th of the month your bank pays your bill from your account to ours. Never write another check to CBEC!

**Phone the Office Services Department for details (press #2 on your touchpad).**

## BBP and EFT go arm-in-arm



## Scholarship competitions

### Competition #1 40<sup>th</sup> Annual

#### Youth to Washington Essay Contest

**Sponsor:** Corn Belt Electric Cooperative

**Prizes:** Two \$1,000 scholarships  
Four \$500 scholarships  
The \$1,000 scholarship winners also receive an expenses-paid, week-long tour of Washington, D.C. in June 1999

**Eligibility:** Must be a junior or a senior attending one of the 30 high schools represented in CBEC territory. A parent must be a member of CBEC.

**To compete:** Write a 1,500-word essay on a topic assigned by the cooperative. A packet of information about the subject is provided.

**Due date:** Noon, Feb. 12, 1999

### Competition #2 4<sup>th</sup> Annual

#### IEC Memorial Scholarship Program

Illinois Electric Cooperatives  
Memorial Scholarship Fund

One \$1,000 scholarship

Must be a son or a daughter of a member of an electric cooperative and a senior graduating in 1999.

Complete an application

Jan. 1, 1999

**Phone Corn Belt Electric Cooperative  
(309) 662-5330 or (800) 879-0339  
(Ext. 222) for entry material**

## Clear picture — unclear concept

As the United States prepares for the arrival of High Definition Television (HDT) and digital television in general, word from Britain cautions that the new sets may trigger a surge in power consumption.

Digital receivers may be designed to draw power 24 hours a day in order to update software that controls the program guide, the list of channels and access to pay-per-view programs. Even as the DOE's Energy Star program has persuaded manufacturers to lower the standby energy use of analog TVs to less than 4 watts, digital receivers are being developed that draw at least 16 watts all the time.

Britain's Consumer Association believes that by 2005, all TVs in Britain will be digital. The standby energy leaks are predicted to consume an extra 325 megawatts, equivalent to 1 percent of the country's peak power consumption.

### Electric water heaters

flameless, ventless, odorless, silent, clean, maintenance-free, safe, child-proof,  
low-priced, produces no carbon monoxide, cheaper than gas on Rate 11  
and we'll help you buy one with up to \$125 CASH!!!

**Call Member Services (#4 on your touchpad)**

**CORN BELT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS**