

Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris) Christensen
President/CEO

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"

Office Hours 7:45 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Monday through Friday
Telephone 800-654-1088

P.O. Box 70
Route 6 & 34 West
Princeton, Illinois 61356

Emergencies - call toll-free 800-654-1088 - 24 hours a day

Co-op people make the difference!!!

Cyberspace...infrastructure...fiber optics. Today's highly technical world is being defined by words that couldn't be found in the dictionary just a few years, and even months, ago.

The electric utility industry, along with other businesses and industries throughout America, is redefining itself with these terms and many more in order to keep pace with the rapidly changing and highly competitive environment in which we must operate.

No matter what the future brings, electric co-ops like Illinois Valley Electric are working hard to meet the challenges of fast-paced changes to their industry. However, your electric cooperative has one characteristic not shared by other electric utilities that will help it meet those challenges.

It is locally owned and operated by the people it serves. That means conducting business the cooperative way through a locally elected board and an annual meeting where policy is set forth and voted on by the member-owners.

It's the "people" part—the personal involvement, the grassroots activities—that characterizes what electric co-ops are all about.

Because electric co-ops are so closely linked to their communities, there are countless examples of activities that have the "co-op touch." Conducting safety programs at schools, helping elderly citizens with a GateKeeper assistance program, working with community organizations to get new businesses or new housing started, participating with civic groups in developing and improving health-care and crime-watch programs, contributing computers or satellite dishes to schools, and promoting and financing economic development projects—the list of services are



quite extensive.

Why would an electric utility be involved in these kinds of activities? Because cooperatives, since their very beginnings, have always played an important role in their communities.

Service means not only making sure the electricity is flowing; but, also making sure that the community and its citizens are thriving and prospering. Service means helping friends, neighbors and business colleagues on Main Street and in rural areas, the people you see on a day-to-day basis.

Jerry Boman

Service means reaching toward new horizons to make life better for everyone.



Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric was called to order by Chairman Robert Angus at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 28, 1997, with all directors present but Ralph Freebairn. President and CEO T. L. Christensen, and Attorney Gary Barnhart were also present.

Routine orders of business were reviewed and accepted after due consideration.

Directors reported on various meetings and related cooperative activities attended during the past month.

The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

1. It was reported that the IVEC new warehouse is complete except for wiring and lighting. It was also approved to put in a mezzanine.
2. It was reported that all ComCare installations are being handled by In-Home Care, VNA.

The December board meeting is scheduled for Dec. 23, 1997. The January 1998 board meeting has been tentatively scheduled for the 27th.

You could be an ICL prize winner!

Is this your account number?

0003468602

If your name appears in this center section, mixed in with copy, you will receive a nice prize.

Call toll-free 800-654-1088



Notice

Holiday closing schedule

The Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative office will be closed on Dec. 24 and Dec. 25 in observance of Christmas. The office will also be closed on Jan. 1 for New Year's Day.

Please call toll free (800) 654-1088 to report emergencies — 24 hour per day monitoring and dispatching service.

***Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!!!***

Save energy when using your fireplace

With crisp fall weather bringing cool nights to many parts of the country, you may decide it is time to enjoy a fire at night. Before using your fireplace, here are a few tips that will help you save energy—and cut your fuel bills.

Keep the damper closed when you don't have a fire going in your fireplace. An open damper on a 48-inch square fireplace can let as much as 8 percent of your home's heat escape up the chimney.

If you use your fireplace to supplement the heat provided by your regular heating system, you can take a few simple steps to make the most efficient use of your fireplace.

First, remember that the heat gain from a fireplace is confined to the room where it is located. At the same time, much of the heat from other rooms can flow into the room with the fireplace and then escape up the chimney. The warm air will be replaced by cold outside air. As a result, your thermostat will sense the heat loss and turn on your furnace.

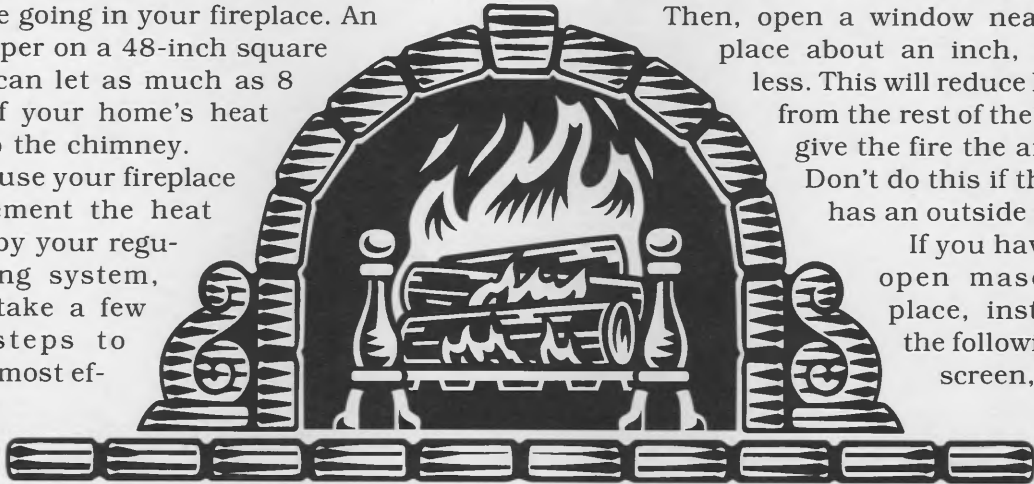
What to do? While you may want a higher setting for comfort's sake, lower the thermostat to between 50 and 55 degrees Fahrenheit. You'll

still lose some warm air through the chimney, but the furnace won't have to work as hard to maintain the set temperature.

And there are other things you should do when using a fireplace. Close all the doors and heat ducts in the room with the fireplace.

Then, open a window near the fireplace about an inch, or slightly less. This will reduce heat drawn from the rest of the house and give the fire the air it needs. Don't do this if the fireplace has an outside air supply!

If you have a simple open masonry fireplace, install one of the following: a glass screen, a convective grate, a combination convective grate



with glass screen, a radiant grate or a fireplace insert. Some of these devices will cut down on the loss of warm air through the fireplace chimney and may improve heat recovery from the fire.

With winter here, you may have other questions about how to reduce your heating bills. Call IVEC member services department at toll free (800) 654-1088. There are several marketing programs available that could help you save money!

Meter reading dates

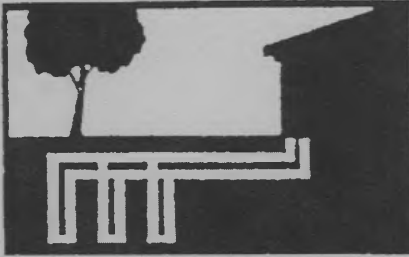
Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative encourages all members to assist us by making their meters accessible to our meter readers. For your convenience, meter reading dates for December are circled on the calendar. It is our hope that you will use this information so that any necessary arrangements can be made, such as restraining a dog, clearing debris around the meter, etc. Your assistance in this matter certainly will be appreciated, not only by our meter readers, but by the area serviceman who needs access to your meter in the event of an outage.

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

***** Featuring this month *****

Have you ever considered geothermal?



- Geothermal heating •
- Cooling • Hot water •

All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems will offer these benefits:

- ★ \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000
- ★ Up to 400% efficiency
- ★ Off-peak rate of 4.0¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating
- ★ Better than gas furnace — competitive price

Available options for IVEC members Electric programs

- ★ Dual Energy off-peak space heating system with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh—\$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$400.00 for installation. If alternate energy is electric—\$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation.
- ★ All electric residential rate—for controlled energy usage.
- ★ Electric thermal storage (ETS) secondary heating to qualify for off-peak rate—back-up heat for geothermal and space heating “all-electric” systems during interruptible periods.
- ★ General service rates (optional off-peak and on-peak rate schedules).
- ★ High-efficiency electric water heaters at a special price of \$125.00 for IVEC members only—\$125.00 rebate if controlled when “on-peak” periods occur.
- ★ A \$10 per month off-peak credit if electric water heater is controlled for the months of June, July, August and September—\$40 total

benefit—no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment.

- ★ All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems . . .
 - Up to 400% efficiency—ground source
 - Off-peak rate of 4.0¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating
 - Economical/affordable
 - \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for all-electric installation
- ★ Air conditioning off-peak credit of \$10 for summer months of June, July, August and September—\$40 total benefit—no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment.
- ★ Rental security lights for approximately \$12 per month—no maintenance headaches.
- ★ Energy\$Teller service at no cost to help members budget electric usage in their home.
- ★ Off-peak irrigation rate for controlled electric usage.

Non-electric services

- ★ Payment centers throughout IVEC’s service area for member convenience.
- ★ Life-support equipment registry for dependent IVEC members.
- ★ Installation of home lightning and surge protection equipment.
- ★ Helping the financial needs of area businesses with CDC loans.
- ★ Gatekeeper Program—helping seniors by calling

for assistance if needed.

- ★ Crime Watch—fighting rural crime and reporting emergencies.
- ★ Monthly magazine—Illinois Country Living for informational articles and programs.
- ★ DIRECTV™—18-inch receiving dish—175 channels—DSS Digital Satellite System with your choice of programming selections.

**If you want more information about the above programs,
call the Member Services Department—toll-free (800) 654-1088.**

IVEC members

If you worry about a parent living alone . . .

.....talk to Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative about its **personal emergency response system**.

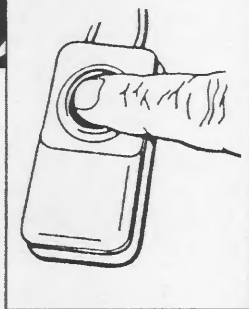
Your parent will get the extra ordinary life-saving service. You get the peace of mind.

IVEC's MainStreet Messenger telephone/personal security system will instantly connect your parent to someone who can help, anytime of the day or night. By simply pushing the special alert key on the telephone unit or the large button on the portable pendant, a call will be placed immediately to the Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative response center via a toll-free "800" emergency telephone number.

From virtually anywhere in the home, your parent can be in voice communication with a service representative within seconds. And since they have all the medical and emergency information about your parent in their computer, the representative will be able to summon the appropriate help — no matter what the need may be.



FIRST CALL
Personal Emergency Response



Portable Pendant

**For more information
Call Illinois Valley
Electric Cooperative
"toll free 800-654-1088"**

or

**In-Home Care VNA
(815) 875-4114**

or

**Perry Memorial Hospital
Princeton
(815) 875-2811**

or

**St. Margaret's Hospital
Spring Valley
(815) 664-5311**



MainStreet Messenger Telephone

Water heater credit— save \$40.00

*Did you know that your electric water heater
can save you \$40.00 a year on your electric bill?
Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative's Switch
Makes \$\$Cents\$\$ Program does just that—
saves you \$40.00 a year.*

Who qualifies?

Members with at least a 40 gallon electric water heater who use at least 400 kwh per month.

How does it work?

Illinois Valley Electric will install a load management switch on your electric water heater. This switch is a radio-activated switch that can control your water heater during peak demand periods. During those peak periods which occur from June 15 to September 15, a radio signal will be sent to your water heater to interrupt the power to it for a two to four hour period. Normally, you can expect 2 to 6 control periods during the year. You will still have a full tank of hot water when the switch is activated. Therefore, you will not experience any inconvenience.

Cost?

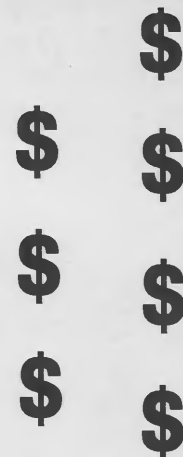
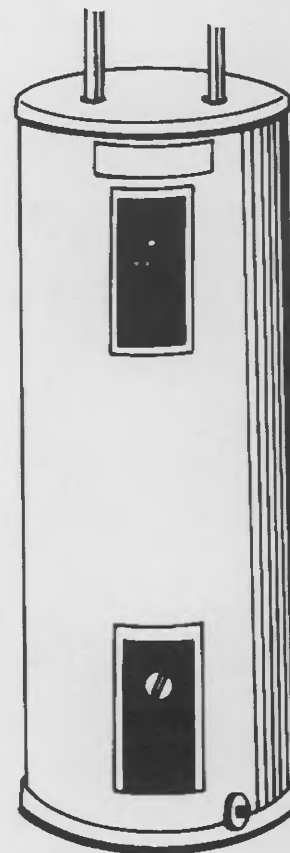
The member incurs no cost for the installation of the load management switch.

Benefit?

The member will receive a \$10.00 per month credit on their electric bill (as long as they use 400 kwhs during the month) for the months of June, July, August and September. The cooperative benefits by being able to reduce its wholesale power costs by controlling the amount of usage during peak periods.

How do I participate?

Simply fill out the coupon below and return it to Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative. You will then be contacted to set up an appointment to install the switch on your water heater.



Switch Makes \$\$Cents\$\$ Installation Request.

I have an electric water heater. Please contact me to set up an appointment to install the load management switch on my water heater.

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Location No. _____

(on your electric billing statement)

- Please also send me information on saving another \$40.00 if a load management switch is installed on my central air conditioner.
- Please contact me about how to qualify for a free 60- or 80-gallon electric water heater.

High efficiency 60- and 80-gallon stone-lined water heater with 10 year warranty against leaks

Go Electric-System:GT[®]

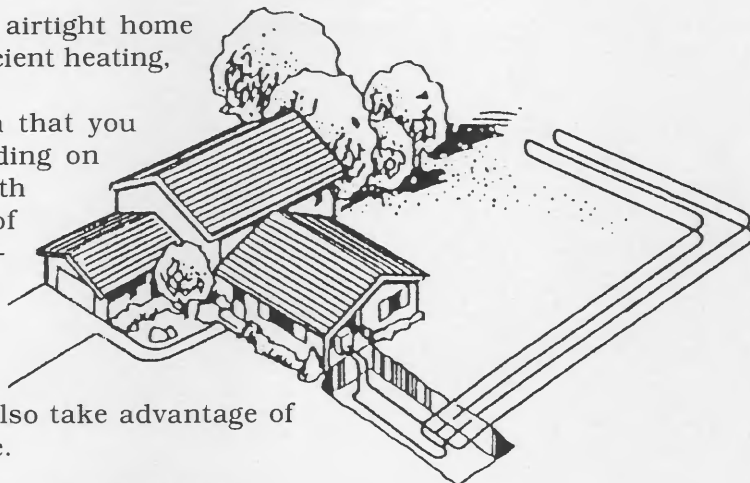
(Geothermal heating, cooling and water heating)

Plan ahead for lower energy bills

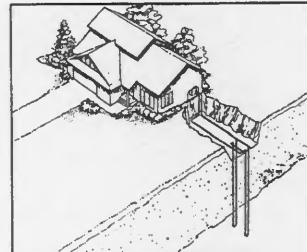
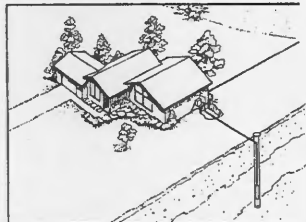
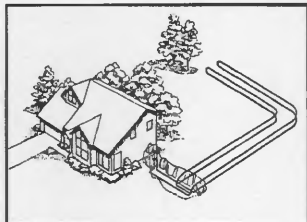
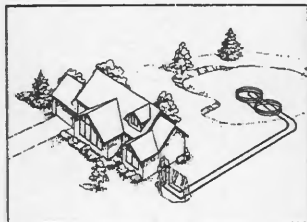
To avoid high energy bills, build an airtight home with proper insulation and install an efficient heating, cooling and water heating system.

The best heating and cooling system that you can purchase is **GEOTHERMAL**. Depending on the season, it uses the constant warmth within the soil to move heat in or out of your home as well as providing a significant portion of your domestic hot water needs. One piece of equipment does it all and it can save up to **60%** or even more on your monthly heating costs.

With a geothermal system, you can also take advantage of Illinois Valley Electric's off-peak heat rate.



Optional Installations



****cash rebates****

- Illinois Valley Electric will rebate \$75 per kw installed up to a maximum \$3,000 for the all-electric geothermal system.

****off-peak rate****

- Check IVEC's off-peak rate of 4.0 cents/kwh for more savings combining geothermal heating with ETS secondary heating for on-peak interruptions.

Choose clean, safe, efficient and pollution free electric heat!

**For more information, contact
Member Services
Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative
(800) 654-1088**

****For more details****

- ☆ Call Illinois Valley Electric at toll free (800) 654-1088 or the following WaterFurnace dealers:
- ☆ Philhower Electric Plumbing & Heating, Main street, Tiskilwa, IL 61368, (815) 646-4481
- ☆ Turczyn Heating and Air Conditioning, 1328 Pulaski Street, Peru, IL 61354, (815) 223-0715
- ☆ Ottawa Heating & Air-Conditioning, 632 First Ave., Ottawa, IL 61350, (815) 433-1811
- ☆ Johnson Heating, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, P.O. Box 53, 107 E. Mill St., Kewanee, IL 61443, (309) 852-2610

SurgeGuard home lightning protection From Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative



Your house: 1 Lightning: 0

That's the score with SurgeGuard, protecting your appliances and electronic equipment from lightning.

Illinois Valley Electric offers several options and warranties with its SurgeGuard program. You can choose the package you want to protect part or all of your electric items, such as refrigerators, pumps, TVs, VCRs, computers, stereos, fax machines, telephone answering machines and dial-up modems.

Enjoy one of nature's great shows, the thunderstorm, without the worry of lightning damage to household equipment.

This lightning protection may enable you to obtain a discount on homeowner's insurance. Be sure to contact your insurance carrier.

Call Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative toll free at 800-654-1088 and ask for the Member Services Department for more details.

Meter socket adapters

A. Surge protection for member electric appliances and equipment. Included is a total home protection warranty against consequential damages to all standard home equipment such as refrigerators, freezers, pumps, etc. Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative will install device at meter socket upon order from member.

*MSA 120/240 (200 amp) Home Protector	
Meter Socket Plug-In Device	\$128.20
Labor to Install Device	38.50
Tax	<u>8.01</u>
	\$174.71

*Includes adapter, installation and 10 year product warranty which includes replacement of unit if destroyed while protecting home.

Plug-in protectors—optional

B. Protects sensitive electronic equipment such as TVs, VCRs, computers, stereos and other home devices requiring more protective shielding. Member installs this simple plug-in device inside home.

*Two outlet TTC 215 Transient Tamer	\$62.55
Tax	<u>3.91</u>
	\$66.46

*Includes lifetime warranty on plug-in device and lifetime warranty against consequential damages to all electronic equipment when used in conjunction with MSA Home Protector Adapter as listed above.

C. Provides dial-up phone line protection including FAX machines, telephone answering machines and dial-up modems. Member installs this simple plug-in device inside home.

*Two outlet TTM 215 Transient Tamer	\$69.00
Tax	<u>4.31</u>
	\$73.31

*Includes lifetime warranty on plug-in device and lifetime warranty against consequential damages to phone line equipment when used in conjunction with MSA Home Protector Adapter as listed above.

Other surge protection devices available for large power loads.

Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris)
Christensen
President/CEO

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IVEC sponsors 1998 youth tours



The four students who represented IVEC on last year's Youth to Washington tour met Congressman Lane Evans on Capitol Hill. They were among 63 rural youth leaders and their chaperones from downstate Illinois who toured Washington, D.C. June 13-20. From left are: Amanda Murray of Toulon, Fred Neubert of Knoxville, Congressman Evans, Brad Peterson of Spring Valley and Amanda Wetzel of Galva.

IVEC is one of several cooperatives in Illinois sponsoring the "Youth to Springfield" and "Youth to Washington" tours this year, offering the chance to win "the trip of a lifetime" to a select group of students in its service territory.

We believe it's important for students to learn more about government and their role in it. With that in mind, IVEC is providing student leaders an opportunity to watch government at work from a close-up vantage point.

Illinois electric cooperatives have sponsored these educational programs for 39 years. Today, many alumni of these programs work in state or federal government or have gone on to serve as elected officials, including two current members of the Illinois General Assembly.

IVEC will sponsor two sophomore or junior students from each high school in its service area on an all-expense-paid bus trip to Springfield on April 22. Governor Jim Edgar has de-

clared that day as Illinois rural Electric Youth Day. The students and their counterparts from other Illinois high schools will meet their elected senators and representatives at the Capitol and learn about the workings of state government. They will be honored at a special luncheon, and may meet with Governor Edgar.

Youth to Washington

At the close of the Springfield trip, four students will be selected to represent IVEC on an all-expense-paid trip to the nation's capital June 12-19. **Mark Check**

They will be selected by judges during interviews following the day-long Springfield activities.

The Washington tour winners will be part of a group of about 80 students and chaperones from across the state who will represent their respective electric and telephone cooperatives on the 1998 tour.

During the trip, the students will visit the Civil War battlefields at Gettysburg, U.S. Capitol, Smithsonian Institution museums, Arlington Cemetery, National Cathedral, Supreme Court, Department of Agriculture, Mount Vernon, and U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. They will meet many members of the Illinois Congressional delegation on Capitol Hill.

You could be an ICL prize winner!

Is this your account number?

0002445001

If your name appears in this center section, mixed in with copy, you will receive a nice prize.

Call toll-free—800-654-1088



Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric was called to order by Chairman Robert Angus at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 25, 1997 with all directors present. President and CEO T. L. Christensen, and Attorney Gary Barnhart were also present.

Routine orders of business were reviewed and accepted after due consideration.

Directors reported on various meetings and related cooperative activities attended during the past month.

The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

1. A motion was made and approved to waive the \$15 membership transfer fee if a member reads his own meter and a lineman does not have to make a trip to the member's home.

2. A motion was made and approved to amend the NRECA Employee Retirement and Security Insurance Program with no changes from the previous form to comply with changes required by the IRS.

3. A motion was made and approved to participate in the 1998 Youth Day and Youth to Washington programs.

4. A motion was made and approved to hire ELASCO to do meter testing for IVEC for 1998.

The December board meeting is scheduled for Dec. 23, 1997. The January board meeting will be Jan. 27, 1998. The February meeting has been scheduled for the 24th.

Electricity: The all-around good choice!

Clean — With electricity there are no unpleasant odors and no mess. It's also clean for the environment.

Safe — Electricity requires no fire and releases no toxic fumes in the air that you breathe. That's safer and healthier for you.

Convenient — Plug it in, flip it on. Electricity is there when and where you need it. Electricity helps make your life a little more comfortable. Because it is so convenient, it's easy to take electricity somewhat for granted.



Productive — Electricity has played a major role in making farming operations and other businesses more productive — efficiently. Overall, that's a good thing for the economy.

Versatile — Electricity heats and cools our homes and businesses, heats water, cooks food, helps with inside and outside chores and even entertains.

Good value — When you think about everything electricity does for you, it's a little more clear that electricity is a good value. For cents a day, it operates all your major appliances.

Dual Energy Systems

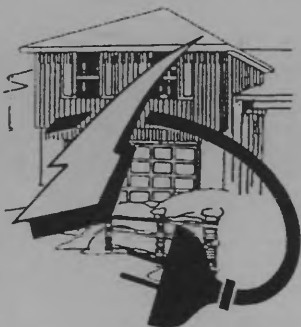
"Off Peak Low rate"

Save with the affordable choice

What is a Dual Energy heating system in the "off peak" concept? . . .

It is a system which combines two energy sources — electricity as a primary source and an alternate energy system such as electricity, gas or oil, as a secondary source during interruptible periods.

- ★ The off-peak heating rate is 4¢ kwh.
- ★ \$75 kw rebate up to \$400 for installation - Primary Electric
- ★ \$75 kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation — All Electric Dual Energy System — (secondary source must be electric)



**All-Electric or Dual Energy Heating Systems are
Competitive, Economical and Affordable!!!**

Reading "EER" labels

Chances are, you've encountered the "EER" (Energy Efficiency Rating) label while shopping through the department or appliance stores. The information on the label is important because the EER measures the efficiency of a product in relation to other, similar products. With EERs, the higher the rating, the more efficient the product and the less you'll spend on energy costs.

Each label, whether it's in dollars or EERs, contains data about that appliance's energy use, as well as the least efficient and the most efficient products in that category. This allows buyers to compare the energy efficiency of one specific appliance with others.

To help you compare products using the EER label:

- The EERs for central air conditioners currently range from 10 to 15. A unit rated 10 would use 50 percent more energy than a similar unit rated 15.

- The EERs for heat pumps currently range from 6.8 to 8.9. A unit rated 6.8 would use 24 percent more energy for heating than a similar unit rated 8.9. On Illinois Valley's electric heating rate, a heat pump will heat your home for less than a high-efficiency gas furnace and for about 2/3 the cost of a propane furnace.

- Conversely, for an energy label stated in dollars, the lower the number the better.

Budget Payment Plan available

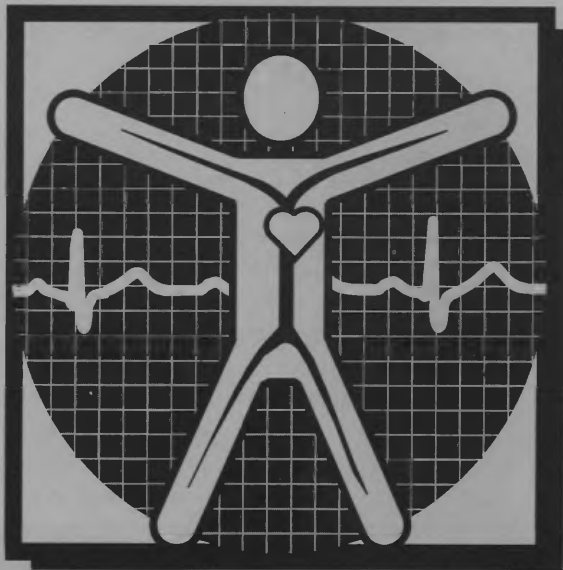
Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative is providing a new service that will offer an additional option to its membership.

A Budget Payment Plan has been implemented that would "normalize" monthly electric bill payments over a 12-month billing cycle. Upon written request from a member, a budget plan will be applied to his/her account. The member may enroll in any month during the year. For example, a Budget Payment Plan be-

ginning in June would be for June kwh usage billed in July and ending with the June billing on the following year. If a budget payment is not received in accordance with the plan, the member will be removed from the program.

If you are interested in the Budget Payment Plan, please call toll free (800) 654-1088 and ask for the billing department. Also, you may submit a written request for application into the program.

If you depend on life-support equipment, we need to know



While Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative strives to maintain the best possible service with a minimum of outage time, occasional outages, either planned or uncontrolled, do occur.

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative needs to know the names and locations of members who depend on life-support equipment. We keep a registry of such members, and it is important that this information be current and accurate. We will make every effort to give priority to restore service to members on life-support systems.

If you or a member of your family depend on life-support equipment, please call us as quickly as possible at toll free (800) 654-1088.

Available Services and Programs From Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"



Featuring this month

Security light rentals for approximately \$12 per month — call Illinois Valley Electric for details

- * **No maintenance headaches**
- * **Free installation and service**
- * **Automatic — no light switch**

Electric programs

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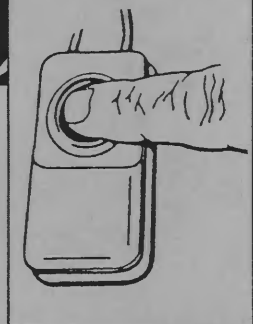
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Personal Emergency Response



Portable Pendant

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call Illinois Valley
Electric Cooperative
"toll-free (800) 654-1088"**

or

**In-Home Care VNA
Princeton
(815) 875-4114**

or

**Perry Memorial Hospital
Princeton
(815) 875-2811**

or

**St. Margaret's Hospital
Spring Valley
(815) 664-5311**

. . . talk to Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative about its personal emergency response system.

Your parent will get the extra ordinary lifesaving service. You get the peace of mind.

IVEC's MainStreet Messenger telephone/personal security system will instantly connect your parent to someone who can help, anytime of the day or night. By simply pushing the special alert key on the telephone unit or the large button on the portable pendant, a call will be placed immediately to the Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative response center via a toll-free "800" emergency telephone number.

From virtually anywhere in the home, your parent can be in voice communication with a service representative within seconds. And since they have all the medical and emergency information about your parent in their computer, the representative will be able to summon the appropriate help — no matter what the need may be.



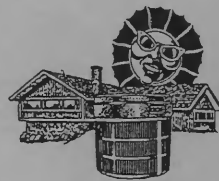
MainStreet Messenger Telephone

IVEC Members. . .You can earn credit!!!



water heater

Don't miss out on your chance to save \$80 a year on electric water heating and air-conditioning costs!



air conditioner

What Is IVEC's Switch Makes \$Cents\$ program?

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative purchases power and sells it to you at the lowest cost possible. The price of the power is especially high during the peak months of June, July, August and September. "Peak usage" simply describes those times when people use the most electricity — such as when it's hot outside and most air-conditioners are running or when water heaters are being used at certain times of the day. Peak usage by Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative members during these months increase wholesale power costs charged to the cooperative. Under our previous wholesale power agreement, we were concerned about winter peak usage, too. But our current contract is only concerned about summer peak usage because of impact on power cost.

Our Switch Makes \$Cents\$ program, which controls water heaters and central air conditioners, will help decrease electric peak usage, which in turn reduces the cost of wholesale power. When you participate, you will receive a credit for the months of June, July, August and September on your electric bill. All members will benefit by seeing stable rates through the long-term savings in wholesale power costs.

How does It work?

- If you have a central air conditioner and an electric water heater with capacity of 40 gallons or more, you are eligible to participate in the program.
- A radio-controlled switch will be installed on the water heater and air-conditioner at **No Charge** to you.
- You will receive a \$20.00 credit for June, July, August and September on your electric bill for the controlled water heater and central air conditioner.
- During peak usage periods, a radio signal sent from Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative's office will automatically switch off the water

heater and air conditioner. Power interruptions will only last long enough to hold demand down. You will experience little or **NO** inconvenience. However if for some reason you are not satisfied with the program, the radio-control switches will be removed at no cost to you.

• The water heater and air conditioner credit is available only for accounts with a minimum of 400 kilowatt-hours usage per month over a period of 12 months in a calendar year.



How do I sign up for Switch Makes \$Cents\$?

It's easy. And the installation is free! Just call us at (800) 654-1088 or complete and return this coupon to: Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, P.O.

Box 70, Princeton, IL 61356, Attention: Member Services Department.

YES, please send me information on the \$20.00 per month electric water heater and air conditioner credit. Total benefit—\$80 per year.

YES, I am also interested in the free 60- or 80-gallon water heater program.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

ZIP Code _____

Phone Number _____

Best Time to Call _____

Date _____

Location Number _____

NOTE: Location number is on your electric billing statement.

The affordable choice – cash rebates – 4¢ kwh rate

Dual Heating Systems

What Is a Dual Energy Heating System?

It is a system that combines two energy sources – electricity as a primary source, and an alternate fuel, such as gas or oil, as a secondary source. If you now have a gas or oil system, you can benefit by adding an electric system for your primary source.

What is an All-Electric heating system?

It is a system that will use electricity for the primary and secondary source of energy for heating purposes.

For example, you can use resistance electric heat such as baseboard (or plenum heaters) or choose higher-efficiency electric heat such as the air-to-air heat pump or geothermal ground source system for primary heating. The secondary source must be the electric thermal storage heating unit. This unit stores heat during off-peak hours to be used during on-peak periods.

What is the electric heat rate?

A very attractive electric rate is available when heating with Dual Energy or All-Electric systems.

This off-peak heating rate is 4¢ kwh.

This rate applies only to kwh's used in a Dual Energy or All-Electric application. Kilowatt-hours to be billed under this rate must be metered by a submeter and be interrupted for peak times at the transfer point. The submetering equipment is to be installed by the member's electrician who must be qualified to set up a Dual Energy or All-Electric system. The regular household consumption is still billed under the general service rate as recorded on the master meter.

Cash rebates for Installation

• IVEC will rebate \$75 per kw up to \$400 maximum for a Dual Energy Heating installation. The homeowner is allowed to use another

fuel source for backup to the primary electric heating.

• IVEC will rebate \$75 per kw up to a \$3,000 maximum for the All-Electric residence. The primary and backup heating must be electric. Example:

• If a 30 kw electric furnace is installed in a residence for primary heat...rebate would be calculated as follows: 30 kw x \$75 = \$2,250

• If a 4 kw electric thermal storage heater is installed in a residence for backup...rebate would be calculated as follows: 4 kw x \$75 = \$300

• Total rebate \$2,550



What are the direct benefits of an off-peak Dual Energy Heating or All-Electric system?

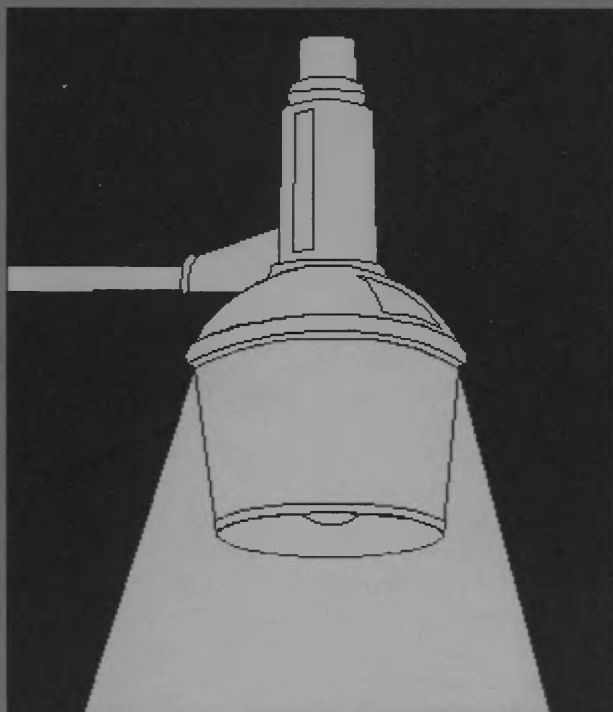
Participants will realize immediate and future savings from reduced annual heating bills. But they'll also save by creating new kilowatt-hour sales, thus spreading the fixed costs of the cooperative across a broader base. Such new sales hold down the cost of electricity today and tomorrow for participants and their neighbors.

The off-peak concept will reduce the cost of electricity (cost of heating) for the member who uses electric heat (peak shaving) and encourage the sale of more kilowatt-hours.

Whom do I contact for more Information?

Contact the Member Services Department at Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative for more information on how the Dual Heating Programs can be beneficial in your home. Learn firsthand why Dual Heat is an economical and affordable choice.

**Call Member Services — toll free (800) 654-1088
Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.**



Lighting YOUR way...

**From dusk to dawn,
for security, safety
and confidence a
security light costs
just pennies
a day.**

Rental Security Lighting for...

Security

Outdoor lighting protects your family and property from criminals.

Safety

Lighting illuminates your late-night arrival home.

Curbside Appeal

Lighting accents distinctive features of your home or business.

Extending the Day

Lighting stretches the daylight hours for barbecues, driveway basket ball and after-dusk chores.

Economy

Outdoor lighting is easy, efficient, and costs just pennies a day.

YOUR Way

Home, farm or business: outdoor lighting can soon be Lighting...YOUR Way.

Rent a high pressure sodium, 100 watt security light from Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative for under \$12.00 per month, and protect your home and family.

Proper lighting at night improves the security of your property and protects it from vandalism and theft. Rental lights are installed on meter poles or transformer poles—installation and maintenance are free!!!



For more information, call.....

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

Toll-Free 1-800-654-1088

"Ask for the Billing Department"

Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris)
Christensen
President/CEO

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"

Office Hours 7:45 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Monday through Friday
Telephone 800-654-1088

P.O. Box 70
Route 6 & 34 West
Princeton, Illinois 61356

Emergencies - call toll-free 800-654-1088 - 24 hours a day

Focusing on what matters — the consumer

The consumer comes first! That is the driving motivation behind Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative's work. It doesn't take a lot of fancy words to understand the difference between your local electric cooperative and other utility companies that want to provide energy services to you.

Simply put, if something — a policy, a service, a way of doing business — is good for the member-consumers, then it is good for the electric co-op, too. Contrast this philosophy with that of the big power companies. Making a profit is first and foremost with them. That's all well and good — unless there is a clash between profits for the company, and serving consumers and their communities.

When that happens, guess who wins? Whom would you rather have serving you? An investor-owned utility that exists to take money out of your pocket and out of the community? Or would you rather get your electricity from your electric cooperative that is in business to serve you and help you keep your hard-earned dollars in your pocket and your community?

The choice is simple because the philosophy of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative is simple: Member-consumers *are* the co-op, so if it's good for them, it has to be good for the co-op itself!

However, the reasons your electric cooperative looks out for your interests better than a big power company goes way beyond differences in business philosophy. The men and women who work for you at your cooperative are in a better position to protect your interests in the debate over the future of the electric utility industry. Why? They live and work in the same community you do, and they are attuned to paying attention to what you are saying. And, your electric cooperative is run by an elected board of directors — your friends and neighbors — who have a duty to put member consumers first.

Today, Americans all across the nation are beginning to realize just how special and unique cooperative businesses can be in finding solutions to local problems and needs. As the laws governing how utility companies operate

continue to change in state after state, member consumers are discovering that the best way to find solutions to community problems is to empower themselves to solve those problems. That's a cooperative way of getting a job done — it puts the member-consumer first.

Nearly 60 years ago, hard-working families in your community teamed up and organized Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative to bring electric power to their homes and businesses located in rural areas. The big power companies had turned their backs and refused to help because they didn't believe there was money to be made. Your needs as a consumer did not come first — the interest of the power company came first.

Today, it seems cooperative businesses across the nation are becoming more popular. People are weary of dealing with distant corporations and are frustrated with inattentive, large bureaucracies. And, they want to feel that they are more than just a statistic consumer that is sent a bill every month.

In fact, national research confirms that electric cooperatives nationwide get far better ratings on service than any other group of utility companies. We are recognized for our local orientation, our attention to detail and, primarily, putting you — our member consumers — ahead of all other priorities. In research recently conducted for electric cooperatives, 85 percent of member-consumers said their electric co-op is "providing quality service," and 80 percent said it is "being responsive to customers." Furthermore, 69 percent agreed that co-ops are responsive and close to the community. **Eisa M. Dietz**

These results of this research should not be surprising. I have found electric cooperatives to be businesses where honesty, integrity and cooperation are the norm. That's because member-consumers are the cooperative, and the driving force behind everything the cooperative does is the consumer. At Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, the member consumer comes first — and that means you!!



Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric was called to order by Chairman Robert Angus at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 23, 1997 with all directors present but Don Rogers. President and CEO T. L. Christensen, and Attorney Gary Barnhart were also present.

Routine orders of business were reviewed and accepted after due consideration.

Directors reported on various meetings and related cooperative activities attended during the past month.

The following items were discussed and/or

moved on:

1. A motion was made and approved to make a donation to In Home Health, VNA and to also donate to Princeton, Ottawa and Galva fire departments which serve IVEC's headquarters and outposts.

2. A motion was made to approve the IVEC 1998 budget.

3. A motion was made and approved to sign an agreement with NRTC to start an Internet service in LaSalle County.

4. A motion was made to approve IVEC's 1996 writeoffs.

5. A motion was made and approved to accept credit cards for payment of electric bills if the credit cards are payable through Citizens First National Bank.

The January board meeting will be Jan. 27, 1998. The February meeting will be Feb. 24. The March meeting is scheduled for the 24th.

New IVEC employee

President/CEO T. L. Christensen has announced the appointment of Steven Faletti to the position of Engineering Technician. Steve is from Mark, Ill., and received his Civil Engineering degree from Murray State University in Murray, Ky. Steve will be part of IVEC's engineering department where he will be responsible for various field projects providing service to member consumers.



Steven Faletti

Meter reading dates

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative encourages all members to assist us by making their meters accessible to our meter readers. For your convenience, meter reading dates for February are circled on the calendar. It is our hope that you will use this information so that any necessary arrangements can be made, such as restraining a dog, clearing debris around the meter, etc. Your assistance in this matter certainly will be appreciated, not only by our meter readers, but by the area serviceman who needs access to your meter in the event of an outage.

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

You could be an ICL prize winner!

Is this your account number?

0003487502

If your name appears in this center section, mixed in with copy, you will receive a nice prize.

Call toll-free 800-654-1088

Available Services and Programs from Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"

Display Unit Features:

*****Featuring this month*****

Energy\$ Teller service

- ★ Evaluate your energy-saving efforts with the Energy\$Teller
- ★ Budget electric usage in your home
- ★ Check consumption by appliances in your home
- ★ Learn how much your equipment costs to operate
- ★ No cost to member for Energy\$Teller service

Electric Programs

- ★ Dual Energy off-peak space heating system with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh — \$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$400.00 for installation. If alternate energy is electric — \$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation.
- ★ All electric residential rate — for controlled energy usage.
- ★ Electric thermal storage (ETS) secondary heating to qualify for off-peak rate — backup heat for geothermal and space heating "all-electric" systems during interruptible periods.
- ★ General service rates (optional off-peak and on-peak rate schedules).
- ★ High-efficiency electric water heaters at a special price of \$125.00 for IVEC members only—\$125.00 rebate if water heater is controlled when "on-peak" periods occur.
- ★ A \$10 per month off-peak credit if electric water heater is controlled for the months of June, July, August and September — \$40 total

benefit — no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment.

- ★ All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems . . .
 - Up to 400% efficiency — ground source
 - Off-peak rate of 4¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating
 - Economical/affordable
 - \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for all-electric installation
- ★ Air conditioning off-peak credit of \$10 for summer months of June, July, August and September — \$40 total benefit — no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment.
- ★ Rental security lights for approximately \$12 per month — no maintenance headaches.
- ★ Energy\$Teller service at no cost to help members budget electric usage in their home.
- ★ Off-peak irrigation rate for controlled electric usage.

Non-electric Services

- ★ Payment centers throughout IVEC's service area for member convenience.
- ★ Life-support equipment registry for dependent IVEC members.
- ★ Installation of home lightning and surge protection equipment.
- ★ Helping the financial needs of area businesses with CDC loans.
- ★ Gatekeeper Program — helping seniors by calling for assistance if needed.

- ★ Crime Watch — Fighting rural crime and reporting emergencies.
- ★ Monthly magazine — Illinois Country Living for informational articles and programs.
- ★ DIRECTV™ — 18-inch receiving dish — 200 channels — DSS Digital Satellite System with your choice of programming selections.
- ★ First Call — Emergency Response System for seniors or handicapped persons.

If you want more information about the above programs,
contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative — call toll-free (800) 654-1088.

Safety tip: Multiple plug adaptors are for temporary use only

Have you ever needed to plug more than two items into a standard duplex electrical box? If you did, did you use one of those multiple plug adaptors otherwise known as a temporary tap to solve the problem? Most people use the multiple plug adaptor as a permanent solution and are completely unaware of the dangers in doing so. Using a multiple plug adaptor on a permanent basis is a serious safety hazard that can be easily avoided. Each year, there are approximately 150,000 fires which occur in the home that are caused by electricity related incidents.

Multiple plug adaptors are easy to overload. If they are overloaded, you may be fortunate enough to merely blow a fuse or cause your breaker to operate and shut off. If this is happening, and especially if it happens frequently, you have a very serious problem. Unplug the equipment on that circuit and have a qualified repairman or electrician evaluate the situation. To help you picture what happens in an overloaded circuit, think of a balloon that is filled with water. Maybe the balloon can adequately hold a half gallon of water. You decide to add an additional one-half gallon of water to the balloon for a total of one gallon. The balloon seems to hold it with no apparent problem. Nonetheless, each time you add the additional one-half gallon of water, you weaken the balloon. Eventually, the balloon will burst if you continue to over-

load it. The same can happen to an electrical circuit. It may be able to handle the overload for a while but eventually it will burst. Fuses and breakers are designed to relieve the pressure before the wire starts to heat and weaken. You also need to be concerned about poor connections that can cause heat buildup and the weakening of electrical contacts. In either situation anything can happen when power is moving through the wire of an overloaded circuit and the potential is there to start a fire.

The solution to needing more outlets is to have a certified electrician install a larger (double duplex) electrical box. The electrician will go one step further and check the circuit to make sure that it can carry the load that you intend to put on it. If one of the items that you intend to plug into the electrical box is a large appliance, the electrician will install a separate circuit to adequately handle the load.

Your home can be wired to handle any kind of load that you desire. However, the proper size wire, fuses or breakers and number of circuits must be used to insure adequate and safe use of electricity. Remember, multiple plug adaptors are for temporary use only. Anything else is not safe and could lead to a fire. It should be noted that power strips and surge protectors are not considered multiple plug adaptors. They typically have a fuse built into them which will prevent overloading of a circuit.

The peak switch offers savings

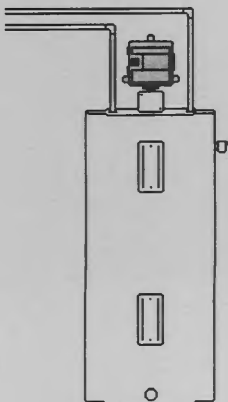
Members who allowed IVEC to install a peak switch on their water heater and air conditioner, when our demand side management program began in 1986, have received substantial savings without investing one thin dime.

Also, dual heat installations by members require little investment to receive a rebate and 4 cent kwh rate.

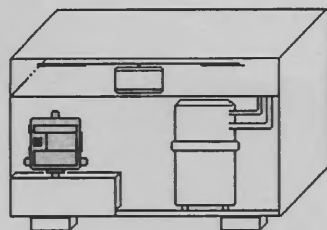
These participating members will continue to be rewarded for their early actions, but it is

not too late for you to share in the savings. Simply call toll-free 800-654-1088 and ask for Member Services; we welcome your inquiries.

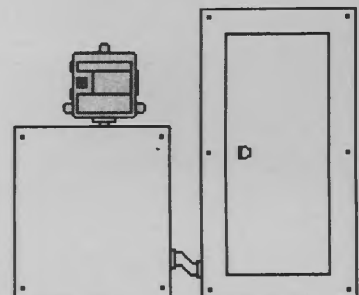
Your peak switch will be installed free of charge and you will save money like the other 1,000-plus active members. Also, don't forget the dual heat option can offer big savings when you heat electrically. So call us now and start benefiting from the "Peak Switch."



Water Heater
\$8 per month
\$40 total savings
(June through September)



Air Conditioner
\$8 per month
\$40 total savings
(June through September)



Dual Heating Systems
Rebates and 4 cent kwh rate
Save money on heating costs.
(October through May)

IVEC members



FIRST CALL
Personal Emergency Response

Portable Pendant

**For more information
Call Illinois Valley
Electric Cooperative
"toll free 800-654-1088"**

or

**In-Home Care VNA
(815) 875-4114
Princeton**

or

**Perry Memorial Hospital
Princeton
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or

**St. Margaret's Hospital
Spring Valley
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You get the peace of mind.**

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MainStreet Messenger Telephone

Your 18-inch satellite dish has never been so cheap — **\$199.00**



It just got easier to own the Digital Satellite System™ — so you can start receiving up to 200 channels of **DIRECTV**® programming! Our new, special price makes it more affordable than ever to bring home the greatest home entertainment development since the VCR. Stop in today to pick up your new DSS unit and get set to enjoy the amazing new world of digital television.

IVEC will match any competitor's ad if a lower price for a DSS system is displayed — bring copy of ad into IVEC office — we will match the price!

The choice is clear. **DIRECTV.**



Call Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative
Toll free (800) 654-1088
Ask for Member Services Department

DIRECTV is your window on a world of choices

Illinois Valley Electric is pleased to offer you the best television programming you're going to find anywhere, and at rates that you can live with.

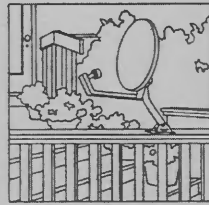
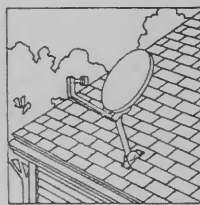
One of the most extraordinary features of **DIRECTV**® is its Digital Satellite System™ receiving unit, or **DSS**™. By using state-of-the-art technology, designers have shrunk the size of the dish you need to receive quality programming to just 18 inches. That's about the size of a garbage can lid.

But the dish isn't just small and attractive, it's also easy to use. If you're at all handy, it's a snap to install. You can put it on a window sill, porch railing, or even in a flower bed. Once you've installed it, you never need to move or adjust it.

The system includes an attractive in-home receiver and a remote control designed to blend perfectly with other home electronics, from stereos and CD players to integrated entertainment systems.

And, the multifunction remote control allows you to choose your programming from an on-screen, interactive menu guide. First-rate television has never been so easy or so much fun — or so available and inexpensive!

With the ability to deliver up to 200 chan-



The **DSS** Digital Satellite System, with its unobtrusive design, can be tastefully mounted on the side of a solid wood or brick home, a deck rail, a short in-ground pole, a chimney or roof.

nels, **DIRECTV** offers a menu of choices for every appetite. You can watch college, professional and worldwide sporting events, movies, 24-hour news, family entertainment, music and much more; all at the touch of a button.

To find out more about your opportunity to own the hottest new consumer electronics product to hit the market since the VCR, call us toll free (800) 654-1088. We'll get you started in a television programming system you'll have to see to believe. And speaking of seeing and believing, we have a unit set up in the lobby of the IVEC office. Next time you're in Princeton, stop in and have a look. You'll be glad you did!

Water heater credit— save \$40.00

**Did you know that your electric water heater
can save you \$40.00 a year on your electric bill?**

**Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative's Switch
Makes \$\$Cents\$\$ Program does just that—
saves you \$40.00 a year.**

Who qualifies?

Members with at least a 40 gallon electric water heater who use at least 400 kwh per month.

How does it work?

Illinois Valley Electric will install a load management switch on your electric water heater. This switch is a radio-activated switch that can control your water heater during peak demand periods. During those peak periods which occur from June 15 to September 15, a radio signal will be sent to your water heater to interrupt the power to it for a two to four hour period. Normally, you can expect 2 to 6 control periods during the year. You will still have a full tank of hot water when the switch is activated. Therefore, you will not experience any inconvenience.

Cost?

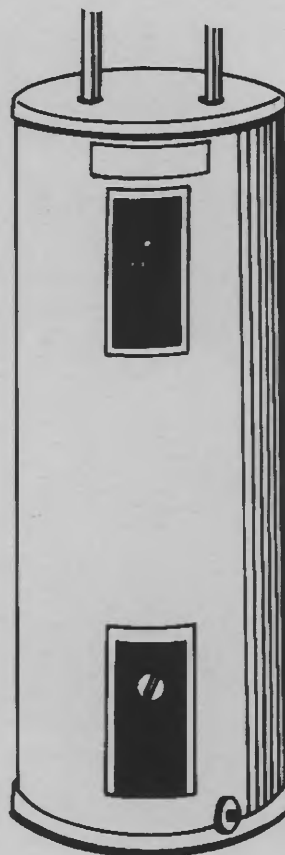
The member incurs no cost for the installation of the load management switch.

Benefit?

The member will receive a \$10.00 per month credit on their electric bill (as long as they use 400 kwhs during the month) for the months of June, July, August and September. The cooperative benefits by being able to reduce its wholesale power costs by controlling the amount of usage during peak periods.

How do I participate?

Simply fill out the coupon below and return it to Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative. You will then be contacted to set up an appointment to install the switch on your water heater. If you prefer, call toll free 800-654-1088 to schedule installation.



Switch Makes \$\$Cents\$\$ Installation Request.

I have an electric water heater. Please contact me to set up an appointment to install the load management switch on my water heater.

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Location No. _____

(on your electric billing statement)

- Please also send me information on saving another \$40.00 if a load management switch is installed on my central air conditioner.
- Please contact me about how to qualify for a free 60- or 80-gallon electric water heater.

High efficiency 60- and 80-gallon stone-lined water heater with 10 year warranty against leaks

SurgeGuard home lightning protection From Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative



Your house: 1 Lightning: 0

That's the score with SurgeGuard, protecting your appliances and electronic equipment from lightning.

Illinois Valley Electric offers several options and warranties with its SurgeGuard program. You can choose the package you want to protect part or all of your electric items, such as refrigerators, pumps, TVs, VCRs, computers, stereos, fax machines, telephone answering machines and dial-up modems.

Enjoy one of nature's great shows, the thunderstorm, without the worry of lightning damage to household equipment.

Another benefit could be that this lightning protection may enable you to obtain a discount on your homeowner's insurance. Be sure to contact your insurance carrier for clarification.

Call Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative toll free at 800-654-1088 and ask for the Member Services Department for more details.

Meter socket adapters

A. Surge protection for member electric appliances and equipment. Included is a total home protection warranty against consequential damages to all standard home equipment such as refrigerators, freezers, pumps, etc. Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative will install device at meter socket upon order from member.

*MSA 120/240 (200 amp) Home Protector

Meter Socket Plug-In Device	\$128.20
Labor to Install Device	38.50
Tax	<u>8.01</u>
	\$174.71

*Includes adapter, installation and 10 year product warranty which includes replacement of unit if destroyed while protecting home.

Plug-in protectors—optional

B. Protects sensitive electronic equipment such as TVs, VCRs, computers, stereos and other home devices requiring more protective shielding. Member installs this simple plug-in device inside home.

*Two outlet TTC 215 Transient Tamer	\$62.55
Tax	<u>3.91</u>
	\$66.46

*Includes lifetime warranty on plug-in device and lifetime warranty against consequential damages to all electronic equipment when used in conjunction with MSA Home Protector Adapter as listed above.

C. Provides dial-up phone line protection including FAX machines, telephone answering machines and dial-up modems. Member installs this simple plug-in device inside home.

*Two outlet TTM 215 Transient Tamer	\$69.00
Tax	<u>4.31</u>
	\$73.31

*Includes lifetime warranty on plug-in device and lifetime warranty against consequential damages to phone line equipment when used in conjunction with MSA Home Protector Adapter as listed above.

Other surge protection devices available for large power loads.

Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris) Christensen
President/CEO

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"

Office Hours 7:45 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Monday through Friday
Telephone 800-654-1088

P.O. Box 70
Route 6 & 34 West
Princeton, Illinois 61356

Emergencies - call toll-free 800-654-1088 - 24 hours a day

IVEC to make application again for the Illinois Energy Education Development (ILLEED) Intern program

This summer, an aspiring area high school student, our engineering department and cooperative members may benefit again from an internship program offered by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA). As last year, Illinois Valley Electric has expressed interest in hosting one of 25 students participating in the Illinois Energy Education Development (ILLEED) program. This student would be assigned to Illinois Valley Electric's engineering department.

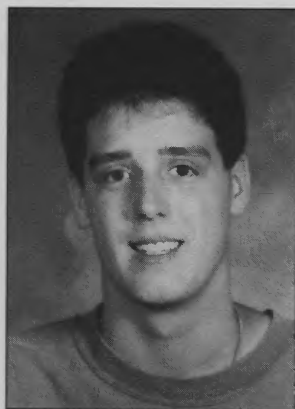
"The internship program is intended to enable a promising high school junior or senior to undertake meaningful, varied, supervised work in the energy field," says T. L. "Kris" Christensen, President/CEO of IVEC. This program includes a stipend which enables the host organization to pay the student's monthly salary and cover other expenses associated with employment.

The Intern Student will be involved in working with design of electric lines, mapping, power use, and related computer work. The student

will have an aptitude for math, science, and mechanical skills. During the intern program, the student will attain an understanding of an electric distribution system, it's operations and functions in the rural community. Part of the training will include working with transit, notebook, personal computer, drafting equipment, measuring devices, copy machines, calculator, and engineering computer programs. The Intern Student will learn to communicate technical information in verbal or written form for utility employees and general public.

Christensen added that the high school student intern will leave IVEC after two months of work with as much training and experience as we have to offer. We expect this to be a mutually beneficial relationship. **Stella Eiler**

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative is a rural electric utility that serves over 6,300 member-owners in all or parts of eight counties, eighty townships with 1,800 miles of electric distribution line in north-central Illinois.



IVEC hosted Micah Schmitt of Mendota as an intern in the engineering department last summer, after he was selected to participate in the ILLEED intern program, sponsored by the DCCA. Schmitt gained practical experience working with computers, drafting equipment and other engineering tools, and IVEC was very pleased with him. We hope to take part in the program this summer, too.

Micah T. Schmitt
Mendota High School



Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric was called to order by Chairman Robert Angus at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 27, 1998 with all directors present but Marvin Polte. President and CEO T. L. Christensen, Attorney Gary Barnhart, Auditor Zane Juncker and CFC representative Jim Kaufman were also present.

Routine orders of business were reviewed and accepted after due consideration.

Directors reported on various meetings and related cooperative activities attended during the past month. The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

1. The board has chosen Tuesday, June 16, 1998 as the date for IVEC's annual meeting. Plans are to have the meeting in the evening at

the Princeton Bible Church gymnasium. More information will follow as the plans progress.

2. Larson, Allen, Weishair & Co. auditors were at the cooperative on Jan. 27 through Jan. 29, 1998 to do the audit for 1997.

3. A motion was made and approved to appoint President Tim Christensen and Director Albert Hagenbuch to the Soyland Power Cooperative Board for 1998. Chairman Robert Angus will serve as alternate. The Soyland annual meeting will be held on March 18, 1998.

4. A motion was made and approved to accept CADP's in house software computer package.

5. An electric service rate was approved for service to the Silverleaf Project.

6. It was approved to instruct management and necessary consultants to study the feasibility of buying out of IVEC's all requirements contracts with Soyland and to seek other wholesale power suppliers.

The February meeting will be Feb. 24. The March meeting will be held on the 24th. The April meeting is scheduled for the 28th.

Meter reading dates

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative encourages all members to assist us by making their meters accessible to our meter readers. For your convenience, meter reading dates for March are circled on the calendar. It is our hope that you will use this information so that any necessary arrangements can be made, such as restraining a dog, clearing debris around the meter, etc. Your assistance in this matter certainly will be appreciated, not only by our meter readers, but by the area serviceman who needs access to your meter in the event of an outage.

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

You could be an ICL prize winner!

Is this your account number?

0002310500

If your name appears in this center section, mixed in with copy, you will receive a nice prize.

Call toll-free 800-654-1088



Notice

The Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative office and area stations will be closed in observance of Good Friday, April 10. Call toll free (800) 654-1088 to report emergencies—24 hour a day monitoring and dispatching service.

Designated IVEC Payment Centers to serve your area.

The following banks are available to accept and process member payments. Payments may also be made at Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative's office located on Route 6 & 34 W., Princeton, or mailed to P.O. Box 70, Princeton, IL 61356.

All questions relating to energy usage or a billing problem must be directed to Illinois Valley Electric's billing department in Princeton — Call toll-free (800) 654-1088 during business hours.



• **Kewanee area**
Peoples National Bank of Kewanee
207 North Tremont St.
Phone (309) 853-3333

• **Galva area**
The Galva Bank
112 N. Exchange St.
Phone (309) 932-2131

• **Ottawa area**
First National Bank of Ottawa
Main Bank/Downtown
701 LaSalle
Phone (815) 434-0044

Bank Plaza
300 W. Madison
Phone (815) 434-3456

South Branch
601 State St.
Phone (815) 434-2077

Northfield Branch
2771 Columbus St.
Phone (815) 434-2265

• **Amcore Bank**
Princeton Main Bank
815 S. Main
Phone (815) 875-2828

Princeton North Branch
1407 N. Main
Phone (815) 875-2828

Sheffield Bank
113 S. Main
Phone (815) 454-2311

First of Wyandot Branch
130 E. Main
Phone (815) 699-2254

• **Citizens First National Bank**
Princeton Main Bank
606 S. Main St.
Phone (815) 875-4444

Princeton North Branch
2101 N. Main St.
Phone (815) 875-4444

Princeton East Branch
423 S. Sixth St.
Phone (815) 875-4444

Peru Bank
925 Shooting Park Rd.
Phone (815) 223-7500

Oglesby Bank
114 E. Walnut St.
Phone (815) 883-8473

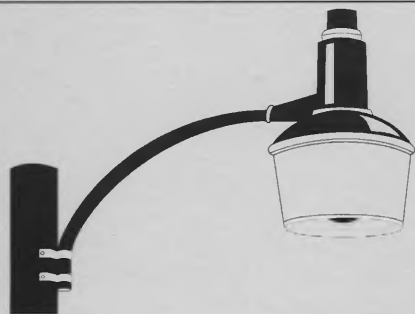
Spring Valley Bank
100 E. Dakota
Phone (815) 664-2321

Depue Bank
219 W. Fourth St.
Phone (815) 447-2171

Henry Bank
624 Second St.
Phone (309) 364-3971

Sandwich Bank
200 E. Church St.
Phone (815) 786-2115

Plano Bank
505 West-Route 34
Phone (630) 552-7686



Lighting . . . your way . . .

From dusk to dawn, for security, safety and confidence, a security light costs just pennies a day. Rental Security Lighting for . . .

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Security | Outdoor lighting protects your family and property from criminals. |
| Safety | Lighting illuminates your late-night arrival home. |
| Curbside Appeal | Lighting accents distinctive features of your home or business. |
| Extending the Day | Lighting stretches the daylight hours for barbecues, driveway basket ball and after-dusk chores. |
| Economy | Outdoor lighting is easy, efficient, and costs just pennies a day. |
| YOUR Way | Home, farm or business: outdoor lighting can soon be Lighting. . .YOUR Way. |

Rent a high pressure sodium, 100 watt security light from Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative for under \$12.00 per month, and protect your home and family.

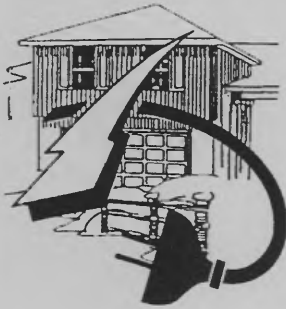
Proper lighting at night improves the security of your property and protects it from vandalism and theft. Rental lights are installed on meter poles or transformer poles — installation and maintenance — are free!!!

For more information, call . . .
Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative
Toll-Free (800) 654-1088
"And ask for the Member Services Department."

Available options for IVEC members

Featuring this month

Dual Energy—Off-Peak—Low Rate. . . Save with the affordable choice



What is a Dual Energy heating system in the "off peak" concept? . . .

It is a system which combines two energy sources — electricity as a primary source and an alternate energy system such as electric thermal storage unit, gas or oil, as a secondary source during interruptible periods.

- ★ The off-peak heating rate is 4.0 cents per kilowatt-hour.
- ★ \$75 kw rebate up to \$400 for installation — Primary Electric
- ★ \$75 kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation — All Electric Dual Energy System — (Secondary source energy must be electric)

All-Electric or Dual Energy Heating Systems are Competitive, Economical and Affordable!!

Electric Programs

- ★ Dual Energy off-peak space heating system with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh — \$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$400.00 for installation. If alternate energy is electric — \$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation.
- ★ All electric residential rate — for controlled energy usage.
- ★ Electric thermal storage (ETS) secondary heating to qualify for off-peak rate — backup heat for geothermal and space heating "all-electric" systems during interruptible periods.
- ★ General service rates (optional off-peak and on-peak rate schedules).
- ★ High-efficiency electric water heaters at a special price of \$125.00 for IVEC members only—\$125.00 rebate if water heater is controlled when "on-peak" periods occur.
- ★ A \$10 per month off-peak credit if electric water heater is controlled for the months of June, July, August and September — \$40 total

benefit — no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment.

- ★ All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems . . .
 - Up to 400% efficiency — ground source
 - Off-peak rate of 4¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating
 - Economical/affordable
 - \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for all-electric installation
- ★ Air conditioning off-peak credit of \$10 for summer months of June, July, August and September — \$40 total benefit — no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment.
- ★ Rental security lights for approximately \$12 per month — no maintenance headaches.
- ★ Energy\$Teller service at no cost to help members budget electric usage in their home.
- ★ Off-peak irrigation rate for controlled electric usage.

Non-electric Services

- ★ Payment centers throughout IVEC's service area for member convenience.
- ★ Life-support equipment registry for dependent IVEC members.
- ★ Installation of home lightning and surge protection equipment.
- ★ Helping the financial needs of area businesses with CDC loans.
- ★ Gatekeeper Program — helping seniors by calling for assistance if needed.
- ★ Crime Watch — Fighting rural crime and reporting emergencies.
- ★ Monthly magazine — Illinois Country Living for informational articles and programs.
- ★ DIRECTV™ — 18-inch receiving dish — 200 channels — DSS Digital Satellite System with your choice of programming selections.
- ★ First Call — Emergency Response System for seniors or handicapped persons living alone.

**If you want more information about the above programs,
contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative — call toll-free (800) 654-1088.**

IVEC members

If you worry about a parent living alone . . .

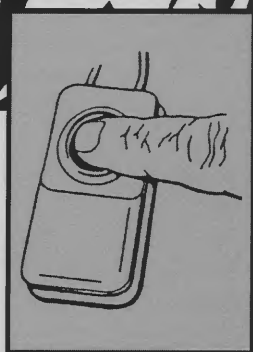


.....talk to Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative about its **personal emergency response system.**

**Your parent will get the extra ordinary life-saving service.
You get the peace of mind.**

IVEC's MainStreet Messenger telephone/personal security system will instantly connect your parent to someone who can help, anytime of the day or night. By simply pushing the special alert key on the telephone unit or the large button on the portable pendant, a call will be placed immediately to the Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative response center via a toll-free "800" emergency telephone number.

FIRST CALL
Personal Emergency Response



Portable Pendant

**For more information
Call Illinois Valley
Electric Cooperative
"toll free 800-654-1088"**

or

**In-Home Care VNA
Princeton
(815) 875-4114**

or

**Perry Memorial Hospital
Princeton
(815) 875-2811**

or

**St. Margaret's Hospital
Spring Valley
(815) 664-5311**

From virtually anywhere in the home, your parent can be in voice communication with a service representative within seconds. And since they have all the medical and emergency information about your parent in their computer, the representative will be able to summon the appropriate help — no matter what the need may be.



MainStreet Messenger Telephone

Your 18-inch satellite dish has never been so cheap!



It just got easier to own the Digital Satellite System™ — so you can start receiving up to 200 channels of **DIRECTV™** programming! Our new, special price makes it more affordable than ever to bring home the greatest home entertainment development since the VCR. Stop in today to pick up your new DSS unit and get set to enjoy the amazing new world of digital television.

The choice is clear. DIRECTV.



Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

Call Toll free (800) 654-1088

Ask for Member Services Department

SurgeGuard home lightning protection From Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative



Your house: 1 Lightning: 0

That's the score with SurgeGuard, protecting your appliances and electronic equipment from lightning.

Illinois Valley Electric offers several options and warranties with its SurgeGuard program. You can choose the package you want to protect part or all of your electric items, such as refrigerators, pumps, TVs, VCRs, computers, stereos, fax machines, telephone answering machines and dial-up modems.

Enjoy one of nature's great shows, the thunderstorm, without the worry of lightning damage to household equipment.

Another benefit could be that this lightning protection may enable you to obtain a discount on your homeowner's insurance. Be sure to contact your insurance carrier for clarification.

Call Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative toll free at 800-654-1088 and ask for the Member Services Department for more details.

Meter socket adapters

A. Surge protection for member electric appliances and equipment. Included is a total home protection warranty against consequential damages to all standard home equipment such as refrigerators, freezers, pumps, etc. Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative will install device at meter socket upon order from member.

*MSA 120/240 (200 amp) Home Protector	
Meter Socket Plug-In Device	\$128.20
Labor to Install Device	38.50
Tax	8.01
	<u>\$174.71</u>

*Includes adapter, installation and 10 year product warranty which includes replacement of unit if destroyed while protecting home.

Plug-in protectors—optional

B. Protects sensitive electronic equipment such as TVs, VCRs, computers, stereos and other home devices requiring more protective shielding. Member installs this simple plug-in device inside home.

*Two outlet TTC 215 Transient Tamer	\$62.55
Tax	3.91
	<u>\$66.46</u>

*Includes lifetime warranty on plug-in device and lifetime warranty against consequential damages to all electronic equipment when used in conjunction with MSA Home Protector Adapter as listed above.

C. Provides dial-up phone line protection including FAX machines, telephone answering machines and dial-up modems. Member installs this simple plug-in device inside home.

*Two outlet TTM 215 Transient Tamer	\$69.00
Tax	4.31
	<u>\$73.31</u>

*Includes lifetime warranty on plug-in device and lifetime warranty against consequential damages to phone line equipment when used in conjunction with MSA Home Protector Adapter as listed above.

Other surge protection devices available for large power loads.

Go Electric-System:GT[®]

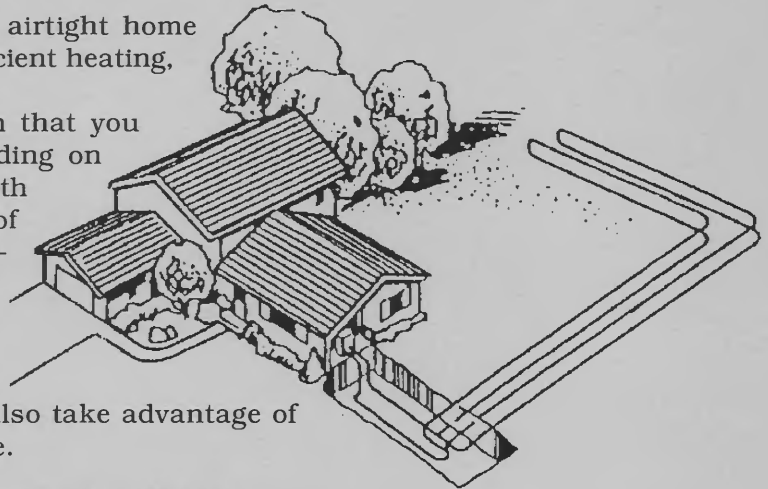
(Geothermal heating, cooling and water heating)

Plan ahead for lower energy bills

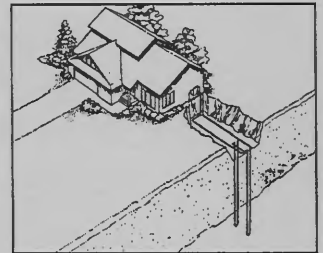
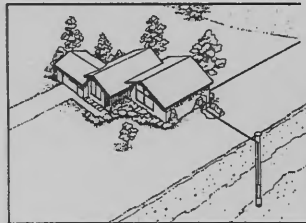
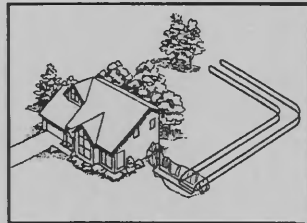
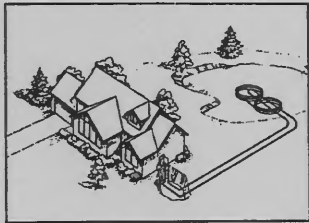
To avoid high energy bills, build an airtight home with proper insulation and install an efficient heating, cooling and water heating system.

The best heating and cooling system that you can purchase is **GEOTHERMAL**. Depending on the season, it uses the constant warmth within the soil to move heat in or out of your home as well as providing a significant portion of your domestic hot water needs. One piece of equipment does it all and it can save up to **60%** or even more on your monthly heating costs.

With a geothermal system, you can also take advantage of Illinois Valley Electric's off-peak heat rate.



Optional Installations



****cash rebates****

- Illinois Valley Electric will rebate \$75 per kw installed up to a maximum \$3,000 for the all-electric geothermal system.

****off-peak rate****

- Check IVEC's off-peak rate of 4.0 cents/kwh for more savings combining geothermal heating with ETS secondary heating for on-peak interruptions.

Choose clean, safe, efficient and pollution free electric heat!

**For more information, contact
Member Services
Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative
(800) 654-1088**

****For more details****

- ☆ Call Illinois Valley Electric at toll free (800) 654-1088 or the following WaterFurnace dealers:
- ☆ Philhower Electric Plumbing & Heating, Main street, Tiskilwa, IL 61368, (815) 646-4481
- ☆ Turczyn Heating and Air Conditioning, 1328 Pulaski Street, Peru, IL 61354, (815) 223-0715
- ☆ Ottawa Heating & Air-Conditioning, 632 First Ave., Ottawa, IL 61350, (815) 433-1811
- ☆ Johnson Heating, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, P.O. Box 53, 107 E. Mill St., Kewanee, IL 61443, (309) 852-2610
- ☆ Thomas Plumbing and Heating, 2262 Grand Ave. Galesburg, Illinois 61402, (309) 343-1101

Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris)
Christensen
President/CEO

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"

Office Hours 7:45 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Monday through Friday
Telephone 800-654-1088

P.O. Box 70
Route 6 & 34 West
Princeton, Illinois 61356

Emergencies - call toll-free 800-654-1088 - 24 hours a day

Annual Meetings— An opportunity to participate.

During the next several months, many electric cooperatives across the country will hold their 1998 annual meetings to celebrate their commitment to the people they serve. During these gatherings, member-consumers are elected to lead your electric cooperative during the next 12 months. These meetings of local co-op members are a great opportunity to have your voice heard at your electric utility.

These meetings are an important part of the local service provided by the network of 1,000 electric cooperatives across the country.

For example, progress reports and future programs presented at this year's annual meeting by Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative not only determines what the co-op will do to improve electric service, but also how changes in the utility industry will affect your cooperative.

These meetings reaffirm five key qualities that make our service second to none.

First, Illinois Valley Electric is a local business that is part of your community. Because you own a part of that company, you have the opportunity to influence key decisions at the co-op by electing local leaders to represent your interests.

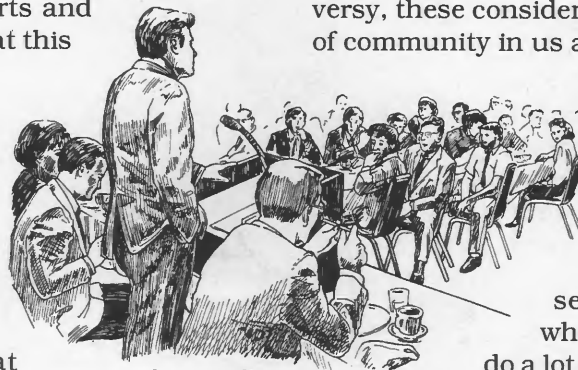
Second, your co-op is staffed by people from your community who understand what is happening in the community. Their closeness to you allows them to provide better service than a phone-bank operator sitting in an office building hundreds of miles away.

Third, co-ops across the country use high technology to deliver state-of-the-art service at the lowest possible price. In this regard, Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative is making the improvements necessary to provide you with the higher level of

service that today's modern technology requires.

Fourth, your co-op is working to improve energy efficiency to lower your monthly electric bills. Each month, this publication carries helpful information that you can put to use to keep your electric bill as low as possible.

Finally, your electric cooperative enhances your community's quality of life by performing even the smallest community service. Whether it is a line worker stopping to help a stranger change a flat tire or the co-op advocating fairness to its rural customer base in the utility deregulation controversy, these considerations build a stronger sense of community in us all.



As your electric cooperative, our main job is to deliver electric power to local homes and businesses at a fair price. And, of course, to be there 24 hours a day should your

service be interrupted. That's what people expect of us. But we do a lot of things you may not expect.

Each year, we help dozens of stranded motorists. Our line workers are always keeping a vigilant eye for suspicious activities in the community. We participate in local charities and team activities. In short, we're always looking for ways to do our part as your neighbor and as a part of this community. So, don't be shocked if you see us doing something that has nothing to do with electricity. Because to us it's just part of the job.

All these qualities work together to help make your electric cooperative an important part of your local community. Every year, Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative celebrates its commitment to community by holding an annual meeting. Your personal participation at the June 16th, 1998 annual meeting will help make this year's meeting even better.



Board Room REPORT

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Routine orders of business were reviewed and accepted after due consideration.

Directors reported on various meetings and related cooperative activities attended during the past month.

The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

1. A motion was made and approved to not participate in the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs program regarding

supplemental low income energy assistance funding.

2. President Christensen updated the board on the status of reviewing the possible buyout of Soyland Wholesale Power Contract and the various requests for proposals to supply wholesale power to IVEC.
3. The NRECA Legislative Conference will be May 3 through May 6 in Washington, D. C.
4. Director Marvin Polte will be the delegate for Federated Rural Electric Insurance Annual Meeting in Nashville in March.
5. The March 24 board meeting has been changed to March 23. The April board meeting is changed from April 28 to April 23. The June board meeting will be June 16 rather than June 23.
6. The Nominating Committee names for IVEC's annual meeting will be received from the board members at the March board meeting and will meet at the cooperative on April 23.

The March board meeting will be March 23, 1998. The April board meeting will be April 23, 1998. The May board meeting will be May 26, 1998. The June meeting is scheduled for the 16th.

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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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0001146500

If your name appears in this center section, mixed in with copy, you will receive a nice prize.

Call toll-free 800-654-1088

Available Services and Programs from Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"



Featuring this month

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Save with the affordable choice

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- ★ The off-peak heating rate is 4.0 cents kilowatt-hour.
 - ★ \$75 kw rebate up to \$400 for installation — Primary Electric
 - ★ \$75 kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation — All Electric
- Dual Energy System — (secondary source must be electric)

Electric Programs

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★ Off-peak irrigation rate for controlled electric usage.

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- ★ Gatekeeper Program — helping seniors by calling for assistance if needed.

★ Crime Watch — Fighting rural crime and reporting emergencies.

★ Monthly magazine — Illinois Country Living for informational articles and programs.

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★ FirstCall Emergency Response System for seniors or handicapped persons living at home alone.

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Go Electric – Geothermal

(Geothermal heating, cooling and water heating)

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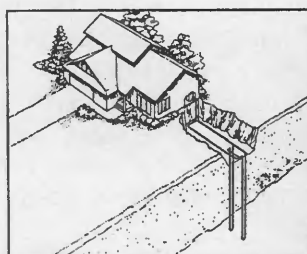
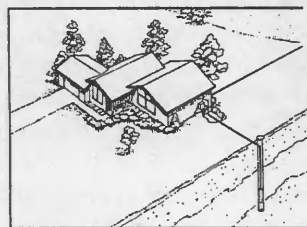
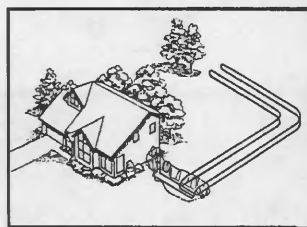
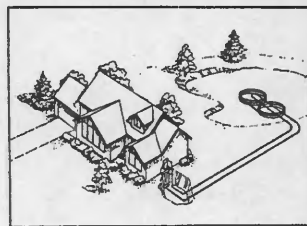
off-peak rate

- Check IVEC's **off-peak rate of 4.0 cents/kwh** for more savings combining geothermal heating with ETS secondary heating for on-peak interruptions.

**Choose clean, safe, efficient
and pollution free electric heat!**

**For more information, contact
Member Services
Illinois Valley
Electric Cooperative
toll-free (800) 654-1088**

OPTIONAL INSTALLATIONS



For more details

Contact the following certified geothermal contractors for assistance before you install or replace your heating/cooling systems:

Philhower Electric Plumbing & Heating, Main Street, Tiskilwa, IL 61368, (815) 646-4481

Turczyn Heating and Air Conditioning, 1328 Pulaski Street, Peru, IL 61354, (815) 223-0715

Ottawa Heating & Air-Conditioning, 632 First Ave., Ottawa, IL 61350, (815) 433-1811

Johnson Heating, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, P.O. Box 53, 107 E. Mill St.,
Kewanee, IL 61443, (309) 852-2610

Thomas Plumbing and Heating, 2262 Grand Ave. Galesburg, Illinois 61402, (309) 343-1101

Community Service Agencies

Having trouble paying your electric bill?

If Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative members should have trouble paying their electric bills on time, it is suggested that they contact IVEC's billing department and explain the problem. It is each member's responsibility to keep payments current with monthly billing statements from the cooperative. If you are experiencing financial difficulties, there are several area community service agencies which may provide assistance with utility bills.

Community service agencies are:

Tri-County Opportunities Council

405 Emmons Avenue
P.O. Box 610
Rock Falls, Illinois 61071
Toll free (800) 323-5434
or
Princeton, Illinois
(815) 875-6064

Carver Community Action Agency

120 East Main Street
P.O. Box 28
Galesburg, Illinois 61402-0028
Telephone: (309) 342-0158

Project NOW

Community Action Agency
P.O. Box 3970
Rock Island, Illinois 61201-3970
Telephone: (309) 793-6350

**Remember . . .
Please do not hesitate
to call your
cooperative for help!!!**

Payment Plans Automatic payment and budget billing

Automatic payment

In response to requests from members, Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative has adopted the automatic payment plan. By enrolling in this plan, a member's electric bill automatically will be paid directly from his/her bank account each month.

This optional plan saves time and the expense of writing checks and mailing a payment each month. This is especially beneficial for vacationers and those who are frequently away from home.

To enroll in this plan, a member need only sign an authorization form and tell Illinois Valley Electric what day the electric bill is to be paid. Remember, this date must be prior to or on the 20th of each month to avoid a penalty charge.

Illinois Valley Electric will then implement the automatic payment plan. There is absolutely no extra charge to the member.

If interested in signing up for this automatic payment plan, please contact your cooperative at (800) 654-1088 — ask for the billing department.

Budget billing

Any residential member with a primary residence may join the cooperative's budget billing

plan. To qualify, a member must have a satisfactory credit rating or furnish acceptable references.

The member may enroll in any month during the year. For example, a budget payment plan beginning in June would be for June kwh usage billed in July and ending with the June billing on the following year.

After paying these 12 equal payments for your electricity, any adjustment due to any overpayment or underpayment of the actual bill for the year will be rolled into the next 12 monthly payments. Power cost adjustments are not included in the budgeted amount.

In the event the member becomes delinquent in budget payments, the member will then automatically forfeit the budget billing privilege and revert back to regular billing.

If you are interested in the budget billing plan, contact the cooperative office. Please call toll free (800) 654-1088 and ask for the billing department. Also, you may submit a written request for application into the program. Our cooperative personnel will contact you to explain the benefits and obligations of the plan and work out budget payments.

Moonlight is nice —



but you can depend on a rental security light

You don't have to depend on the uncertain light of the silvery moon when you install a rental security light at your home, farm or business. For a few dollars a month, your property can be bathed in bright light. Studies have shown that outdoor lighting reduces the chance of burglary and vandalism.

A moonlit night is great, but for peace of mind contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative and have a security light installed. Security lights are installed on a meter or transformer pole owned by the cooperative.

Free installation, maintenance and service.

Call your cooperative toll-free at (800) 654-1088 for more details.

1998 Annual Meeting IVEC members —

Mark your calendar!!!

Tuesday, June 16, 1998 at 7:00 p.m.

**Princeton Bible Church, Route 2,
Princeton, Illinois**

**(1/2 mile northeast of Princeton,
Illinois on U.S. Route 34)**

- ★ Registration begins at 6:00 p.m. and ends at 7:00 p.m.
- ★ Refreshments after meeting (cookies, coffee, punch and ice cream)
- ★ \$25 credit coupon upon registration
- ★ Drawing prizes after adjournment

June 1998						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

“Notice to IVEC members”

Because the Princeton High School auditorium is being renovated this summer, the facilities will not be available for the 1998 Annual Meeting. The high school plans on replacing the inadequate air conditioning system along with this remodeling project.

Subsequently, because of the meeting location change, your Board of Directors approved a \$25.00 credit certificate to be issued after the 1998 business meeting is adjourned. This credit will be applied on your next billing statement.

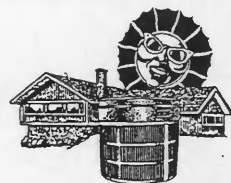
Also, a reminder that refreshments will be served after the business meeting is adjourned.

IVEC Members . . . you can earn credit!!!



Water heater

Don't miss out on your chance to save \$80 a year on electric water heating and air-conditioning costs!



Air conditioner

What is IVEC's Switch Makes \$Cents\$ program?

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative purchases power and sells it to you at the lowest cost possible. The price of the power is especially high during the peak months of June, July, August and September. "Peak usage" simply describes those times when people use the most electricity — such as when it's hot outside and most air-conditioners are running or when water heaters are being used at certain times of the day. Peak usage by Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative members during these months increase wholesale power costs charged to the cooperative. Under our previous wholesale power agreement, we were concerned about winter peak usage, too. But our current contract is only concerned about summer peak usage because of impact on power cost.

Our Switch Makes \$Cents\$ program, which controls water heaters and central air conditioners, will help decrease electric peak usage, which in turn reduces the cost of wholesale power. When you participate, you will receive a credit for the months of June, July, August and September on your electric bill. All members will benefit by seeing stable rates through the long-term savings in wholesale power costs.

How does it work?

- If you have a central air conditioner and an electric water heater with capacity of 40 gallons or more, you are eligible to participate in the program.

- A radio-controlled switch will be installed on the water heater and air-conditioner at **No Charge** to you.

- You will receive a \$20.00 credit for June, July, August and September on your electric bill for the controlled water heater and central air conditioner.

- During peak usage periods, a radio signal sent from Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative's office will automatically switch off the water heater and air conditioner. Power interruptions will only last long enough to hold demand down. You will experience little or **No** inconvenience. However if for some reason you are not satisfied with the program, the radio-control switches will be removed at no cost to you.

- The water heater and air conditioner credit

is available only for accounts with a minimum of 400 kilowatt-hours usage per month over a period of 12 months in a calendar year.

How do I sign up for Switch Makes \$Cents\$?



It's easy. And the installation is free! Just call us at (800) 654-1088 or complete and return this coupon to: Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 70, Princeton, IL 61356, Attention: Member Services Department.

YES, please send me information on the \$20.00 per month electric water heater and air conditioner credit. Total benefit—\$80 per year.

YES, I am also interested in the free 60- or 80-gallon water heater program.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

ZIP Code _____

Phone Number _____

Best Time to Call _____

Date _____

Location Number _____

NOTE: Location number is on your electric billing statement.

YOUR 18-INCH SATELLITE DISH HAS NEVER BEEN SO CHEAP!

Special price
\$199.00
for a
Satellite
T.V. System

Programming
choices provided
by DIRECTV from
\$14.95
per month



It just got easier to own the Digital Satellite System™ — so you can start receiving up to 200 channels of **DIRECTV™** programming! Our new, special price makes it more affordable than ever to bring home the greatest home entertainment development since the VCR. Stop in today to pick up your new satellite TV unit and get set to enjoy the amazing new world of digital television.

The choice is clear. DIRECTV.



Call Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative
Toll free (800) 654-1088
Ask for Member Services Department



Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris) Christensen
President/CEO

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"

Office Hours 7:45 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Monday through Friday
Telephone 800-654-1088

P.O. Box 70
Route 6 & 34 West
Princeton, Illinois 61356

Emergencies - call toll-free 800-654-1088 - 24 hours a day

Cooperative consumers and federal subsidies

In places as diverse as New York City and rural California people have come together recently to form electric cooperatives. The first Rochdale Cooperative in New York City and the California Electricity Users Cooperative will add more than half a million consumers to the already growing ranks of electric cooperatives from coast to coast. These consumers are joining a movement with a long history of success in helping consumers get critical services and to build stronger communities in which to live and work.

I predict that as the next few years unfold, electric cooperatives will become the consumer's bandwagon as more and more Americans rally together to defend themselves against forces in the marketplace that would exploit them.

As the electric utility industry continues to change, electric cooperatives across the country will be developing and testing new ideas and programs to help consumers benefit from changes in the marketplace. Electric cooperatives will continue their commitment to developing new technologies to improve the high level of service they already provide. And electric cooperatives will also continue their efforts to educate consumers about how changes in the energy industry will affect them. We will fight as hard as we possibly can in state legislatures and in Washington, D.C. to make sure that the right kind of change is approved by our elected representatives — the kind of change that helps consumers.

Gary Grunstad

Others in the electric utility business want to squeeze out those who think that providing high-quality energy services is more important than greed. They want to stamp out those who think that serving a community with affordable and reliable electricity is more important than profit.

On the legislative front Congress has been considering legislation recently that would repeal the Public Utility Holding Company Act. If these

proposals are implemented without preserving important consumer protection provisions, Congress will be leaving consumers defenseless. In the U.S. House of Representatives, proposals that would force state legislatures to pass electric utility restructuring bills by a date certain are being looked at. No state should be forced to act before it is ready and we are working to ensure that Congress gets that message.

As consumers all across the country learn more and more about the changes occurring in the electric utility industry, they are beginning to appreciate that belonging to an electric cooperative gives them a competitive advantage in the marketplace. Cooperatives give consumers a way to have a stronger voice to take advantage of the full potential a changing industry offers them.

Federal subsidies: Playing field for electric utilities still far from level of new figures that show electric co-ops still receiving fewest dollars

In today's rapidly changing electric utility industry — with restructuring, deregulation and competition taking hold across the country — it is vital that there be a level playing field for all types of electric utilities. As a result, federal subsidies to the electric industry are more important than ever.

The Congressional Research Service has stated that "all electric utilities enjoy sizeable subsidies from the federal government." However, as 1996 figures from the Departments of Energy and Agriculture show, the amounts vary greatly depending on the type of electric utility. As in previous years, electric cooperatives received far less than investor-owned utilities (IOUs) or municipal (city-owned) utilities.

Here's how it works for investor-owned utilities (IOUs). They collect certain federal

(Continued on page 16b)

(Continued from page 16a)

taxes from consumers but do not pay them for many years. The IOUs' use of this money — is equivalent to an interest-free loan. Some of this money may never be paid back.

While the IOUs are doing this legally, through tax breaks, it still costs U.S. taxpayers about \$5 billion a year to provide this subsidy. This works out to \$53 per year per consumer for the IOUs.

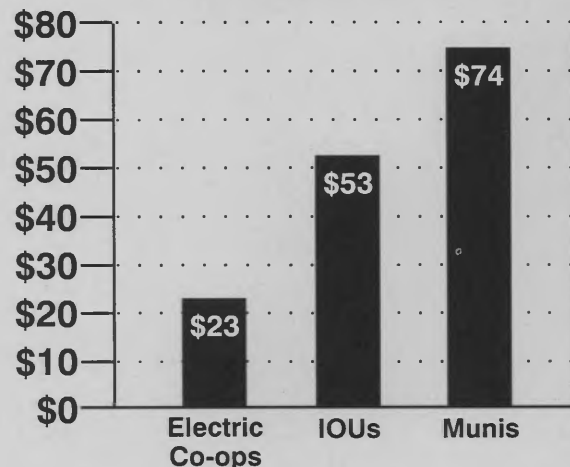
Subsidies work differently for municipal (muni) electric utilities. They get their subsidy by issuing tax-exempt bonds. The federal government loses revenue because the interest income to owners of these bonds is not taxed. The total federal subsidy to munis in 1996 was \$74 per customer.

The subsidy for consumer owned electric co-ops is by far the smallest, about \$23 for each member-consumer — and it is the consumer who benefits, not the utility or any investors.

Some electric co-ops are eligible for reduced interest rate loans from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) especially those with highest rates whose average consumer incomes are below the state

average. The subsidy co-ops have is the interest subsidy (federal borrowing minus their RUS rate) on outstanding RUS loans. The annual cost to taxpayers? About \$260 million — about 5 percent of the \$5 billion it costs to subsidize IOUs each year.

Federal subsidies to electric utilities: Dollars per consumer, 1996



Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Strategic Analysis Unit

Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric was called to order by Chairman Robert Angus at 9:50 a.m. on Tuesday, March 31, 1998 with all directors present. President and CEO T. L. Christensen, Attorney Gary Barnhart and Auditor Zane Juncker were also present.

Routine orders of business were reviewed and accepted after due consideration.

Directors reported on various meetings and related cooperative activities attended during the past month.

The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

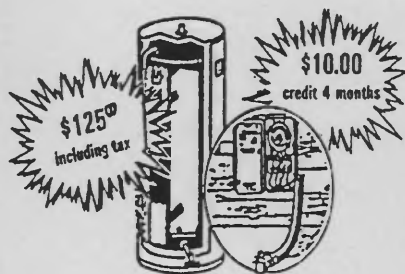
1. A motion was made and approved to invest in IlliNetworks. IlliNetworks is an Internet system started by the telephone cooperatives and joined by electric cooperatives to serve the State of Illinois.
2. A motion was made to readopt the NRECA SelectRE Pension Plan for employees to comply with the Internal Revenue Service rules.
3. A motion was made and approved to approve the audit report for 1997 presented by Zane Zuncker of Larson, Allen, Weishair & Co. of Minnesota.

4. A motion was made and approved to appoint Marvin Polte and T. L. Christensen to serve as a director on the Clear Talk board and Alvin Hepner will be the alternate.
5. The IVEC Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 16, 1998 at the Princeton Bible Church beginning with registration at 6 p.m. and the meeting at 7 p.m. We will have entertainment from 5:45 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. Immediately following the business meeting refreshments will be served. A \$25 certificate to be used on the next month's electric bill will be issued following the business meeting to each member in attendance.
6. The Nominating Committee was chosen by the board and will meet on April 23 to select candidates for election to the Board of Directors at IVEC's Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 16. Chosen were: District 1, Jim Weston of Kewanee; District 2, LaVerne LeBahn of Sheffield; District 3, Donald Bradley of Princeton; District 4, Glenn Selvig of Ottawa; District 5, Debra Vaughan of Sheridan; District 6, Fred C. Ingold of Ottawa; District 7, Kathy Gensini of Hennepin; District 8, August Boelens of Kewanee; and District 9, Mary West of Victoria.

The April board meeting will be on April 23, 1998. The May board meeting will be May 26, 1998. The June board meeting will be June 16, 1998, and the annual meeting will be June 16, 1998. The July meeting is tentatively scheduled for the 28th.

*** Available Services and Programs *** Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"



60 to 80 gal. water heater

Featuring this month

- **High-Efficiency electric water heaters** at a special price of \$125 for IVEC members only.
- **Earn \$10 credit** on your electric bill with control device on water heater for months of June, July, August, and September. (\$40 savings!)
- **\$125 Rebate** if control device is installed on your water heater after 30 days.

Electric programs

- ★ Dual Energy off-peak space heating system with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh — \$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$400.00 for installation. If alternate energy is electric — \$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation.
- ★ All electric residential rate — for controlled energy usage.
- ★ Electric thermal storage (ETS) secondary heating to qualify for off-peak rate — backup heat for geothermal and space heating “all-electric” systems during interruptible periods.
- ★ General service rates (optional off-peak and on-peak rate schedules).
- ★ High-efficiency electric water heaters at a special price of \$125.00 for IVEC members only . \$125.00 rebate if water heater is controlled when “on-peak” periods occur.
- ★ A \$10 per month off-peak credit if electric water heater is controlled for the months of June, July, August and September — \$40 total benefit — no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment.
- ★ All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems . . .
 - Up to 400% efficiency — ground source
 - Off-peak rate of 4¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating
 - Economical/affordable
 - \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for all-electric installation
- ★ Air conditioning off-peak credit of \$10 for summer months of June, July, August and September — \$40 total benefit — no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment.
- ★ Rental security lights for approximately \$12 per month — no maintenance headaches.
- ★ Energy\$Teller service at no cost to help members budget electric usage in their home.
- ★ Off-peak irrigation rate for controlled electric usage.

Non-electric services

- ★ Payment centers throughout IVEC’s service area for member convenience.
- ★ Life-support equipment registry for dependent IVEC members.
- ★ Installation of home lightning and surge protection equipment.
- ★ Helping the financial needs of area businesses with CDC loans.
- ★ Gatekeeper Program — helping seniors by calling for assistance if needed.
- ★ Crime Watch — Fighting rural crime and reporting emergencies.
- ★ Monthly magazine — Illinois Country Living for informational articles and programs.
- ★ DIRECTV™ — 18-inch receiving dish — 200 channels — DSS Digital Satellite System with your choice of programming selections.
- ★ First Call — Emergency Response System for seniors or handicapped persons living alone.

**If you want more information about the above programs,
contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative — call toll-free (800) 654-1088.**

Buster Heuer closes out long career

Gerald E. "Buster" Heuer has retired after 40 years with Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative.



Buster Heuer

Buster, already an experienced forestryman, came to work for IVEC on June 16, 1958. "I remember the date vividly," he says, "because I'd been laid off at Illinois Power Company (IP) on Friday the 13th, and I started work here the following Monday."

It turned out that IP was getting ready to build a new power plant, and cut back its work force to accumulate cash.

At any rate, their loss was IVEC's gain, and Buster, who's lived in Wyandot for over 50 years, began his career here.

"I'd finished two years in the forestry program at IP," he relates, "and I'd also worked for a grain elevator. I also spent a hitch in the Army. I taught mine warfare for a while, and they signed the cease-fire just as I was about to be shipped out, so I didn't have to go. Like most draftees, I was delighted to get out of the Army.

"I've worn a lot of hats in my days here," he continues, "and I became a lineman, leadman, and spent five years as a line superintendent. I was also involved in safety and purchasing."

While all that was going on, Buster and his wife, Barbara, whom he'd married in August, 1952, were raising two daughters, Deanna and Lori Ann, and a son, Gary Kent.

Like all long-time employees, Buster oc-

asionally thinks back to a major storm. Unlike most IVEC employees, his memories involve an ice storm that clobbered another cooperative — Illini Electric, in Champaign.

"It was in 1967," Buster says, "and I worked 19 hours a day for three solid weeks." Illini Electric has since merged with Eastern Illinois Power Co-operative to form Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative.

"I expected to see a lot of changes when I got into the electrical business," he remarks, "and I took some electrical engineering courses. Back then, we expected to see the development of a watermelon-sized power plant that we'd sell to our members. It had very nearly come to that when the fuel cells came out, then nuclear power became the energy source of choice all over the country. We were told that electricity from nuclear plants would be so cheap that we wouldn't even have to bother to meter it."

Over the years, Buster has been tinkering with old cars, and has a '35 Ford coupe he's particularly proud of, and he's kept busy with model airplanes, too, a hobby he's pursued since he was eight.

With a little spare time and access to the eastern part of Germany, he has also gotten busy tracing his roots. "We went to Glewitz, which is about 80 miles north of Berlin, and started there," he says. "We only got back a few generations of Heuers, but we found 15 generations on the Skaggs side. I'd like to go back sometime and dig some more."

Now that he's finally hung up his hooks, he'll be able to do just that.

Notice of holiday closing

The Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative business office in Princeton and area district stations will be closed in observance of the following holiday:

Memorial Day, Monday, May 25. Please call toll-free (800) 654-1088 to report emergencies.

24-hour-per-day monitoring and dispatching service.



You could be an ICL prize winner!

Is this your account number?

0001203500

If your name appears in this center section, mixed in with copy, you will receive a nice prize.



**Call toll-free
800-654-1088**

DIRECTV is your window on a world of choices

Your 18-inch satellite dish has never been so cheap — **\$199.00**



The choice is clear. DIRECTV.

It just got easier to own the Digital Satellite System™ — so you can start receiving up to 200 channels of **DIRECTV®** programming! Our new, special price makes it more affordable than ever to bring home the greatest home entertainment development since the VCR. Stop in today to pick up your new DSS unit and get set to enjoy the amazing new world of digital television.

IVEC will match any competitor's ad if a lower price for a DSS system is displayed. The satellite system must be able to access DirectTV programming — bring copy of ad into IVEC office — we will match the price!



Call Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative
Toll free (800) 654-1088
Ask for Member Services Department

Meter reading dates

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative encourages all members to assist us by making their meters accessible to our meter readers. For your convenience, meter reading dates for May are circled on the calendar. It is our hope that you will use this information so that any necessary arrangements can be made, such as restraining a dog, clearing debris around the meter, etc. Your assistance in this matter certainly will be appreciated, not only by our meter readers, but by the area serviceman who needs access to your meter in the event of an outage.

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

1998 Annual meeting IVEC members—Mark your calendar!!!

June 1998

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	<small>July</small> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		<small>May</small> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		

Tuesday, June 16, 1998
at 7 p.m.

Princeton Bible Church
Route 2, Princeton, Illinois
(1/2 mile northeast of Princeton
on U.S. Route 34)

- ★ Registration begins at 6 p.m. and ends at 7 p.m.
- ★ Refreshments after meeting (cookies, coffee, punch and ice cream)
- ★ \$25 credit coupon upon registration
- ★ Information table — IVEC services and programs
- ★ Entertainment — Piano music
- ★ Drawing prizes after adjournment

Notice to IVEC Members

Because the Princeton High School Auditorium is in process of being renovated, the facilities will not be available for the 1998 annual meeting. The high school plans on replacing the inadequate air conditioning system along with this remodeling project.

Subsequently, because of the meeting location change, your board of directors approved a \$25.00 credit certificate to be issued after the 1998 business meeting is adjourned. This credit will be applied on your next billing statement. Also, a reminder that refreshments will be served after the meeting.



What causes my lights to blink?

"What causes my lights to blink?" is a very popular question in the electric utility business. Usually blinking lights are a result of momentary outages that occur when some type of disturbance exists on the line. This could occur when lightning strikes, when an automobile hits a pole or when a squirrel or tree branch comes into contact with an energized power line.

Actually, when lights blink, it is an indication that the electric co-op's equipment is operating properly. Blinking lights reflect the operation of equipment that protects the lines and keeps the power from going off for more than just a moment. Illinois Valley Electric's distribution system includes special devices that are called reclosures that operate whenever there is a short circuit on the line. If the short circuit is temporary, which usually is the case, the

reclosure permits power to continue flowing through the line with only a brief interruption of service (which means your lights blink!).

Without this device, every short circuit, temporary or otherwise, would cause the power to be off until your cooperative could send a line crew out to restore service. Usually these reclosures will operate, or trip, three times before stopping the flow of electricity and causing a power outage. This reclosure protects the lines from damage.

Keep in mind that if your power starts blinking on and off frequently, you should call IVEC at toll free 800-654-1088. More than likely there is a problem that needs to be taken care of. And remember, your lights blinking on and off at times usually is our line equipment protecting your electric service and home.

SurgeGuard home lightning protection From Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative



Your house: 1 Lightning: 0

That's the score with SurgeGuard, protecting your appliances and electronic equipment from lightning.

Illinois Valley Electric offers several options and warranties with its SurgeGuard program. You can choose the package you want to protect part or all of your electric items, such as refrigerators, pumps, TVs, VCRs, computers, stereos, fax machines, telephone answering machines and dial-up modems.

Enjoy one of nature's great shows, the thunderstorm, without the worry of lightning damage to household equipment.

This lightning protection may enable you to obtain a discount on homeowner's insurance. Be sure to contact your insurance carrier for possible savings!

Call Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative toll free at 800-654-1088 and ask for the Member Services Department. We will be most happy to provide more information about the program.

Meter socket adapters

A. Surge protection for member electric appliances and equipment. Included is a total home protection warranty against consequential damages to all standard home equipment such as refrigerators, freezers, pumps, etc. Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative will install device at meter socket upon order from member.

*MSA 120/240 (200 amp) Home Protector

Meter Socket Plug-In Device	\$128.20
Labor to Install Device	38.50
Tax	<u>8.01</u>
	\$174.71

*Includes adapter, installation and 10 year product warranty which includes replacement of unit if destroyed while protecting home.

Plug-in protectors—optional

B. Protects sensitive electronic equipment such as TVs, VCRs, computers, stereos and other home devices requiring more protective shielding. Member installs this simple plug-in device inside home.

*Two outlet TTC 215 Transient Tamer	\$62.55
Tax	<u>3.91</u>
	\$66.46

*Includes lifetime warranty on plug-in device and lifetime warranty against consequential damages to all electronic equipment when used in conjunction with MSA Home Protector Adapter as listed above.

C. Provides dial-up phone line protection including FAX machines, telephone answering machines and dial-up modems. Member installs this simple plug-in device inside home.

*Two outlet TTM 215 Transient Tamer	\$69.00
Tax	<u>4.31</u>
	\$73.31

*Includes lifetime warranty on plug-in device and lifetime warranty against consequential damages to phone line equipment when used in conjunction with MSA Home Protector Adapter as listed above.

Other surge protection devices available for large power loads.

Go Electric – Geothermal

(Geothermal heating, cooling and water heating)

Plan ahead for lower energy bills

To avoid high energy bills, build an airtight home with proper insulation and install an efficient heating, cooling and water heating system.

The best heating and cooling system that you can purchase is **GEOTHERMAL**. Depending on the season, it uses the constant warmth within the soil to move heat in or out of your home as well as providing a significant portion of your domestic hot water needs. One piece of equipment does it all and it can **save up to 60%** or even more on your monthly heating costs.

With a geothermal system, you can also take advantage of Illinois Valley Electric's off-peak heat rate.

cash rebates

- Illinois Valley Electric will rebate **\$75** per kw installed up to a maximum \$3,000 for the all-electric geothermal system.

off-peak rate

- Check IVEC's **off-peak rate of 4.0 cents/kwh** for more savings combining geothermal heating with ETS secondary heating for on-peak interruptions.

***Choose clean, safe, efficient
and pollution free electric heat!***

***For more information, contact
The Member Services Department
at Illinois Valley
Electric Cooperative
Toll-free (800) 654-1088***

OPTIONAL INSTALLATIONS



***** Recommended contractors for more details *****

***Contact the following certified geothermal contractors for assistance
before you install or replace your heating/cooling systems:***

Philhower Electric Plumbing & Heating, Main Street, Tiskilwa, IL 61368, (815) 646-4481

Turczyn Heating and Air Conditioning, 1328 Pulaski Street, Peru, IL 61354, (815) 223-0715

Ottawa Heating & Air-Conditioning, 632 First Ave., Ottawa, IL 61350, (815) 433-1811

Johnson Heating, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, P.O. Box 53, 107 E. Mill St.,
Kewanee, IL 61443, (309) 852-2610

Thomas Plumbing and Heating, 2262 Grand Ave. Galesburg, Illinois 61402, (309) 343-1101

Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris)
Christensen
President/CEO

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"

Office Hours 7:45 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Monday through Friday
Telephone 800-654-1088

P.O. Box 70
Route 6 & 34 West
Princeton, Illinois 61356

Emergencies - call toll-free 800-654-1088 - 24 hours a day

The consumer wins

For a year or more, a few big corporations have been burning the midnight oil, trying to get Congress to change the laws governing electric utility companies. Behind the scenes, they've been pushing a scheme that would end up costing all of us a lot of money. So far, their efforts have failed, meaning that typical consumers like me and you have won. Our victory is due in no small measure to electric cooperative consumers.

Just last month, more than 3,000 of these electric cooperative consumers, from across the country, gathered in Washington, D.C., to talk with their elected representatives in Congress.

They came to deliver a message: ***"If you're going to change the rules that govern the electric utility industry, 'Do it right or don't do it at all.'"***

Consumers have good reason to be worried. In the past, Congress has passed laws deregulating airlines, the banking industry, cable television and long distance telephone service.

What do we have to show for it? Newspapers and other media regularly report stories about high telephone charges and cable TV bills. Airline prices are up for many passengers, and many communities continue to see a decline in service altogether. Some reports even talk about the "broken promises" of deregulation.

As time goes by the pressure to change the electric utility industry will only become more intense. Despite setbacks, because of your objections, you can count on big power companies to stay in the fight. They will keep trying to repeal pro-consumer laws like the Public Utility Holding Company Act, which would allow big power companies to create even bigger monopolies, putting the interests of consumers at risk.

So, while Congress has apparently been listening to us, we can't let up on the pressure. We must keep sending pro-consumers messages every chance we get. That's the only way we can make sure that when Congress does act, we'll make sure they get it right for everyone.

Todd Henderson

You could be an ICL prize winner!

0000823001

Is this your account number?

If your name appears in this
center section,
mixed in with copy, you will
receive a nice prize.

Call toll-free 800-654-1088

Notice of holiday closing

The Illinois
Valley Electric
Cooperative
business office
in Princeton
and area
district
stations will be
closed on Friday,

July 3, in observance
of Independence Day. Please call toll-free (800)
654-1088 to report emergencies — 24 hour
per day monitoring and dispatching service.



Restructuring In The Electric Utility Industry: Will All Consumers Have Access To Electricity?

Can consumers be assured of access to electric service in a rapidly changing electric utility industry? Will universal service be part of the new landscape, as it is now?

Electric co-ops believe that restructuring of the electric utility industry must be done in such a manner that *everyone will continue to have access to affordable, high-quality electric service*—whether rural or urban, high- or low-income, small or large consumer.

Under the current system, still in effect in most states, electric utilities have defined service territories. Electric utilities—co-ops, municipal systems and investor-owned—are usually required to make electricity available to everyone within their service territory.

But what might happen under some restructuring scenarios? Under competition would low-income households be considered undesirable customers in the eyes of power company monopolies that compete with electric co-ops?

According to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), 16 percent of electric co-op member-consumers, nationwide, have incomes below the poverty line; this compares to 13 percent of the U.S. population. In addition, relatively large numbers of electric co-op member-consumers live in areas that are difficult and/or expensive to serve. These include geographic areas with rough terrain and low population densities.

If you have questions about what is happening with restructuring of the electric industry in your state, call your electric co-op for more information. As a member-consumer, it is *your* co-op.

ELECTRIC CO-OPS SERVE CONSUMERS WITH LOWER INCOMES				
			Co-ops vs. U.S.	
	Co-ops	U.S.	\$ Difference	% Difference
Avg. Family Income	\$43,404	\$52,449	(\$9,045)	-21%
Per Capita Income	\$16,533	\$20,165	(\$3,632)	-22%
% Poverty	16%	13%		

Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association/Strategic Analysis Unit/DOE, RUS, Census

Budget Payment Plan available

IVEC has implemented a Budget Payment Plan that would “normalize” monthly electric bill payments over a 12-month billing cycle. Upon written request from a member, a budget plan will be applied to his/her account. The member may enroll in any month during the year. If a budget payment is not received in

accordance with the plan, the member will be removed from the program.

If you are interested in the Budget Payment Plan, please call toll free (800) 654-1088 and ask for the billing department. Also, you may submit a written request for application into the program.

Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric was called to order by Chairman Robert Angus at 10:50 a.m. on Thursday, April 23, 1998 with all directors present. President and CEO T. L. Christensen and Attorney Gary Barnhart were also present.

Routine orders of business were reviewed and accepted after due consideration.

Directors reported on various meetings and related cooperative activities attended during the past month.

The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

1. A motion was made and approved to participate in the first level of the Energy Education and Technical Assistance Program which is a joint effort of Bradley University, University Illinois, Illinois Valley Community College and

Lincoln Land and Sauk Valley Community Colleges. This program is to improve and expand small business development center programs and services to include marketing energy, related education and technical assistance.

2. A motion was made and approved to contribute to the CFC Integrity Fund.

3. The board discussed and reviewed economic studies indicating IVEC's saving by buying out of IVEC's Soyland contract.

4. The board discussed the status of a study to merge and consolidate IVEC with two other Illinois electric cooperatives.

5. The nominating committee met at 3 p.m. on April 23 to appoint nominees to the Board of Directors for a three-year term beginning in June 1998. The following candidates were reappointed: Marvin Polte, District 2; Albert Hagenbuch, District 4 and Dennis Fredrickson, District 9.

The May board meeting will be May 26, 1998. The June board meeting will be June 16, 1998, and the annual meeting will be June 16, 1998. The July board meeting will be July 28, 1998. The August board meeting is tentatively scheduled for the 25th.

Safety tips on your building's electrical control panel

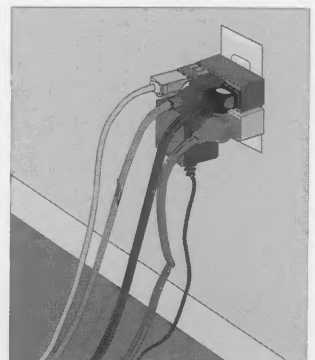
Here are some safety tips that everyone should know about an electrical control panel, commonly called a fuse box, where electricity enters a building. The control panel contains either fuses or circuit breakers and has a main switch for shutting off all power in an emergency. For safety's sake, follow these basic rules:

- Unless you are an electrician yourself, never attempt to make repairs, especially those involving broken or frayed wires — call an electrician.
- Always use the correct fuse for the panel — never use a fuse that is too powerful.
- Never replace fuses with substitute items such as pennies.
- If a fuse or circuit breaker frequently blows, the circuit may be inadequate for the equipment.
- Make sure all electrical systems are properly grounded, and always keep water away from the control panel! *Never* work on the electrical system while a control panel switch is on.
- If there is a power outage, check the control panel first. If your panel uses circuit breakers, reset it (them) from off to on. If you

have fuses, look for the broken metal strip in the top of the blown fuse. Then, replace the fuse with one of the correct amperage.

- If possible, check why the fuse or circuit blew (or contact an electrician). Possible causes include frayed wires, overloaded outlets or defective appliances.
- Never overload a single circuit with high-wattage appliances — check appliance labels.
- If there is frayed insulation or a broken wire, a dangerous short circuit may result and cause a fire — circuit testers can be used to inspect circuits. If power outages continue, or if there is a frayed or broken wire, contact your electrician!

Remember that you can always call Illinois Valley Electric co-op for help. As a member-consumer of your co-op, your co-op is there to help you.

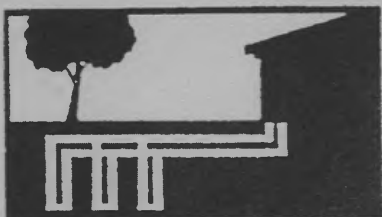


Available Services and Programs from Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"

***** Featuring this month *****

Have you ever considered geothermal?



• Geothermal heating •
• Cooling • Hot water •

All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems will offer these benefits:

- ★ \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000
- ★ Up to 400% efficiency
- ★ Off-peak rate of 4.0¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating
- ★ Better than gas furnace — competitive price

Electric Programs

- ★ Dual Energy off-peak space heating system with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh — \$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$400.00 for installation. If alternate energy is electric — \$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation.
- ★ All electric residential rate — for controlled energy usage.
- ★ Electric thermal storage (ETS) secondary heating to qualify for off-peak rate — backup heat for geothermal and space heating “all-electric” systems during interruptible periods.
- ★ General service rates (optional off-peak and on-peak rate schedules).
- ★ High-efficiency electric water heaters at a special price of \$125.00 for IVEC members only—\$125.00 rebate if water heater is controlled when “on-peak” periods occur.
- ★ A \$10 per month off-peak credit if electric water heater is controlled for the months of

June, July, August and September — \$40 total benefit — no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment.

★ All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems . . .

- Up to 400% efficiency — ground source
- Off-peak rate of 4¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating
- Economical/affordable
- \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for all-electric installation

★ Air conditioning off-peak credit of \$10 for summer months of June, July, August and September — \$40 total benefit — no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment.

★ Rental security lights for approximately \$12 per month — no maintenance headaches.

★ Energy\$Teller service at no cost to help members budget electric usage in their home.

★ Off-peak irrigation rate for controlled electric usage.

Non-electric Services

- ★ Payment centers throughout IVEC’s service area for member convenience.
- ★ Life-support equipment registry for dependent IVEC members.
- ★ Installation of home lightning and surge protection equipment.
- ★ Helping the financial needs of area businesses with CDC loans.
- ★ Gatekeeper Program — helping seniors by calling for assistance if needed.

★ Crime Watch — Fighting rural crime and reporting emergencies.

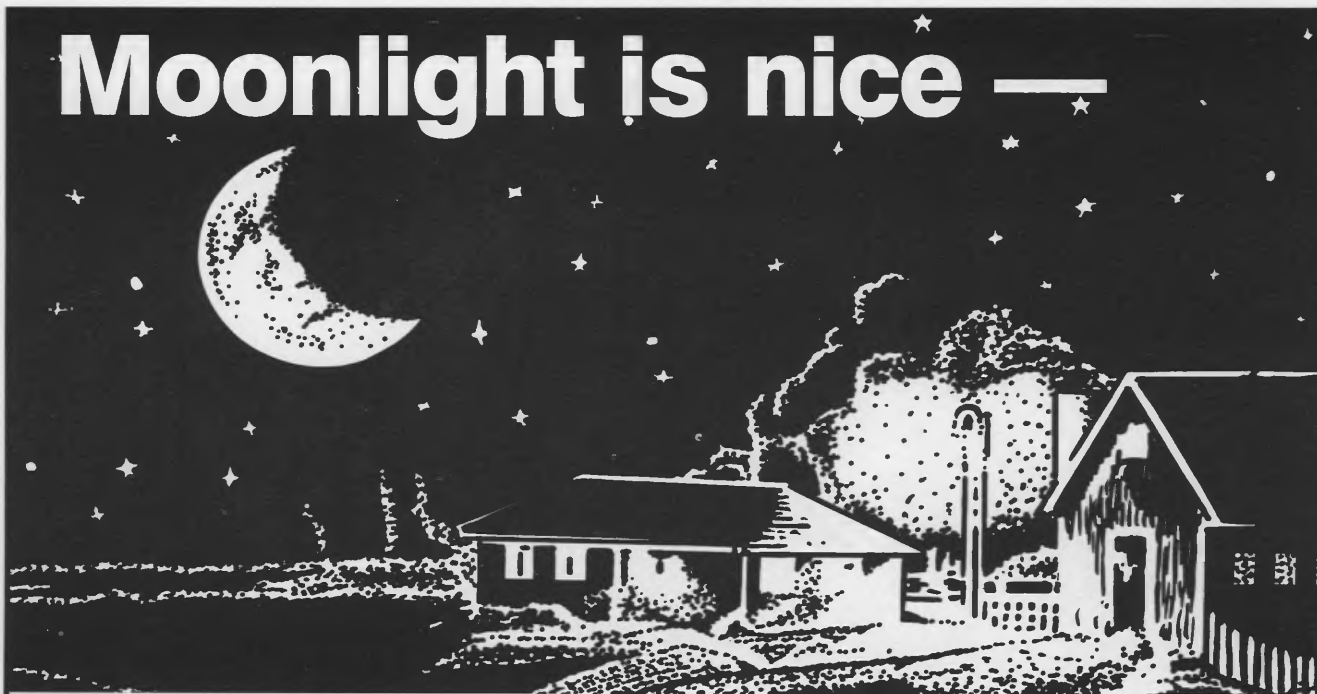
★ Monthly magazine — Illinois Country Living for informational articles and programs.

★ DIRECTV™ — 18-inch receiving dish — 200 channels — DSS Digital Satellite System with your choice of programming selections.

★ FirstCall Emergency Response System for seniors or handicapped persons living at home alone.

If you want more information about the above programs, contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative — call toll-free (800) 654-1088.

Moonlight is nice —



but you can depend on a rental security light

You don't have to depend on the uncertain light of the silvery moon when you install a rental security light at your home, farm or business. For a few dollars a month, your property can be bathed in bright light. Studies have shown that outdoor lighting reduces the chance of burglary and vandalism.

A moonlit night is great, but for peace of mind contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative and have a security light installed. Security lights are installed on a meter or transformer pole owned by the cooperative.

Free installation, maintenance and service.

Call your cooperative toll-free at (800) 654-1088 for more details.

Meter reading dates

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative encourages all members to assist us by making their meters accessible to our meter readers. For your convenience, meter reading dates for June are circled on the calendar. It is our hope that you will use this information so that any necessary arrangements can be made, such as restraining a dog, clearing debris around the meter, etc. Your assistance in this matter certainly will be appreciated, not only by our meter readers, but by the area serviceman who needs access to your meter in the event of an outage.

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

IVEC members

If you worry about a parent living alone . . .

.....talk to Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative about its **personal emergency response system.**

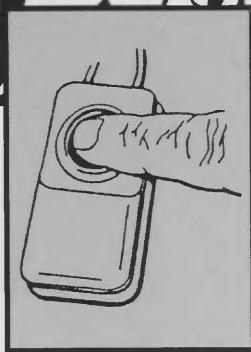
**Your parent will get the extra ordinary life-saving service.
You get the peace of mind.**

IVEC's MainStreet Messenger telephone/personal security system will instantly connect your parent to someone who can help, anytime of the day or night. By simply pushing the special alert key on the telephone unit or the large button on the portable pendant, a call will be placed immediately to the Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative response center via a toll-free "800" emergency telephone number.

From virtually anywhere in the home, your parent can be in voice communication with a service representative within seconds. And since they have all the medical and emergency information about your parent in their computer, the representative will be able to summon the appropriate help — no matter what the need may be.



FIRST CALL
Personal Emergency Response



Portable Pendant

**For more information
Call Illinois Valley
Electric Cooperative
"toll free 800-654-1088"**

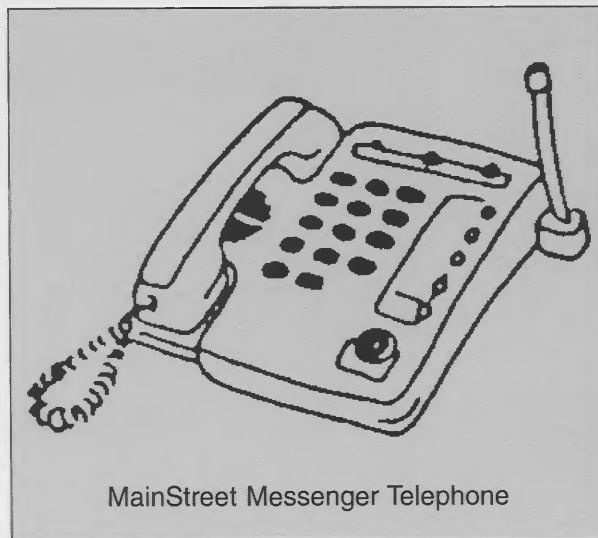
or

**Perry Memorial Hospital
Princeton
(815) 875-2811**

or

**St. Margaret's Hospital
Spring Valley
(815) 664-5311**

**Installations/Service Calls
In-Home Care VNA
Princeton**



MainStreet Messenger Telephone

Your 18-inch satellite dish has never been so cheap!



It just got easier to own the Digital Satellite System™ — so you can start receiving up to 200 channels of **DIRECTV™** programming! Our new, special price makes it more affordable than ever to bring home the greatest home entertainment development since the VCR. Stop in today to pick up your new DSS unit and get set to enjoy the amazing new world of digital television.

The choice is clear. DIRECTV.



Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

Call Toll free (800) 654-1088

Ask for Member Services Department



Water heater credit— save \$40.00

**Did you know that your electric water heater
can save you \$40.00 a year on your electric bill?
Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative's Switch
Makes \$\$Cents\$\$ Program does just that—
saves you \$40.00 a year.**

Who qualifies?

Members with at least a 40 gallon electric water heater who use at least 400 kwh per month.

How does it work?

Illinois Valley Electric will install a load management switch on your electric water heater. This switch is a radio-activated switch that can control your water heater during peak demand periods. During those peak periods which occur from June 15 to September 15, a radio signal will be sent to your water heater to interrupt the power to it for a two to four hour period. Normally, you can expect 2 to 6 control periods during the year. You will still have a full tank of hot water when the switch is activated. Therefore, you will not experience any inconvenience.

Cost?

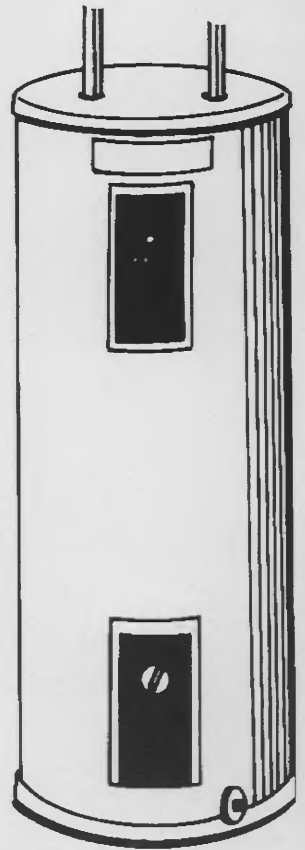
The member incurs no cost for the installation of the load management switch.

Benefit?

The member will receive a \$10.00 per month credit on their electric bill (as long as they use 400 kwhs during the month) for the months of June, July, August and September. The cooperative benefits by being able to reduce its wholesale power costs by controlling the amount of usage during peak periods.

How do I participate?

Simply fill out the coupon below and return it to Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative. You will then be contacted to set up an appointment to install the switch on your water heater. If you prefer, call toll free 800-654-1088 to schedule installation.



Switch Makes \$\$Cents\$\$ Installation Request.

I have an electric water heater. Please contact me to set up an appointment to install the load management switch on my water heater.

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Location No. _____
(on your electric billing statement)

- Please also send me information on saving another \$40.00 if a load management switch is installed on my central air conditioner.
- Please contact me about how to qualify for a free 60- or 80-gallon electric water heater.

High efficiency 60- and 80-gallon stone-lined water heaters with 10 year warranty against leaks

Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris)
Christensen
President/CEO

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"

Office Hours 7:45 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Monday through Friday

Telephone 800-654-1088

P.O. Box 70

Route 6 & 34 West

Princeton, Illinois 61356

Emergencies - call toll-free 800-654-1088 - 24 hours a day



Kris Christensen (right), president/CEO of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, congratulates three area members who were re-elected to the cooperative's board of directors. Pictured are (l-r): Albert Hagenbuch of Utica, Dennis Fredrickson of Victoria, and Marvin Polte of Sheffield. The directors were re-elected during the cooperative's 59th annual meeting of members, held June 16 at Princeton Bible Church, in Princeton.

IVEC to change power suppliers to cut costs

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative (IVEC) soon will have a new wholesale power supplier. The cooperative is withdrawing from Soyland Power Cooperative to secure more competitive wholesale power rates on the open market. Timothy Christensen, president/CEO of IVEC, announced that the co-op is currently negotiating with several alternative suppliers. Christensen said the shift would result in significant savings to the cooperative and ultimately a substantial rate reduction for its members. His comments came during the cooperative's 59th annual meeting, held June 16 at Princeton Bible Church, in Princeton.

"The expiration date of the Soyland Power

contract is 2017 — almost 19 years in the future," Christensen said. "In 1996, Soyland consented to allow its members to buy out of their wholesale power contracts. Our solution to our rate problem is to do just that."

In order to buy out of the contract, the cooperative will pay Soyland Power Cooperative a total of approximately \$10 million over the next four years. Christensen said the buyout would be funded by savings in wholesale power purchases. "During the next four years, IVEC will be able to buy its wholesale power for about 50 percent less from another source," he said.

"Soyland has indicated our wholesale power costs for 1999 will be about \$4.63 million. Ac-

ording to the quotes that we've received, we can buy the same amount of power on the open market for about \$2.14 million." Christensen continued the cost-savings projections to 2003, when the co-op would be able to pay off the remaining \$560,000 owed to Soyland Power. "By the end of 2003, IVEC's wholesale power cost will be competitive. Wholesale power cost from Soyland also will be reduced in 2003, but will remain higher than the new anticipated rates for IVEC based on the quotes and negotiations we have ongoing with several power suppliers," said Christensen.

"By the end of the year 2007, IVEC's debt level will not be \$21,351,745 as it would if we remained in our current contract with Soyland, but will actually drop to \$18,399,024. IVEC's equity level will not be 23.5 percent as it would staying with Soyland, but actually increase to 36.5 percent," he added. "And as a result of the buyout, at the end of 2007, our general funds will not be \$161,453, but \$1,760,639."

Christensen added that electric rates for IVEC members would remain steady until the year 2004, when members would receive a substantial rate reduction.

Robert Angus, chairman of Illinois Valley Cooperative's board of directors, reported on the past year's accomplishments and outlined goals for the future. "Our first goal is to reduce the cost of wholesale power," Angus said, "and we're finally seeing a light at the end of the tunnel."

Angus told members that other goals included refining the cooperative's products and services, expanding service and marketing programs, controlling operation costs while making system improvements, retaining a loyal customer base, and expanding efforts to attract electricity loads to IVEC's service territory. "Last year we added over 100 new meters to Illinois Valley Electric co-op lines," Angus said. "The largest amount of our growth was in the northeast corner of the system, in the LaSalle County area. One of the more exciting things that happened in LaSalle County was a project called Silver Leaf Resort. This project is going to involve 550 new electric meters in one small area. We're looking at a revenue increase of a minimum of one-half million dollars per year. We're really excited about this project," he said.

Turning to other business, members re-elected three directors to three-year terms on the cooperative's governing board. They are Marvin Polte of Sheffield, Albert Hagenbuch of Utica, and Dennis Fredrickson of Victoria.

Members also voted to revise two of the cooperative's bylaws. The first bylaw pertained to annual meeting dates. Beginning next year,

the cooperative's annual meeting will fall between the dates of March 1 and June 30. The second change pertained to the number of signatures required on a petition to run for director. Members voted to increase the minimum number of signatures from 15 to 50.

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative serves more than 6,000 members located in mostly rural areas of Bureau, Henry, Kendall, Knox, LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam and Stark counties.

EMERGENCY SYSTEM BLACKOUTS

Conditions in the Mid-America Interconnected Network (MAIN) affecting Midwest states continue to indicate potential emergency system conditions this summer. MAIN has requested that all MAIN members initiate Public appeal for Energy Conservation from noon to 8 p.m. on hot days.

Involuntary Rolling Blackouts remain a possibility to insure the stability of the MAIN transmission systems. Illinois Power and ComEd, and possibly others, will have crews in position to curtail their firm load. Soyland, IVEC's power supplier, is in close contact with MAIN and the transmission system operators monitoring the situation. In the event of a system emergency, Soyland would fax its member cooperatives requesting implementation of the member's emergency procedures to cut 10 percent of its firm load through rolling blackouts until notification from Soyland indicating the end of the System Emergency.

With those warnings from our power supplier in mind, Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative is issuing an urgent warning that high demand for electricity could create the need for rolling blackouts this summer. Several Illinois generating plants are out of service and transmission line capacity for importing power from other states is limited. All Illinois utilities are working hard to prevent rolling blackouts, but this drastic action might be necessary to prevent a complete shutdown of the electric grid throughout much of the state. If blackouts are called for, these controlled outages will be rotated between individual substation circuits. Consumers on each circuit will be without power for a short period of time. We urge you to plan to minimize your use of electricity from noon until 8 p.m. You can help by using fans instead of air conditioning, delaying washing and drying of clothes, delaying the use of hot water and avoiding the use of microwave ovens, electric stoves and kitchen ovens during this time period. We at IVEC thank you for your cooperation and understanding during this emergency situation.



Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric was called to order by Chairman Robert Angus at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 26, 1998 with Directors Angus, Hagenbach, Fredrickson, Rogers, Hepner and Meisenheimer present. Also present were President Christensen and Attorney Barnhart.

Routine orders of business were reviewed and accepted after due consideration.

Directors reported on various meetings and related cooperative activities during the past month.

The following items were discussed and/or moved on.

1. The President reported in great detail the option available to Illinois Valley Electric to buy out of the Soyland Power all-requirements contract which expires in year 2017. He also reviewed all of the requests for proposals received by the Cooperative, at the Board's request, as an alternative power supplier should the Cooperative make the final decision to cancel and buy out of the current Soyland contract.

He also reported that CFC, the Cooperative's

banker, had approved the Cooperative's loan request to finance the buy out amount necessary to cancel the Soyland contract.

After much discussion, the Board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLVED: that the President be authorized to submit the appropriate documents to Soyland Power Cooperative as soon as possible advising Soyland of Illinois Valley's intention to buy out of the Soyland wholesale power contract effective as of Dec. 31, 1998

A motion was also made and approved authorizing the President to hire the necessary consultants to implement the withdrawal from Soyland Power Cooperative.

2. A motion was made and approved authorizing the sale of the Cooperative's residential real estate property located east of the Cooperative's shop area.

3. Many other subjects were discussed and reviewed by the Board and President.

4. A resolution was made and approved stating Illinois Valley Electric remains committed to continue reviewing all options including merger and consolidation with neighboring electric cooperatives which would reduce the Cooperative's long term costs and rates to members.

The next board meeting is scheduled for June 16, 1998. The July meeting is scheduled for the 28th. The August meeting has been scheduled for the 25th.

Is your family prepared? Safety after a disaster

Serious injury can result for anyone dealing with the aftermath of a major storm, tornado or other disaster, so it's wise to be overly cautious. Electrical safety is extremely important, especially since the storm may have resulted in heavy rains or even flood conditions.

Following are some electrical safety tips. If disaster should strike, your electric co-op will be actively involved in restoring power and helping members get through the disaster. If you need more information, please contact your electric cooperative.

- Beware of outdoor hazards. Watch out for loose or dangling power lines, and report them immediately to proper authorities. It is not unusual in a severe storm

such as occurred in June for more people to be injured by carelessness in the aftermath than were actually injured by the event itself.

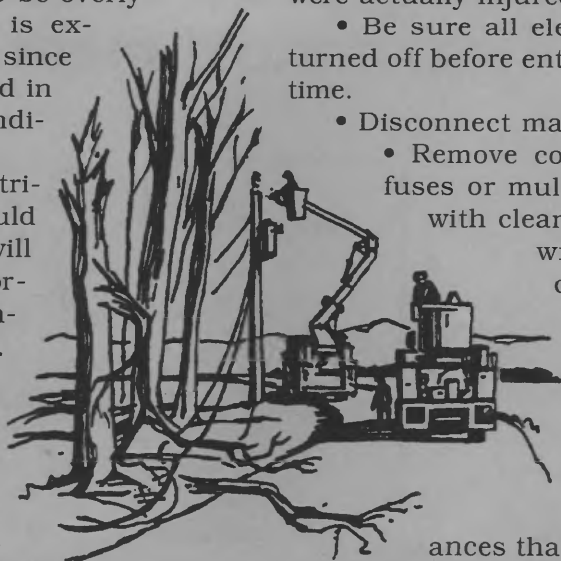
- Be sure all electric and gas services are turned off before entering buildings for the first time.

- Disconnect main switch and all circuits.

- Remove covers from all outlets and fuses or multibreaker boxes, and flush with clean water. Let dry and spray with contact cleaner/lubricant.

- Watch for electrical shorts or live wires. Don't turn on any lights or appliances until an electrician has checked the system for short circuits.

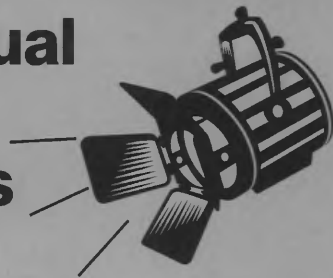
- Electric motors in appliances that have been flooded should be thoroughly cleaned and reconditioned before they are put back into service.



Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative



1998 Annual Meeting Highlights



The registration table was a busy place, as members registered for the election and for attendance prizes.



As can be seen, there was a good crowd. You may be able to see yourself in this photo.



A member receives her prize.



Members put their registration stubs in the box for the drawing.

★ ★ ★ Drawing prize winners ★ ★ ★ at 1998 annual meeting

Darcy D. Hepner, Kewanee
 Ronald Hochstatter, Wyanet
 Merle Sears, Tiskilwa
 John D. Turnbull, Toulon
 Tom Wexell, Cambridge
 John M. Albrecht, Tiskilwa
 Joseph Legner, Princeton
 John Corsale, Spring Valley
 Orville Wexell, Cambridge
 William Baum, Sheridan
 Alburtus Olson, Altona
 James Cochran, Princeton
 James Lawrence, Knoxville
 Wayne Mohr, Sheffield
 Seth & Marilyn Hawkins, Mendota

Grand Prize Winner 25-inch color TV

Edward Kuczek,
Mendota

Kenneth Engel, Princeton
 Ronald Wall, Tiskilwa
 Lee Gustafson, Princeton
 Jon L. Blackert, Mineral
 Thomas Drummond, Bradford
 May Graham, Ottawa
 Deer Run North, Princeton
 Sadie Thompson, Sheffield
 A. J. Immesoete, Mineral
 Delbert Gable, Newark
 Charles Garzanelli, Ottawa
 James M. Weston, Kewanee
 Thomas Strader, Wyanet
 Adam T. Strader, Buda
 Stork Electric Co., Ottawa

Available Services and Programs from Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"



Featuring this month

Lower air-conditioning costs with a "control switch"

Enjoy the summer season and keep cooling costs economical with electricity. Help reduce summer peak demand and earn a \$10 credit on your electric bill for June, July, August and September.

The Earned Credit — \$40.00 over four months

Electric programs

- ★ Dual Energy off-peak space heating system with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh — \$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$400.00 for installation. If alternate energy is electric — \$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation.
- ★ All electric residential rate — for controlled energy usage.
- ★ Electric thermal storage (ETS) secondary heating to qualify for off-peak rate — backup heat for geothermal and space heating "all-electric" systems during interruptible periods.
- ★ General service rates (optional off-peak and on-peak rate schedules).
- ★ High-efficiency electric water heaters at a special price of \$125.00 for IVEC members only . \$125.00 rebate if water heater is controlled when "on-peak" periods occur.
- ★ A \$10 per month off-peak credit if electric water heater is controlled for the months of June, July, August and September — \$40 total benefit — no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment.
- ★ All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems . . .
 - Up to 400% efficiency — ground source
 - Off-peak rate of 4¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating
 - Economical/affordable
 - \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for all-electric installation
- ★ Air conditioning off-peak credit of \$10 for summer months of June, July, August and September — \$40 total benefit — no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment.
- ★ Rental security lights for approximately \$12 per month — no maintenance headaches.
- ★ Energy\$Teller service at no cost to help members budget electric usage in their home.
- ★ Off-peak irrigation rate for controlled electric usage.

Non-electric services

- ★ Payment centers throughout IVEC's service area for member convenience.
- ★ Life-support equipment registry for dependent IVEC members.
- ★ Installation of home lightning and surge protection equipment.
- ★ Helping the financial needs of area businesses with CDC loans.
- ★ Gatekeeper Program — helping seniors by calling for assistance if needed.
- ★ Crime Watch — Fighting rural crime and reporting emergencies.
- ★ Monthly magazine — Illinois Country Living for informational articles and programs.
- ★ DIRECTV™ — 18-inch receiving dish — 200 channels — DSS Digital Satellite System with your choice of programming selections.
- ★ First Call — Emergency Response System for seniors or handicapped persons living alone.

**If you want more information about the above programs,
contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative —
call toll-free (800) 654-1088.**

What causes my lights to blink?

"What causes my lights to blink?" is a very popular question in the electric utility business. Usually blinking lights are a result of momentary outages that occur when some type of disturbance exists on the line. This could occur when lightning strikes, when an automobile hits a pole or when a squirrel or tree branch comes into contact with an energized power line.

Actually, when lights blink, it is an indication that the electric co-op's equipment is operating properly. Blinking lights reflect the operation of equipment that protects the lines and keeps the power from going off for more than just a moment. Illinois Valley Electric's distribution system includes special devices that are called reclosures that operate whenever there is a short circuit on the line. If the short circuit is temporary, which usually is the case, the reclosure permits power

to continue flowing through the line with only a brief interruption of service (which means your lights blink!).

Without this device, every short circuit, temporary or otherwise, would cause the power to be off until your cooperative could send a line crew out to restore service. Usually these reclosures will operate, or trip, three times before stopping the flow of electricity and causing a power outage. This reclosure protects the lines from damage. **Fred C. Ingold**

Keep in mind that if your power starts blinking on and off frequently, you should call IVEC at toll free 800-654-1088. More than likely there is a recurring problem that needs to be taken care of. And remember, your lights blinking on and off at times usually is our line equipment protecting your electric service and home.

Safety tip: Multiple plug adaptors are for temporary use only

Have you ever needed to plug more than two items into a standard duplex electrical box? If you did, did you use one of those multiple plug adaptors otherwise known as a temporary tap to solve the problem? Most people use the multiple plug adaptor as a permanent solution and are completely unaware of the dangers in doing so. Using a multiple plug adaptor on a permanent basis is a serious safety hazard that can be easily avoided. Each year, there are approximately 150,000 fires which occur in the home that are caused by electricity related incidents.

Multiple plug adaptors are easy to overload. If they are overloaded, you may be fortunate enough to merely blow a fuse or cause your breaker to operate and shut off. If this is happening, and especially if it happens frequently, you have a very serious problem. Unplug the equipment on that circuit and have a qualified repairman or electrician evaluate the situation. To help you picture what happens in an overloaded circuit, think of a balloon that is filled with water. Maybe the balloon can adequately hold a half gallon of water. You decide to add an additional one-half gallon of water to the balloon for a total of one gallon. The balloon seems to hold it with no apparent problem. Nonetheless, each time you add the additional one-half gallon of water, you weaken the balloon. Eventually, the balloon will burst if you continue to over-

load it. The same can happen to an electrical circuit. It may be able to handle the overload for a while but eventually it will burst. Fuses and breakers are designed to relieve the pressure before the wire starts to heat and weaken. You also need to be concerned about poor connections that can cause heat buildup and the weakening of electrical contacts. In either situation anything can happen when power is moving through the wire of an overloaded circuit and the potential is there to start a fire.

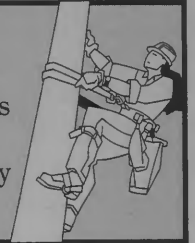
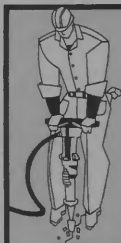
The solution to needing more outlets is to have a certified electrician install a larger (double duplex) electrical box. The electrician will go one step further and check the circuit to make sure that it can carry the load that you intend to put on it. If one of the items that you intend to plug into the electrical box is a large appliance, the electrician will install a separate circuit to adequately handle the load.

Your home can be wired to handle any kind of load that you desire. However, the proper size wire, fuses or breakers and number of circuits must be used to insure adequate and safe use of electricity. Remember, multiple plug adaptors are for temporary use only. Anything else is not safe and could lead to a fire. It should be noted that power strips and surge protectors are not considered multiple plug adaptors. They typically have a fuse built into them which will prevent overloading of a circuit.

Notice of holiday closing

The Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative business office and area district stations will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7, 1998, in observance of Labor Day.

Please call toll-free (800) 654-1088 to report emergencies — 24 hour per day monitoring and dispatching service.

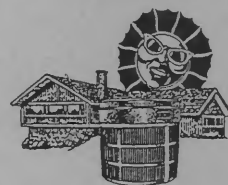


IVEC Members . . . you can earn credit!!!



Water heater

Don't miss out on your chance to save \$80 a year on electric water heating and air-conditioning costs!



Air conditioner

What is IVEC's Switch Makes \$Cents\$ program?

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative purchases power and sells it to you at the lowest cost possible. The price of the power is especially high during the peak months of June, July, August and September. "Peak usage" simply describes those times when people use the most electricity — such as when it's hot outside and most air-conditioners are running or when water heaters are being used at certain times of the day. Peak usage by Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative members during these months increase wholesale power costs charged to the cooperative. Under our previous wholesale power agreement, we were concerned about winter peak usage, too. But our current contract is only concerned about summer peak usage because of impact on power cost.

Our Switch Makes \$Cents\$ program, which controls water heaters and central air conditioners, will help decrease electric peak usage, which in turn reduces the cost of wholesale power. When you participate, you will receive a credit for the months of June, July, August and September on your electric bill. All members will benefit by seeing stable rates through the long-term savings in wholesale power costs.

How does it work?

- If you have a central air conditioner and an electric water heater with capacity of 40 gallons or more, you are eligible to participate in the program.

- A radio-controlled switch will be installed on the water heater and air-conditioner at **No Charge** to you.

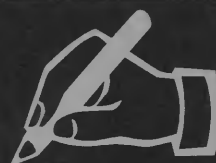
- You will receive a \$20.00 credit for June, July, August and September on your electric bill for the controlled water heater and central air conditioner.

- During peak usage periods, a radio signal sent from Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative's office will automatically switch off the water heater and air conditioner. Power interruptions will only last long enough to hold demand down. You will experience little or **No** inconvenience. However if for some reason you are not satisfied with the program, the radio-control switches will be removed

at no cost to you.

- The water heater and air conditioner credit is available only for accounts with a minimum of 400 kilowatt-hours usage per month over a period of 12 months in a calendar year.

How do I sign up for Switch Makes \$Cents\$?



It's easy. And the installation is free! Just call us at (800) 654-1088 or complete and return this coupon to: Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 70, Princeton, IL 61356, Attention: Member Services Department.

YES, please send me information on the \$20.00 per month electric water heater and air conditioner credit. Total benefit—\$80 per year.

YES, I am also interested in the free 60- or 80-gallon water heater program.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

ZIP Code _____

Phone Number _____

Best Time to Call _____

Date _____

Location Number _____

NOTE: Location number is on your electric billing statement.

IVEC meter testing set for July and October

The annual meter testing program has been scheduled to begin in July 1998.

Beginning in July, and again in October, contract meter testing personnel from Electric Labs and Sales Corporation of Mattoon, Illinois, will be conducting random tests on approximately 700 single-phase meters and 350 three-phase meters at various locations over the service area.

The meters are inspected and tested to check if there is lightning damage, to determine accu-

racy, to check the condition of minor parts such as seals, bearings and gaskets, and the general overall condition of the metering equipment. Any meters determined to be unrepairable in the field will be replaced. Results of all tests will be provided to Illinois Valley Electric for review.

Personnel doing the testing will carry proper identification and magnetic signs will be attached to their vehicle. If there are any questions relating to the testing program, please contact Illinois Valley Electric at toll free (800) 654-1088.

Meter reading dates

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative encourages all members to assist us by making their meters accessible to our meter readers. For your convenience, meter reading dates for July are circled on the calendar. It is our hope that you will use this information so that any necessary arrangements can be made, such as restraining a dog, clearing debris around the meter, etc. Your assistance in this matter certainly will be appreciated, not only by our meter readers, but by the area serviceman who needs access to your meter in the event of an outage.

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Put the chill on refrigeration electric bills

The energy efficiency of modern refrigerators and freezers has improved significantly over the past 20 years, but they still are among the largest users in the home. (Refrigerators use about 16.4 percent and freezers use about 5.3 percent of household electricity). With hot summer weather coming, this is a good time to review some simple ways to cut the energy costs of running your refrigerator and freezer.

For your refrigerator, place it away from heat sources — ovens, dishwashers, and direct sunlight — and allow at least a 1-inch space around the outside to allow good air circulation.

Clean the condenser coils a minimum of once a year, check the tightness of the door seals, and defrost as often as necessary (if not

a frost-free model). Keep the power-saving setting and use an accurate thermometer to set the temperatures inside. In the fresh food compartment, that's 36 F to 38 F; in the freezer, that's 0 F to 5 F.

If you have a separate freezer, keep it at the same temperature and try to keep it as full as possible. But turn it off if it's empty. Install it in an attached garage or basement; this will reduce energy consumption in cooler periods and lessen the home's cooling loads during warmer months. Be sure to clean the condenser coils, check the seals and defrost as often as necessary. Finally, mark items in the freezer for quick identification to reduce door-opening time.

You could be an ICL prize winner!

Is this your account number?

0001390000

If your name appears in this center section, mixed in with copy, you will receive a nice prize.

Call toll-free 800-654-1088

Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris)
Christensen
President/CEO

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"

Office Hours 7:45 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Monday through Friday
Telephone 800-654-1088

P.O. Box 70
Route 6 & 34 West
Princeton, Illinois 61356

Emergencies - call toll-free 800-654-1088 - 24 hours a day

Electric cooperatives — committed to service

Survey after survey confirms that consumers believe electric cooperatives do a good job of delivering service. Even consumers not served by electric cooperatives rank them far above their current service providers.

While electric cooperatives are receiving good news and being rewarded for our good work, our competition is learning a few hard lessons about the marketplace that they claim to control. Enron Corporation, for example, abandoned the residential market in California last month after spending \$10,000,000 on a campaign promising huge savings for everyone. They couldn't deliver on those promises and officials at Enron said they are leaving California because the residential market "wasn't as profitable as expected."

EnergyOne, another big corporate utility brand that was launched with great fanfare, has folded its tent as well. The utilities that created EnergyOne are abandoning their effort, laying off workers and closing their doors. **Kevin Jeffries**

Our competition has learned that they can't just snap their fingers and change the electric utility industry overnight.

Electric cooperatives, on the other hand, are empowering people to fight for positive change in the industry. In states where electric utility industry

restructuring is occurring, consumers are beginning to realize that these big corporations can't deliver on their promises because they're more interested in profit than the service they provide customers. It is a realization that will serve us well in the future.

The arrogance of big electric utilities is clearly reflected in the anticonsumer restructuring legislation they have been pushing in the United States Congress for two years. Thanks both to the actions of our competition and our steady commitment to serving all consumers, these anticonsumer proposals have stalled in Congress and it seems unlikely that they will be considered this year.

But when Congress eventually does vote on legislation to change the industry, we will be ready and confident that we've done everything we can to ensure that consumers are protected. On this issue, as on so many others in this time of uncertainty, electric cooperatives are the voice of the consumer. No one else in the industry comes close because our priorities and our consumers' priorities are the same.

Today we know, as does the rest of the country, that the big power companies have failed to deliver and all they are leaving on the American landscape is a trail of broken promises.

You could be an ICL prize winner!

Is this your account number?

0003254002

If your name appears in this center section,
mixed in with copy, you will receive a nice prize.

Call toll-free 800-654-1088



Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric was called to order by Chairman Robert Angus at 10:45 a.m. on Tuesday, June 16, 1998 with all directors present. President and CEO T. L. Christensen and Attorney Gary Barnhart were also present.

Routine orders of business were reviewed and accepted after due consideration.

Directors reported on various meetings and related cooperative activities attended during the past month.

The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

1. A motion was made and approved to appoint Robert Angus to serve as the voting delegate for NRECA at the AIEC annual meeting in July. Dennis Fredrickson will serve as the alternate.

2. A motion was made and approved to appoint Dennis Fredrickson to serve as the voting delegate at the AIEC annual meeting and Marvin Polte as the alternate. Motion carried.

3. A motion was made and approved to appoint Dennis Frederickson to serve as the IVEC delegate to the AIEC board for the coming year and Marvin Polte as the alternate.

4. A motion was made and ap-

proved to appoint Albert Hagenbuch to serve as the voting delegate for NRECA at the NRECA Region V meeting in September and to serve as the alternate for CFC. Dennis Fredrickson will serve as the voting delegate for CFC and as the alternate for NRECA.

5. A line extension was approved for a member south of Princeton.

6. Update was given by the President on Soyland buy out status and new wholesale power contract negotiations.

The July board meeting will be July 28, 1998. The August board meeting will be Aug. 28, 1998. The September meeting is scheduled for the 22nd.

The danger of generators

Many members now have standby generators at their homes or farms to supply power to essential equipment during prolonged outages. Care must be given to protect the generator, and, more importantly, the life of a lineman who will be repairing the damage to our lines perhaps within sound of the generator or maybe a few miles away.

The protection for both is easily accomplished with a double-pole, double-throw switch installed so as to ensure that the generator is supplying electricity only to the farmstead or home and not pushing it back into our distribution system.

Here's why operating a generator without a double-throw switch can be a very dangerous practice. We distribute electricity through underground or overhead wires throughout our territory at 7,200 volts. This is voltage that can severely burn or instantly kill. The transformer, whether it is hanging on a pole or mounted at ground level, changes the high voltage to 240 volts that can be used in the home or on the farmstead.

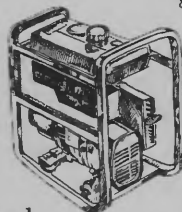
When an operating generator, even a small one, is carelessly connected directly to the circuits of a fuse

box or breaker panel, the 120 volts or 240 volts the generator puts out is instantly pushed back out of the house, through the meter, into and through the transformer and down the dead line. The transformer does its job quite well by changing the 120 or 240 volts to 7,200 volts.

A lineman, hurrying to restore service, will have to touch, hold, and handle the supposedly dead line to make a repair. Under these circumstances, when he does, an injury or death will be his fate.

A manually operated, double-pole, double-throw switch, that is properly installed between the meter and the main fuse or breaker panel will ensure that power from the generator can go only into the chosen circuits within the home or farmstead and never back into our lines to endanger lives.

Another plus is the assurance that when we restore the power to your meter, the current won't go directly through yours fuses or breakers into the generator and burn it and your investment to a crisp. Your insurer may cover the damage; ours will have a good chuckle if a claim is filed.



Meter reading dates

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative encourages all members to assist us by making their meters accessible to our meter readers. For your convenience, meter reading dates for August are circled on the calendar. It is our hope that you will use this information so that any necessary arrangements can be made, such as restraining a dog, clearing debris around the meter, etc. Your assistance in this matter certainly will be appreciated, not only by our meter readers, but by the area serviceman who needs access to your meter in the event of an outage.

August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	1
9	10	11	12	13	14	8
16	17	18	19	20	21	15
23	24	25	26	27	28	22
30	31					29

Available Services and Programs from Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"



Featuring this month

Security light rentals for approximately \$12 per month — call Illinois Valley Electric for details

- * No maintenance headaches
- * Free installation and service
- * Automatic — no light switch

Electric programs

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★ Gatekeeper Program — helping seniors by calling for assistance if needed.

★ Crime Watch — Fighting rural crime and reporting emergencies.

★ Monthly magazine — Illinois Country Living for informational articles and programs.

★ DIRECTV™ — 18-inch receiving dish — 200 channels — DSS Digital Satellite System with your choice of programming selections.

★ First Call — Emergency Response System for seniors or handicapped persons living alone.

If you want more information about the above programs, contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative — call toll-free (800) 654-1088.

Step into the lineman's shoes!

If you made your living as a lineman, it goes without saying you'd want your work environment as safe as possible.

You can help make the lineman's job safe by putting a little common sense into action. For example:

- Don't hang birdhouses or basketball goals on electrical poles. The lineman will have great difficulty climbing around them, even though you think they're perfectly placed.
- Don't landscape around poles with flower boxes, birdhouses or anything else that might cause harm if a lineman were to fall.
- Don't hang signs on poles because the nails or staples could cause the lineman to slip if he has to climb.

Use a little common sense around utility poles; show your appreciation for those who work so hard to provide you reliable electric service. All it takes is stepping into the other guy's shoes for a few moments!



Protect your family from carbon monoxide

Carbon monoxide is a common by-product of appliances that burn propane or natural gas. It is created by fuel-burning appliances including furnaces, clothes dryers, water heaters, fireplaces, ranges and even wood stoves, charcoal grills and kerosene space heaters.

When carbon monoxide is breathed in, it eventually replaces the oxygen in the blood, causing your body to literally suffocate from the inside out, resulting in brain damage or death.

As more homes are designed to be super energy efficient and airtight, carbon monoxide-polluted air is more easily trapped inside. Everyone in your home is susceptible to carbon monoxide poisoning.

There are several ways you can protect yourself and your family from carbon monoxide poisoning:

- Read and follow manufacturers' operating and maintenance instructions on all appliances and equipment. Have a qualified technician check the system periodically and make any necessary adjustments to ensure proper combustion.

- Remodeling or repair work around the home may affect how a furnace or appliance performs. Before you do any insulation, caulking

or sealing — or before adding an exhaust fan, wood stove or fireplace — call a qualified propane service technician to correct anything that could create carbon monoxide problems.

- Install carbon monoxide detectors in the house. Battery-powered and plug-in carbon monoxide detectors are now available from many home improvement stores. They monitor the amount of carbon monoxide in the air and sound an alarm when carbon monoxide is present. They should be installed near bedrooms and also near the home's heating source.

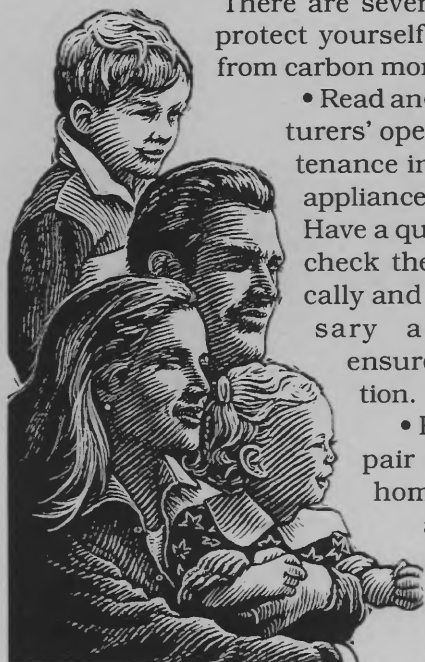
Because it's odorless and colorless, carbon monoxide is difficult to detect, and the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are difficult to recognize. Often they resemble the flu or a bad cold. Symptoms of low-level poisoning can include headaches, fatigue, nausea, dizzy spells and confusion.

Here are some warning signs to look for.

- Are you experiencing chronic symptoms such as headaches, fatigue, nausea?
- Are other members of your family also feeling ill?
- Do you feel better when you are away from home for a period of time?

If so, you may be suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning. To be sure, see your physician and request a carboxyhemoglobin test.

If you think your home may contain carbon monoxide, get out of the house immediately. Have an emergency plan so all family members can be accounted for. Don't go back into the house. Most fatalities occur when people reenter a home in search of loved ones. Call the fire department from a neighbor's home.



Moonlight is nice —



but you can depend on a rental security light

You don't have to depend on the uncertain light of the silvery moon when you install a rental security light at your home, farm or business. For a few dollars a month, your property can be bathed in bright light. Studies have shown that outdoor lighting reduces the chance of burglary and vandalism.

A moonlit night is great, but for peace of mind, contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative and have one of the following security lights installed. Security lights are installed on an existing meter or transformer pole owned by the cooperative.

Free installation, maintenance and service.

100-Watt HPS

\$11.75 per month - Unmetered (energy is included in rental charge), if installed on existing pole using existing transformer.

\$13.25 per month - Unmetered (energy is included in rental charge), if a separate transformer is required.

400-Watt HPS

\$16.00 per month - Unmetered (energy is included in rental charge), if installed on existing pole using existing transformer.

\$17.50 per month - Unmetered (energy is included in rental charge), if a separate transformer is required.

**Call your cooperative toll-free at (800) 654-1088 for more details.
Ask about the rental security light program.**

YOUR 18-INCH SATELLITE DISH HAS NEVER BEEN SO CHEAP!



It just got easier to own the Digital Satellite System™ — so you can start receiving up to 200 channels of **DIRECTV™** programming! Our new, low price makes it more affordable than ever to bring home the greatest home entertainment development since the VCR. Stop in today to pick up your new satellite TV unit and get set to enjoy the amazing new world of digital television.

The choice is clear. DIRECTV.



Call Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative
Toll free (800) 654-1088
Ask for Member Services Department



IVEC members

If you worry about a parent living alone . . .



FIRST CALL
Personal Emergency Response

Portable Pendant

For more information
Call Illinois Valley
Electric Cooperative
"toll free 800-654-1088"

or

Perry Memorial Hospital
Princeton
(815) 875-2811

or

St. Margaret's Hospital
Spring Valley
(815) 664-5311

Installations/Service Calls
In-Home Care VNA
Princeton

.....talk to Illinois Valley Electric
Cooperative about its
**personal emergency
response system.**

Your parent will get the extra
ordinary life-saving service.
You get the peace of mind.

IVEC's MainStreet Messenger telephone/
personal security system will instantly
connect your parent to someone who can
help, anytime of the day or night. By sim-
ply pushing the special alert key on the
telephone unit or the large button on the
portable pendant, a call will be placed
immediately to the Illinois Valley Elec-
tric Cooperative response center via a
toll-free "800" emergency telephone
number.

From virtually anywhere in the home,
your parent can be in voice com-
munication with a service representative
within seconds. And since they have all
the medical and emergency information
about your parent in their computer, the
representative will be able to summon
the appropriate help — no matter what
the need may be.



MainStreet Messenger Telephone

Water heater credit— save \$40.00

Did you know that your electric water heater can save you \$40.00 a year on your electric bill? Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative's Switch Makes \$\$Cents\$\$ Program does just that— saves you \$40.00 a year.

Who qualifies?

Members with at least a 40 gallon electric water heater who use at least 400 kwh per month.

How does it work?

Illinois Valley Electric will install a load management switch on your electric water heater. This switch is a radio-activated switch that can control your water heater during peak demand periods. During those peak periods which occur from June 15 to September 15, a radio signal will be sent to your water heater to interrupt the power to it for a two to four hour period. Normally, you can expect 2 to 6 control periods during the year. You will still have a full tank of hot water when the switch is activated. Therefore, you will not experience any inconvenience.

Cost?

The member incurs no cost for the installation of the load management switch.

Benefit?

The member will receive a \$10.00 per month credit on their electric bill (as long as they use 400 kwhs during the month) for the months of June, July, August and September. The cooperative benefits by being able to reduce its wholesale power costs by controlling the amount of usage during peak periods.

How do I participate?

Simply fill out the coupon below and return it to Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative. You will then be contacted to set up an appointment to install the switch on your water heater. If you prefer, call toll free 800-654-1088 to schedule installation.



Switch Makes \$\$Cents\$\$ Installation Request.

I have an electric water heater. Please contact me to set up an appointment to install the load management switch on my water heater.

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Location No. _____

(on your electric billing statement)

- Please also send me information on saving another \$40.00 if a load management switch is installed on my central air conditioner.
- Please contact me about how to qualify for a free 60- or 80-gallon electric water heater.

High efficiency 60- and 80-gallon stone-lined water heaters with 10 year warranty against leaks

Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris) Christensen
President/CEO

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"

Office Hours 7:45 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Monday through Friday
Telephone 800-654-1088

P.O. Box 70
Route 6 & 34 West
Princeton, Illinois 61356

Emergencies - call toll-free 800-654-1088 - 24 hours a day

School days and safety

It's back-to-school time across America. For parents, it's a bittersweet reminder of the passage of time as we watch our children grow and become increasingly independent. It's also a time when we think about their safety.

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative shares that concern. That's why our workers are looking out for the safety of our children. With the beginning of every school year, co-op line workers are keeping an eye out for children on their way to or from school. Sometimes it means helping a disabled school bus. Frequently, it means using their mobile communications to report a problem or a suspicious occurrence in a neighborhood. And

always it means being there to lend a hand, whatever the problem.

Being committed to the community you serve means making the decision that service to the community involves more than just making sure your electric service is reliable. Even in these days when electric utilities are faced with competition that's getting tougher every day, going the extra mile in consumer and community service is standard operating procedure for an electric cooperative. It has to be that way because electric cooperatives are fundamentally different from for-profit electric utili-



Continued on page 16b...

Your electric co-op does not endorse insurance companies

Illinois Country Living readers recognize that this magazine occasionally carries advertising material from insurance companies. Several of these companies are longtime advertisers in the magazine. **William Jagielski**

The magazine staff makes every effort to determine the legitimacy of these companies, but none of them have the endorsement of your member-cooperative or the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC), the organization that publishes this magazine.

We would like to warn Illinois Country Living readers about one insurance company that has a long history of misrepresentation. For many years, Reserve National Insurance has used direct mail, telephone and in person direct marketing to rural Illinoisans, many of them electric cooperative members. In their marketing efforts they often misrepresent themselves as having an affiliation with the electric cooperatives. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the AIEC have re-

quested that the company stop making this misrepresentation, but Reserve National and its sales people continue with this practice.

Their envelope return address says: A National Association of Rural Co-Operative Members, Oklahoma City, OK. The envelope also says: "ATTENTION - RURAL CO-OPERATIVE MEMBERS NOW QUALIFY FOR A GROUP HOSPITALIZATION PLAN THAT PAYS OUTPATIENT EXPENSES. IMMEDIATE REPLY REQUESTED." Inside there is a questionnaire form with the heading: "RURAL CO-OPERATIVE MEMBERS QUESTIONNAIRE." Only in the fine print at the bottom do they state: "This plan is independent of, and not affiliated, associated, or endorsed by any national electric association or any local Farmers, Electric, Telephone or other rural co-operative."

We want to make it perfectly clear that the Illinois electric cooperatives do not endorse Reserve National Insurance, nor is there any connection with the company and its insurance products.

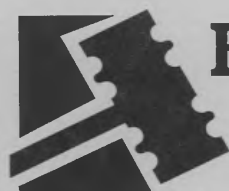
School days and safety continued from page 16a...

ties.

Every day now, we hear reports of other utility companies closing their local offices and moving out of town in order to save money. When that happens, their customers have to do business long distance, frequently talking to people hundreds and sometimes thousands of miles away. Your local electric cooperative is different. Our first obligation is to our consumers. You can still stop by the local office and talk to someone you know about any part of your service. And when you call your electric cooperative, you'll speak to someone close by who knows your community and what's hap-

pening in it.

Being a local electric cooperative means doing business close to home. Because our consumers are also owners, the cooperative gives first consideration to what's in the consumers' best interest. So, there will always be someone nearby you can talk to about any aspect of your electric service. At first glance, it may seem that there is little connection between school kids waiting for their bus and the line crew in the local co-op's truck. But look again. Those line crews working on utility poles probably have kids waiting for their school bus alongside yours. Making sure all our children stay safe is part of what holds local communities together and it's part of the work your local electric cooperative takes pride in every day.



Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric was called to order by Chairman Robert Angus at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, 1998 with all directors present. President and CEO T. L. Christensen and Attorney Gary Barnhart were also present.

Routine orders of business were reviewed and accepted after due consideration.

Directors reported on various meetings and related cooperative activities attended during the past month.

The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

1. A motion was made and approved to increase the mileage rate to 32.5 cents per mile and .48 cents per meter read for meter readers.

2. A motion was made and approved not to participate in the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs low income program.

3. It was reported that Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative received the Princeton Chamber of Commerce business award for July.

4. A motion was made and approved to pay the AIEC dues in two installments and the NRECA dues in one installment.

The August board meeting will be August 28, 1998. The September board meeting will be September 22, 1998. The October meeting is scheduled for October 27, 1998.

A couple of degrees equals a bunch of dollars!!!

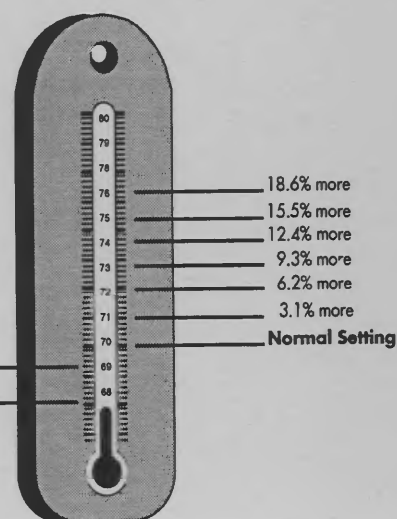
A degree here and a degree there and pretty soon you're talking real money! Lowering your thermostat by one or two degrees in the winter can mean real savings on your heating bills. Raising the temperature can also result in much larger heating bills.

For example, lowering your thermostat to 68° from 70° will save you 6.2 percent on your heating bill. Lowering the thermostat just one degree will save you 3.1 percent. However, let's say you like to keep your home toasty warm in the winter. Cranking up the thermostat to 76° will jack up your heating bill by 18.6 percent. Remember: each degree you raise or lower the thermostat from 70° means you will pay 3.1 percent more or less on your heating bill.

Temperature settings affect heating operating costs

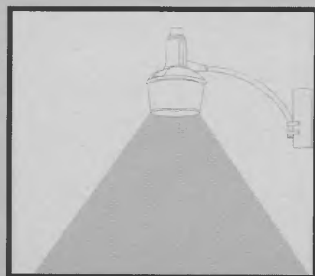
Cost of keeping room temperature above and below 70°.

Source: *The Hi-line News*, Meade County RECC



Available Services and Programs from Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"



*****Featuring this month*****

Security light rentals for approximately \$12 per month — call Illinois Valley Electric for details

- * No maintenance headaches
- * Free installation and service
- * Automatic — no light switch
- * Energy cost included in rental fee

Electric programs

- ★ Dual Energy off-peak space heating system with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh — \$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$400.00 for installation. If alternate energy is electric — \$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation.
- ★ All electric residential rate — for controlled energy usage.
- ★ Electric thermal storage (ETS) secondary heating to qualify for off-peak rate — backup heat for geothermal and space heating "all-electric" systems during interruptible periods.
- ★ General service rates (optional off-peak and on-peak rate schedules).
- ★ High-efficiency electric water heaters at a special price of \$125.00 for IVEC members only . \$125.00 rebate if water heater is controlled when "on-peak" periods occur.
- ★ A \$10 per month off-peak credit if electric water heater is controlled for the months of June, July, August and September — \$40 total benefit — no

cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment.

★ All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems . . .

- Up to 400% efficiency — ground source
- Off-peak rate of 4¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating
- Economical/affordable
- \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for all-electric installation
- ★ Air conditioning off-peak credit of \$10 for summer months of June, July, August and September — \$40 total benefit — no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment.
- ★ Rental security lights for approximately \$12 per month — no maintenance headaches.
- ★ EnergyTeller service at no cost to help members budget electric usage in their home.
- ★ Off-peak irrigation rate for controlled electric usage.

Non-electric services

- ★ Payment centers throughout IVEC's service area for member convenience.
- ★ Life-support equipment registry for dependent IVEC members.
- ★ Installation of home lightning and surge protection equipment.
- ★ Helping the financial needs of area businesses with CDC loans.
- ★ Gatekeeper Program — helping seniors by calling for assistance if needed.

★ Crime Watch — Fighting rural crime and reporting emergencies.

★ Monthly magazine — Illinois Country Living for informational articles and programs.

★ DIRECTV™ — 18-inch receiving dish — 200 channels — DSS Digital Satellite System with your choice of programming selections.

★ First Call — Emergency Response System for seniors or handicapped persons living alone.

If you want more information about the above programs, contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative — call toll-free (800) 654-1088.

Winterize your home with weatherstripping and caulking

Weatherstripping

Heat escapes from a home in the winter through cracks and loosefitting windows and doors. Even if doors and windows are insulated, they may still lose (or gain) heat because of air infiltration around the frames and openings. This leakage can be reduced greatly by weather-stripping windows and doors and by caulking cracks and construction joints.

Weatherstripping materials reduce air infiltration around windows and doors. The weatherstripping table shows five types of weatherstripping materials with installation instructions and an estimate of their durability. Visit your local hardware or building supply store to study the materials' level of effectiveness and durability.

Caulking

Caulking compounds are materials used to fill, cover and seal cracks and construction joints in houses. This, of course, stops air and moisture infiltration and will reduce your home heating and cooling bills. Listed below are some of the areas where caulking compound should be checked and applied each year, if needed:


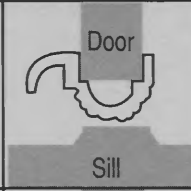
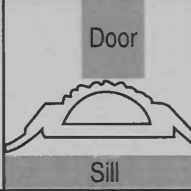
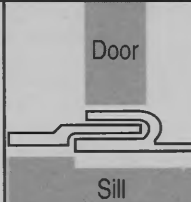
- (1) Exterior joints where window and door frames meet siding
- (2) Corners formed by siding
- (3) Where exterior masonry fireplace chimney meets siding
- (4) Where porch meets siding
- (5) Joints between the foundation and the wall siding
- (6) Where sill plate meets foundation
- (7) All other exterior openings


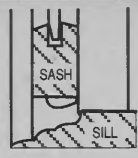
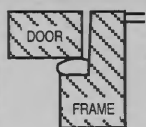

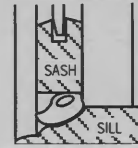
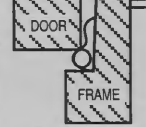

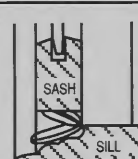
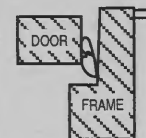
Do not caulk the holes that are commonly found in vertical mortar joints along the bottom

of brick walls. These weep holes are to drain moisture that penetrate the wall. Also, do not caulk the bottom of the combination screen and storm sash. It is necessary to allow drainage of water that can accumulate between the window and the combination

frame when the storm window is open and the screen is in place.

If old caulking is flaking or cracking, it should be replaced. Remember to clean old joints first to get good adhesion. Be certain to check other areas which could be sources of undesirable air in

TYPE		COST	DURABILITY	COMMENTS
Sweep		Least.	1 to 2 years.	Visible, for use on flat thresholds. May drag on rug.
Door Shoe		Moderate cost.	Indefinite. Vinyl insert replaceable	Useful on wood, unworn threshold. Note drip cap to shed rain.
Vinyl Bulb Threshold		Moderate cost.	Indefinite. Vinyl insert replacement.	Useful where there is no threshold. With wear, vinyl bubble will flatten and tear. Can be replaced.
Interlocking Threshold		Most expensive.	Permanent.	Exceptionally good seal. Should be recommended.

TYPE	COST AND DURABILITY	WINDOW APPLICATION	DOOR APPLICATION	COMMENTS
 Foam Rubber	Least expensive Will last 1 to 2 years.			Will not stand friction. Use on at top and bottom of windows.
 Rolled Vinyl	Moderate cost. Will last indefinitely.			Visibility is the only disadvantage.
 Thin Spring Metal	Most expensive. Will last indefinitely.			Permanent, not visible. Gives most complete seal.

filtration. As a general rule, caulking should be applied wherever two different materials or parts of the house meet.

The caulking compound table lists three classes of caulking compounds and gives some of the characteristics of each type. Additionally, be sure to read the la-

bel on the caulking compound before you purchase. There is a variety of caulking compounds within each base type. Acrylic-latex caulking compound gives good results for many jobs, but check other products if you have a special need.

You can apply caulking with

a few low-cost tools and a little practice. When you load your caulking gun, cut the tube open with a sharp knife at a 45° angle near the end of the tapered portion. The ability to lay a nice uniform bead comes with a little practice.

WEATHERSTRIPPING WINDOWS AND DOORS

Type	Durability	Window Installation	Door Installation
Spring Metal	Very Durable	Somewhat difficult to install. For double-hung windows, nail in the side channels to the top of the upper sash, to the bottom of the lower sash, and where the sash meets. Awning and casement windows are treated like doors. Sliding windows can be considered like double-hung windows on their sides.	Nail to sides and top of door jamb with nailing flange against the doorstop and the point of the V facing the door. Cut away sections that would cover hinges or the lock.
Adhesive-Backed Foam	Not as durable as some. May fall off after a year or two.	Easiest to install. Just peel away backing and stick to clean, dry surfaces. Use only in places where there is no friction. On a double-hung window, use on the underside of the bottom sash.	Stick foam to inside face of doorstop at top and latch side. Stick foam to jamb at hinge side.
Felt	May deteriorate. Don't use outside.	Easy to install. Tack to inside of window stop, frame or sash. On a double-hung window, tack a trip where upper and lower sash meet. Use for sealing gaps that are narrow and of uniform width.	Tack to top and side of doorstop as with foam rubber.
Tubular Gasket & Vinyl Tubing (with or without metal)	Durable More durable than foam strip alone.	Easy to install. On double-hung windows, nail the lip of gasket or tubing to the sides of the window frame, to the top and bottom of the sash and at the point where the two sash meet. Not applicable.	Tack or staple to the top and sides of the doorstop. Vinyl should fit snugly. Close door against stop. Press foam edge against door and nail wood to top and side of doorstop.

Caulking Compounds

Base Material	Durability	Adhesion	Recommended Uses	Remarks
Oil or Resin	1-7 years	Fair to Good	Seals exterior & joints on building materials	Readily available. Rope & tube form. Will bond to most surfaces. Oils dry out, material hardens. Low Cost.
Latex, Butyl Rubber Polyvinyl	2-10 years	Good to Excellent	Butyl seals most dissimilar materials (glass, metal, plastic, wood) and around windows & flashing. Latex seals points around tub and shower, cracks in tile, plaster, etc.	Butyl allows joint movement, doesn't become brittle. Less resilient than silicones. Latex is easy to use. Good water resistance when dry. Both can be painted. Intermediate Cost.
Silicones, Polysulfides & Polyurethanes	20 years	Excellent	Seals most dissimilar building materials (wood & stone, etc.). Seals joints between bath & kitchen fixtures & tile, adhesive for tiles & metal fixtures.	Remains flexible for life after curing. Readily available. Permits joints to stretch or compress. Will adhere to painted surfaces. High Cost.

Electric water heaters safer than gas

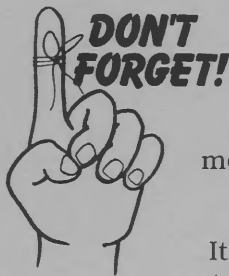
According to a study by the National Fire Protection Agency, heating water with electricity is seven times safer than heating with gas (manufactured natural gas). The agency found that gas water heaters cause seven times as many home fires as electric water heaters!

Some additional reasons why you should have an electric water heater:

- Electric water heaters can be placed virtually anywhere because there is no need for a flue or a vent.
- Electric water heaters do not create heat from burning something. There are no products of combustion, no danger of explosion from gas leaks, no threat of carbon monoxide poisoning, and indoor

air quality is not compromised.

- Electric water heaters do not require the purchase of carbon monoxide alarms.
- Electric water heaters require less maintenance because there is no pilot light, no vent, no flue nor a heat exchanger that can corrode.
- Electric water heaters have more insulation than most gas models because they can be insulated on all sides—including the top and the bottom.
- Electric water heaters are more efficient than gas. The electric heating elements are in direct contact with the water so they are 100 percent efficient, while a gas water heater loses 40-60 percent of its heat up the flue.



Meter reading dates

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative encourages all members to assist us by making their meters accessible to our meter readers. For your convenience, meter reading dates are

September 29 & 30

It is our hope that you will use this information so that any necessary arrangements can be made, such as restraining a dog, clearing debris around the meter, etc. Your assistance in this matter certainly will be appreciated, not only by our meter readers, but by the area serviceman who needs access to your meter in the event of an outage.



Lighting . . . your way . . .

From dusk to dawn, for security, safety and confidence, a security light costs just pennies a day.

Rental Security Lighting for . . .

Security - Outdoor lighting protects your family and property from criminals.

Safety - Lighting illuminates your late-night arrival home.

Curbside Appeal - Lighting accents distinctive features of your home or business.

Extending the Day - Lighting stretches the daylight hours for barbecues, driveway basket ball and after-dusk chores.

Economy - Outdoor lighting is easy, efficient, and costs just pennies a day.

YOUR Way - Home, farm or business: outdoor lighting can soon be Lighting. . . YOUR Way.

Rent a high pressure sodium, 100 watt security light from Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative for under \$12.00 per month, and protect your home and family.

Proper lighting at night improves the security of your property and protects it from vandalism and theft. Rental lights are installed on meter poles or transformer poles — installation and maintenance — are free!!!

For more information, call . . .

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative Toll-Free (800) 654-1088

The affordable choice — cash rebates — 4¢ kwh rate

Dual Heating Systems

What is a Dual Energy Heating System?

It is a system that combines two energy sources — electricity as a primary source, and an alternate fuel, such as gas or oil, as a secondary source. If you now have a gas or oil system, you can benefit by adding an electric system for your primary source.

What is an All-Electric heating system?

It is a system that will use electricity for the primary and secondary source of energy for heating purposes.

For example, you can use resistance electric heat such as baseboard (or plenum heaters) or choose higher-efficiency electric heat such as the air-to-air heat pump or geothermal ground source system for primary heating. The secondary source must be the electric thermal storage heating unit. This unit stores heat during off-peak hours to be used during on-peak periods.

What is the electric heat rate?

A very attractive electric rate is available when heating with Dual Energy or All-Electric systems.

This off-peak heating rate is 4¢ kwh.

This rate applies only to kwh's used in a Dual Energy or All-Electric application. Kilowatt-hours to be billed under this rate must be metered by a submeter and be interrupted for peak times at the transfer point. The submetering equipment is to be installed by the member's electrician who must be qualified to set up a Dual Energy or All-Electric system. The regular household consumption is still billed under the general service rate as recorded on the master meter.

Cash rebates for installation

- IVEC will rebate \$75 per kw up to \$400 maximum for a Dual Energy Heating installation. The homeowner is allowed to use another fuel source for backup to the primary electric heating.
- IVEC will rebate \$75 per kw up to a \$3,000 maximum for the All-Electric residence. The primary and backup heating must be electric. Example:



- If a 30 kw electric furnace is installed in a residence for primary heat...rebate would be calculated as follows: 30 kw x \$75 = \$2,250
- If a 4 kw electric thermal storage heater is installed in a residence for backup...rebate would be calculated as follows: 4 kw x \$75 = \$300
- Total rebate \$2,550

What are the direct benefits of an off-peak Dual Energy Heating or All-Electric system?

Participants will realize immediate and future savings from reduced annual heating bills. But they'll also save by creating new kilowatt-hour sales, thus spreading the fixed costs of the cooperative across a broader base. Such new sales hold down the cost of electricity today and tomorrow for participants and their neighbors.

The off-peak concept will reduce the cost of electricity (cost of heating) for the member who uses electric heat (peak shaving) and encourage the sale of more kilowatt-hours.

Whom do I contact for more information?

Contact the Member Service Department at Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative for more information on how the Dual Heating Programs can be beneficial in your home. Learn firsthand why Dual Heat is an economical and affordable choice.

**Call Member Services — toll free (800) 654-1088
Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

DIRECTV is your window on a world of choices.

Your 18-inch
satellite dish
has never
been so
cheap —



The choice is clear. DIRECTV.

It just got easier to own the Digital Satellite System® — so you can start receiving up to 200 channels of DIRECTV® programming! Our new, special price makes it more affordable than ever to bring home the greatest home entertainment development since the VCR. Stop in today to pick up your new DSS unit and get set to enjoy the amazing new world of digital television.

IVEC will match any competitor's ad if a lower price for a DSS system is displayed. The satellite system must be able to access DIRECTV programming — bring copy of ad into IVEC office — we will match the price!



Call Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative
Toll free (800) 654-1088
Ask for Member Services Department



You could be an ICL prize winner!

Is this your account number?

0004409501

If your name appears in this center section,
mixed in with copy, you will receive a nice prize.
Call toll-free 800-654-1088

Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris)
Christensen
President/CEO

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"

Office Hours 7:45 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Monday through Friday
Telephone 800-654-1088

P.O. Box 70
Route 6 & 34 West
Princeton, Illinois 61356

Emergencies - call toll-free 800-654-1088 - 24 hours a day

IVEC Board of Directors and management study merger

Over the past eight months, Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative and Corn Belt Electric Cooperative have been investigating the possibility of a merger.

Management and Directors of both have studied the feasibility of a merger. Using employees and some outside professional expertise, the many facets of the businesses were well studied before any serious discussions were held. Finally, after all were satisfied that it would indeed be beneficial, both boards of directors voted at their August meetings to bring the plan of merger to their respective memberships.

Corn Belt Electric Cooperative was incorporated in September 1938. Their headquarters are in Bloomington, Illinois. They serve approximately 1,800 members residing in McLean, Woodford, Tazewell, Logan, Macon, Dewitt, Piatt, Ford, Livingston and Champaign Counties over more than 3,000 miles of line. Their total assets are over \$60 million and they employ 60 employees.

The economy of scale resulting from the merger will benefit the members of both cooperatives. Shared services, combined purchasing, common account-

ing, centralized billing and reduced cost of administration will all contribute to a projected savings to Illinois Valley Electric of \$5.5 million over ten years. If the merger is approved, the merged cooperative will have assets of more than \$87 million.

The plan of merger calls for the new cooperative to have separate rate schedules, based on the actual distribution cost in each existing service area.

A special meeting of the membership will be scheduled for November 10, 1998 at the Bureau County Fairgrounds in Princeton, Illinois. This meeting will be held at 2 p.m. while Corn Belt Electric Cooperative will hold their meeting at 7 p.m. in Bloomington. The purpose of Illinois Valley Electric's meeting will be to vote on the proposed merger. The actual merger, if approved by the membership, would occur within 30 days after the voting.

Prior to this special meeting, informational meetings will be held at the following locations to inform the membership about the proposed merger.

Watch for more details in future issues of the Illinois Country Living magazine or special mailings. All members' questions

Informational Meetings

November 2, 1998
Monday Evening at 7 p.m.
Galva Area
IVEC WAREHOUSE
S.W. 2nd St & S. W. 6th Ave.
(north side railroad tracks)
Galva, Illinois

November 3, 1998
Tuesday Evening at 7 p.m.
Ottawa Area
IVEC WAREHOUSE
Route 6
(1 1/2 miles west of Ottawa)
Ottawa, Illinois

November 4, 1998
Wednesday Evening at 7 p.m.
Princeton Area
IVEC Office/Warehouse Building
Route 6 & 34 West
(1 1/2 miles west of Princeton)
Princeton, Illinois

and comments are welcomed and encouraged.

One of the great things about being a member of a cooperative is each member has the ability to help chart the course their cooperative. **Only you can decide if a merger is part of your cooperative's future.**

You could be an ICL prize winner!

Is this your account number?

1983502

If your name appears in this center section, mixed in with copy, you will receive a nice prize. Call toll-free 800-654-1088



Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric was called to order by Chairman Robert Angus at 10:50 a.m. on Friday, August 28, 1998 with all directors present. President and CEO T. L. Christensen and Attorney Gary Barnhart were also present.

Routine orders of business were reviewed and accepted after due consideration.

Directors reported on various meetings and related cooperative activities attended during the past month. The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

1. A motion was made and approved to approve a five-year firm wholesale power contract with Illinois Power Company.

2. A motion was made and approved to continue merger studies and plans with neighboring cooperatives.

3. A motion was made and approved to do a study on the 900 megahertz system to replace the 800 megahertz system for load management.

4. It was reported that Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative has purchased three new trucks, one basket truck and two digger trucks.

5. A motion was made and approved to renew the CFC line of credit guarantee for the Cooperative Response Center (CRC) The CRC answers all after hour calls for the cooperative.

6. A motion was made and approved to donate to the Illinois Main Street Program in Princeton for improving the retail area.

7. A motion was made and approved to pay dues to the United Telecommunications Council for the year 1999.

The next meeting will be September 22, 1998. The October meeting will be October 27, 1998. The November meeting is tentatively scheduled for the 24th.

The fight isn't over

Like the snake oil salesmen of a century ago who danced around their circus tents in fancy clothes and said, "We can cure everything!" the big electric power brokers confidently claimed that Congress would pass electric utility restructuring legislation by the end of 1998.

The brokers printed up fancy posters and aired slick television advertising promising huge savings for all. But like their cousins of the past, time has caught up with them.

Last month, and with considerably less fanfare, their partners in Congress announced that they were abandoning plans to vote on restructuring legislation this year. These modern-day snake oil salesmen, having spent untold millions of dollars in advertising and lobbying, could find very little support in Congress to move their agenda forward this year.

But they will be back. While this year was certainly a tough one, it will pale in comparison to next year. They'll be back with "new and improved" elixirs and even more aggressive pitches aimed at fooling consumers and Congress into believing their promises. Next year will be the year of maximum effort for electric cooperatives in our effort to protect consumers from these people.

Electric cooperative leaders, employees, and consumers have stayed the course and kept the debate focused on what really mattered most — that all consumers, no matter how big, or small, be treated fairly in whatever changes occur. We cast a skeptical eye on the promises of the Wall Street barons and their magic potions.

Those of us in the electric cooperative family have been fighting for consumers throughout our history. It's the reason electric cooperatives were created in the first place. We have good reason to be proud of our role in ensuring that objectivity and common sense have prevailed so far in the debate in Washington. But the fight isn't over yet.

Reality has fortunately cleared the fog of confusion these snake oil salesmen have created to hide

their real agenda. In California and other states where industry restructuring has occurred, the giant power monopolies are leaving behind a trail of broken promises instead of the smaller utility bills that they promised. Enron's decision to abandon the California residential energy market is evidence of it. In fact, California voters have placed on the ballot for the November elections a referendum that would repeal the restructuring laws.

In addition, price spikes and reliability problems in the wholesale market have strengthened our resolve that laws protecting consumers from anti-competitive monopolies and unscrupulous power marketers are still needed.

The struggle for positive change in the electric utility industry continues. As Congress takes this issue up again next year, consumers, through their electric cooperatives will have to have some tough questions answered. Will Congress heed the call of the Wall Street money machine and not worry about the problems of price spikes and reliability moving from the wholesale market to consumer's homes?

The fight over the future of the electric utility industry is likely to be a fight for all the marbles in 1999. It is our job to ensure that Congress allows the states to continue their work and not push them aside and impose a one size fits all solution on the entire country. As consumer advocates — as electric cooperatives — it is our responsibility to ensure that Congress hears the voices of all consumers before they act.

*** Notice ***

The Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative business office in Princeton and area district stations will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

**Veteran's Day, Wednesday, Nov. 11th,
Thanksgiving, Thursday, Nov. 26th
& Friday, Nov. 27th**

Please call toll free (800) 654-1088 to report emergencies — 24 hours per day monitoring and dispatch service.

1999 IEC Memorial Scholarship

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative President/CEO T. L. Christensen has announced that for the fourth consecutive year the Illinois electric cooperatives will award academic scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each to two high school seniors. The scholarships are being awarded through the Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

High school seniors pursuing a college education in the state of Illinois are eligible to participate in the program. One of the two scholarships will be awarded to the child of an electric cooperative member. The other \$1,000 award will go to the child of an electric cooperative director or employee. Deadline for applications is Jan. 1, 1999.

"The purpose of the scholarship program is to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders through memorial gifts," Christensen said. "Illinois Valley Electric and the other Illinois electric cooperatives want to make a difference in their communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by lending a hand to our youth."

Candidates are judged on the basis of grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay that demonstrates their knowledge of electric cooperatives.

The IEC Memorial Scholarship program was established in 1994 by the board of directors of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. For further information on the IEC Memorial Scholarship Program, contact Illinois Valley Electric at toll free (800) 654-1088. An application form and brochure will be mailed to you for review.

Don't waste money heating water!

With winter on the way, it is tempting to think about soaking in a nice hot bath on a cold night. But did you know that a bath takes more hot water than a five-minute shower — and costs you more money? It's true. There are also other simple things you can do to keep your water heating energy bills under control. The U.S. Department of Energy offers these tips:

- Repair leaky faucets promptly; a leaky faucet wastes gallons of water in a short period.
- Insulate your electric hot-water storage tank and pipes, but be careful not to cover the thermostat. Or, buy a new water heater with a thick, insulating shell; while it may cost more initially than one without insulation, the energy savings will continue during the lifetime of the appliance.
- Insulate your gas or oil hot-water storage tank and pipes, but be careful not to cover the water heater's floor, top, thermostat or burner compartment; when in doubt, get professional help.
- Install aerators in faucets and low-flow showerheads.

• Although most water heaters last 10 to 15 years, it's best to start shopping for a new one if yours is more than seven years old. Today's models are much more energy efficient than older ones.

• Lower the thermostat on your water heater; units sometimes come from the factory with high temperature settings, but a setting of 115_ F provides comfortable hot water for most uses.

• Drain a quart of water from your water tank every three months to remove sediment that impedes heat transfer and lowers the efficiency of your heater.

• If you heat with electricity and live in a warm and sunny climate, consider installing a solar water heater.

Call Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative for more information on the efficient operation of your water heater. Your co-op will be glad to help you with a variety of other energy efficiency questions and needs. Remember: as a not-for-profit utility, your electric co-op exists to provide its member-consumers with services at the best possible price.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



Meter reading dates

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative encourages all members to assist us by making their meters accessible to our meter readers. For your convenience, meter reading dates are

October 30 & 31

It is our hope that you will use this information so that any necessary arrangements can be made, such as restraining a dog, clearing debris around the meter, etc. Your assistance in this matter certainly will be appreciated, not only by our meter readers, but by the area serviceman who needs access to your meter in the event of an outage.

Available Services and Programs from Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

Display unit

*****Featuring this month*****

Energy\$ Teller service

- ★ Evaluate your energy-saving efforts with the Energy\$Teller
- ★ Budget electric usage in your home
- ★ Check consumption by appliances in your home
- ★ Learn how much your equipment costs to operate
- ★ No cost to member for Energy\$Teller service

Electric programs

- ★ Dual Energy off-peak space heating system with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh — \$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$400.00 for installation. If alternate energy is electric — \$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation.
- ★ All electric residential rate — for controlled energy usage.
- ★ Electric thermal storage (ETS) secondary heating to qualify for off-peak rate — backup heat for geothermal and space heating “all-electric” systems during interruptible periods.
- ★ General service rates (optional off-peak and on-peak rate schedules).
- ★ High-efficiency electric water heaters at a special price of \$125.00 for IVEC members only. \$125.00 rebate if water heater is controlled when “on-peak” periods occur.
- ★ A \$10 per month off-peak credit if electric water heater is controlled for the months of June, July, August and September — \$40 total ben-

- efit — no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment.
- ★ All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems . . .
 - Up to 400% efficiency — ground source
 - Off-peak rate of 4¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating
 - Economical/affordable
 - \$75 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for all-electric installation
- ★ Air conditioning off-peak credit of \$10 for summer months of June, July, August and September — \$40 total benefit — no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment.
- ★ Rental security lights for approximately \$12 per month — no maintenance headaches.
- ★ Energy\$Teller service at no cost to help members budget electric usage in their home.
- ★ Off-peak irrigation rate for controlled electric usage.

Non-electric services

- ★ Payment centers throughout IVEC’s service area for member convenience.
- ★ Life-support equipment registry for dependent IVEC members.
- ★ Installation of home lightning and surge protection equipment.
- ★ Helping the financial needs of area businesses with CDC loans.
- ★ Gatekeeper Program — helping seniors by calling for assistance if needed.

- ★ Crime Watch — Fighting rural crime and reporting emergencies.
- ★ Monthly magazine — Illinois Country Living for informational articles and programs.
- ★ DIRECTV™ — 18-inch receiving dish — 200 channels — DSS Digital Satellite System with your choice of programming selections.
- ★ First Call — Emergency Response System for seniors or handicapped persons living alone.

If you want more information about the above programs, contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative — call toll-free (800) 654-1088.

Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris)
Christensen
President/CEO

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"

Office Hours 7:45 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Monday through Friday

Telephone 800-654-1088

Visit our homepage at www.ivec.org

Emergencies - call toll-free 800-654-1088 - 24 hours a day

P.O. Box 70
Route 6 & 34 West
Princeton, Illinois 61356

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 the membership of both co-ops would benefit, largely from the economies of scale, and 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

benefit 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.

You could be an ICL prize winner!

Is this your account number?

5105000

If your name appears in this center section, mixed in with copy, you will receive a nice prize. Call toll-free 800-654-1088



Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric was called to order by Chairman Robert Angus at 11:50 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 22, 1998 with all directors present. President and CEO T. L. Christensen and Attorney Gary Barnhart were also present. Jeff Reeves, Manager of Corn Belt Electric Cooperative and Corn Belt Board Chairman Rae Payne were also present for part of the meeting.

Routine orders of business were reviewed and accepted after due consideration.

Directors reported on various meetings and related cooperative activities attended during the past month.

The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

1. A motion was made and approved to pay dues for the IEC Continuing Education program for 1999.

2. The President reported on the future wholesale power contract with Illinois Power Company and the Soyland Power Wholesale Contract Buyout status.

3. The President and CEO Jeff Reeves and Chairman of the Corn Belt Electric Cooperative Board, Rae Payne from Bloomington were present to discuss the anticipated merger of Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative and Corn Belt Electric Cooperative.

A resolution was passed calling for a Special Members Meeting on Nov. 10, 1998 or such other time as the Board may direct by Notice to consider the adoption of a Plan of Merger. **Travis Langley**

The next meeting will be Oct. 27, 1998. The November board meeting will be Nov. 24, 1998. The December meeting is scheduled for the 22nd.

Meter reading dates



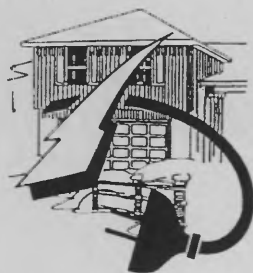
readers, but by the area serviceman who needs access to your meter in the event of an outage.

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative encourages all members to assist us by making their meters accessible to our meter readers. For your convenience, meter reading dates for November are circled on the calendar. It is our hope that you will use this information so that any necessary arrangements can be made, such as restraining a dog, clearing debris around the meter, etc. Your assistance in this matter certainly will be appreciated, not only by our meter

November 1998						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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Dual Energy Systems

"Off Peak Low Rate"
Save with the affordable choice



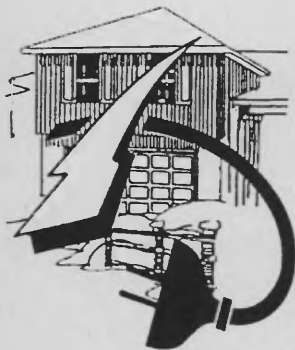
What is a Dual Energy heating system in the "off peak" concept? . . .

It is a system which combines two energy sources — electricity as a primary source and an alternate energy system such as electricity, gas or oil, as a secondary source during interruptible periods.

- ★ The off-peak heating rate is 4¢ kwh.
- ★ \$75 kw rebate up to \$400 for installation - Primary Electric
- ★ \$75 kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation — All Electric Dual Energy System — (secondary source must be electric)

All-Electric or Dual Energy Heating Systems are Competitive, Economical and Affordable!!!

Available Services and Programs from Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative



Featuring this month

Dual Energy — Off-Peak — Low Rate. . .

Save with the affordable choice

What is a Dual Energy heating system in the "off peak" concept?

It is a system which combines two energy sources — electricity as a primary source and an alternate energy system such as electricity, gas or oil, as a secondary source during interruptible periods.

- ★ The off-peak heating rate is 4.0 cents kilowatt-hour.
 - ★ \$75 kw rebate up to \$400 for installation — Primary Electric
 - ★ \$75 kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation — All Electric
- Dual Energy System — (secondary source must be electric)

Electric programs

- ★ Dual Energy off-peak space heating system with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh — \$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$400.00 for installation. If alternate energy is electric — \$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation.
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- ★ General service rates (optional off-peak and on-peak rate schedules).
- ★ High-efficiency electric water heaters at a special price of \$125.00 for IVEC members only. \$125.00 rebate if water heater is controlled when "on-peak" periods occur.
- ★ A \$10 per month off-peak credit if electric water heater is controlled for the months of June, July, August and September — \$40 total ben-

efit — no cost to member for installation of monitoring equipment.

★ All-electric geothermal heating and cooling systems . . .

- Up to 400% efficiency — ground source
- Off-peak rate of 4¢ kwh with ETS secondary heating
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★ Off-peak irrigation rate for controlled electric usage.

Non-electric services

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★ Crime Watch — Fighting rural crime and reporting emergencies.

★ Monthly magazine — Illinois Country Living for informational articles and programs.

★ DIRECTV™ — 18-inch receiving dish — 200 channels — DSS Digital Satellite System with your choice of programming selections.

★ First Call — Emergency Response System for seniors or handicapped persons living alone.

If you want more information about the above programs, contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative — call toll-free (800) 654-1088.

Save energy when using your fireplace

With crisp fall weather bringing cool nights to many parts of the country, you may decide it is time to enjoy a fire at night. Before using your fireplace, here are a few tips that will help you save energy — and cut your fuel bills.

Keep the damper closed when you don't have a fire going in your fireplace. An open damper on a 48-inch square fireplace can let as much as 8 percent of your home's heat escape up the chimney.

If you use your fireplace to supplement the heat provided by your regular heating system, you can take a few simple steps to make the most efficient use of your fireplace. First, remember that the heat gain from a fireplace is confined to the room where it is located. At the same time, much of the heat from other rooms can flow into the room with the fireplace and then escape up the chimney. The warm air will be replaced by cold outside air. As a result, your thermostat will sense the heat loss and turn on your furnace.

What to do? While you may want a higher setting for comfort's sake, lower the thermostat to between 50 and 55 degrees Fahrenheit. You'll still

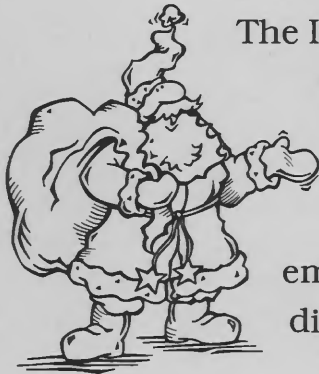
lose some warm air through the chimney, but the furnace won't have to work as hard to maintain the set temperature.

And there are other things you should do when using a fireplace. Close all the doors and heat ducts in the room with the fireplace. Then, open a window near the fireplace about an inch, or slightly less. This will reduce heat drawn from the rest of the house and give the fire the air it needs. Don't do this if the fireplace has an outside air supply!

If you have a simple open masonry fireplace, install one of the following: a glass screen, a convective grate, a combination convective grate with glass screen, a radiant grate or a fireplace insert. Some of these devices will cut down on the loss of warm air through the fireplace chimney and may improve heat recovery from the fire.

With winter here, you may have other questions about how to reduce your heating bills. Call IVEC member services department at toll free (800) 654-1088. There are several marketing programs available that could help you save money!

Notice Holiday closing schedule



The Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative office will be closed on Dec. 24 and Dec. 25 in observance of Christmas.

The office will also be closed on Jan. 1 for New Year's Day.

Please call toll free (800) 654-1088 to report emergencies — 24 hour per day monitoring and dispatching service.

*Merry Christmas
& a
Happy New Year!!!*



Across the president's desk



by Tim (Kris) Christensen
President/CEO

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

"Your electric utility into the future"

Office Hours 7:45 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Monday through Friday
Telephone 800-654-1088

P.O. Box 70
Route 6 & 34 West
Princeton, Illinois 61356

Emergencies - call toll-free 800-654-1088 - 24 hours a day

How IVEC gets the lights back on

When Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative experiences multiple power outages, its goal is to restore service to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest amount of time. Your cooperative begins at the power source and works out to the individual services along the system. Dangerous problems, such as downed power lines, are attended to as soon as possible. **John D. Miller**

The following are service restoration priority procedures for repairing power facilities:

- 1. Transmission lines** — These are high voltage lines that move bulk electricity from a generating plant to a substation or between substations.
- 2. Substations** — Substations are electrical facilities that contain equipment for switching or regulating the voltage of electricity. These lower the amount of electrical voltage from transmission lines so that the electricity can be transmitted through distribution lines.
- 3. Main distribution lines** — These are the 7,200-volt lines that you see along roadways.
- 4. Tap lines** — Tap lines are electric feeder lines with limited capacity that run from a main distribution line and serve small numbers of consumers.
- 5. Individual service** — This is the line that runs from the pole transformer to the customer's electric meter. Priority is always given

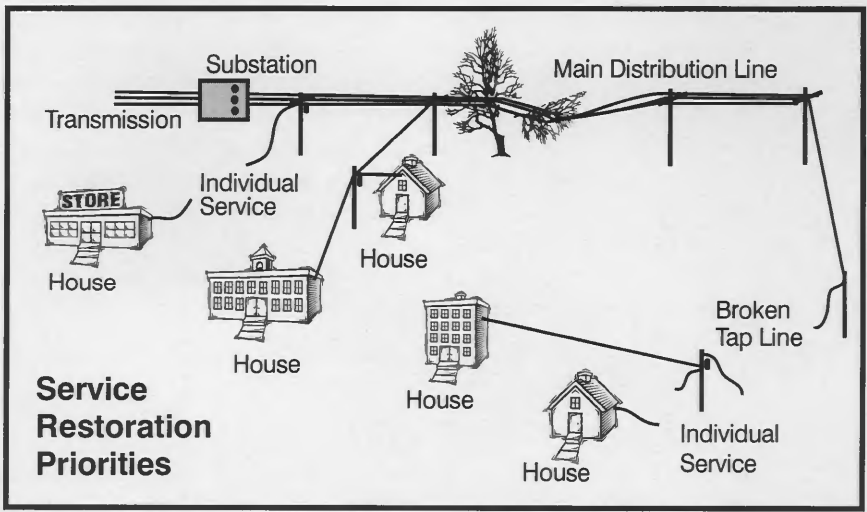
to members on life support systems for restoration of individual service.

Electric utility facilities are constructed with protective devices such as fuses and circuit breakers. These confine the outage to specific areas, limiting the number of consumers affected by the power interruption.

For example, if a tree falls on a tap line, only that line would be without service. Other consumers served from the main distribution line would still have service, although their lights may blink momentarily.

If you have questions about how your electric co-op restores service after a storm or other outage, please call your co-op. Remember: you are a member-consumer and it is your electric utility.

Source: Delaware Electric Cooperative



Correct procedures vital with standby generators

It's difficult, perhaps almost impossible in some cases, to live without electricity in today's world. That's why Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative does everything possible to keep the lights on and to restore service as soon as possible when there is an outage.

However, if you have or are considering purchasing a standby electricity generator, remem-

ber that it is vital to follow proper procedures. If used incorrectly, a standby generator can cause serious harm or even death. Here are some important things to know.

Generators can produce power to a home's 120/240-volt service. However, if a generator is not properly installed, the "backfeed" will result in an

Continued on page 16b...



Board Room REPORT

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Illinois Valley Electric was called to order by Chairman Robert Angus at 12:45 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27, 1998 with all directors present except Ralph Freebairn and Don Rogers. President and CEO T.L. Christensen and Attorney Gary Barnhart were also present.

Routine orders of business were reviewed and accepted after due consideration.

Directors reported on various meetings and related cooperative activities attended during the past month.

The following items were discussed and/or moved on:

1. A motion was made and approved to hold a special meeting of the board of directors on No-

vember 10, 1998 to approve memberships and give out proxies for the special meeting of the members on November 10, 1998 to vote on the merger between Corn Belt Electric and IVEC.

2. A motion was made and approved to accept a proposal from ELASCO for an analysis on what needs to be done to have the computer line equipment ready for the year 2000.

A motion was made and approved to hire ELASCO to do meter testing for the year 1999.

4. A motion was made and approved to participate in the Illinois Youth Day and Washington Tour programs for 1999.

5. A motion was made and approved to authorize a loan from CFC in the amount necessary to buy out of IVEC's wholesale power contract with Soyland.

6. Several motions were made and approved to authorize special incentive and compensation packages to employees directly affected should the merger be approved by the IVEC members between Corn Belt Electric and IVEC.

The next meeting will be Nov. 24, 1998. The December board meeting will be Dec. 22, 1998.

Correct procedures vital with standby generators *continued from page 16a...*

output of 7,200 volts on the distribution line — much higher than what it should carry. As a result, a line crew working on the system would be put in danger.

For everyone's sake — yours, Illinois Valley Electric and its line crews — generators need to be isolated from your cooperative's power lines. This means you should connect appliances or other devices directly to the generator with the appropriate-size cords. You should also install a double-throw switch on your generator to separate your service from the co-op's system.

Also, remember to determine the wattage output you need before buying a generator. Manufacturers rate the strength of a generator in terms of wattage. The generator's wattage output should at least meet or exceed the total rated watts of the appliances you will operate in the case of an outage.

Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations on how to use your generator. If you have additional questions, please call your electric cooperative. IVEC will be glad to work with you to make sure your generator is used properly.

You could be an ICL prize winner!

Is this your account number?

1713000

**If your name appears in
this center section,
mixed in with copy, you
will receive a nice prize.**

Call toll-free 800-654-1088

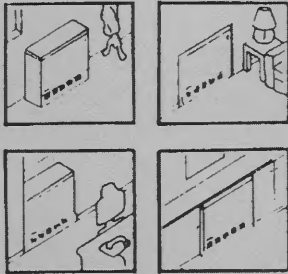
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December 29 & 30

Available Services and Programs from Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative

E.T.S.



Example of...
Warm room concept
installations

Featuring this month OFF-PEAK Electric Thermal Storage

Relax, it's electric...and cheap!



Electric thermal storage heating is a clean, safe, comfortable and reliable secondary method of heating your home during "on peak" times when primary electric heat is interrupted. This heating choice provides consumers with considerable savings in heating costs. These savings are realized by members taking advantage of off-peak electric rates offered by Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative.

- ★ The off-peak heating rate is 4.0 cents kilowatt-hour.
- ★ \$75 kw rebate up to \$400 for primary electric heat with a non-electric secondary service.
- ★ \$75 kw rebate up to \$3,000.00 for installation of all Electric Heating using E.T.S. as a secondary service during interruptible periods.

All-Electric or Dual Energy Off-Peak Heating Systems

Electric programs

- ★ Dual Energy off-peak space heating system with electricity as primary source at special rate of 4.0 cents kwh — \$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$400.00 for installation. If alternate energy is electric — \$75.00 per kw rebate up to \$3,000 for installation.
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**If you want more information about the above programs,
contact Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative — call toll-free (800) 654-1088.**

Who's responsible for electric facilities?

During the stages of new construction or upgrading of electric facilities, questions about ownership of poles, meter loops, wires and breaker panels are usually asked. When existing electrical equipment has been in place for many years, or if new facilities are required, ownership may not be obvious to the member-consumer.

It's good to know who is responsible for maintenance or repairs and we hope that this article will answer most questions.

Overhead electric service

The Cooperative is responsible for:

- Wires from the transformer to the meter pole and electrical connections on those wires.
- The meter.

The member is responsible for:

- The meter socket.
- The meter loop.

- Fuse and/or breaker panels, including disconnect switches.
- Wires leaving the meter pole to services at other locations such as homes, barns, garages, shops, and connections for those wires.

Underground electric service

The Cooperative is responsible for:

- Wires from the transformer to the meter location or pedestal.
- The meter.

The member is responsible for:

- The meter socket.
- Wires running from the meter location or pedestal to other locations such as homes, barns, garages, shops, and those connections.
- Any disconnect switches, fuse panels or breaker panels at the meter.

Keep objects off electric co-op poles

When Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative line crews climb utility poles, they depend on having solid structures underfoot. However, this is not always the case.

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative strives to keep poles as safe as possible, but some aspects of maintaining unscathed poles are out of the co-op's control. For example, when people attach signs, posters and recreational equipment such as basketball rims, it can create serious hazards for line personnel.

Sharp objects like nails, tacks, staples and barbed wire all present eminent dangers for coop line crews, who climb poles all hours of the day and night and in the worst of conditions. If a lineman's hooks cut out while he is climbing, his descent down could become much more severe if an arm or leg catches into a nail or other object tacked onto the pole.

Additionally, a lineman's hooks can cut out due to contact with a foreign object on the pole. Also, when linemen have to remove objects from poles in order to climb during an outage, this makes power restoration that much longer.

Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative suggests that fixtures, other than co-op equipment or another utility's joint-use attachment, should not be affixed to the co-op's poles. For example, sharp objects not only compound a fall, but also can puncture rubber gloves and other safety equipment, making linemen vulnerable to electrocution.

