

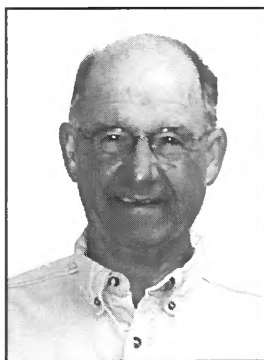
JANUARY 2003

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

Chuck West leaves cooperative after 42 years

Chuck West has witnessed numerous events and changes at Corn Belt Energy in his 42+ years of service at the cooperative. His career began when his neighbor and former Corn Belt Electric Cooperative Manager Ted Hafer recognized the talents in Chuck. Ted knew that Chuck was a hard worker in need of a stable and exciting career.



In 1960, Chuck started at the co-op in the engineering department as a Staking Assistant. He soon moved to the operations department as an entry-level Groundman, where he learned to work with poles, wires and other outside equipment.

Reflecting back through four decades of utility work, West believes that the most significant changes in the cooperative have been in the equipment and safety procedures. Chuck remembers when he first began working at the co-op, "The only way to solve a problem was to climb a pole. Bucket trucks were not available and the digging equipment was, by today's standards, primitive and somewhat dangerous. New, modern, safe equipment is the rule today."

Born in Downs, West was raised on a dairy farm and learned first-hand about the importance of having a good work ethic. He recalls that members were sent a post card that listed his home phone

number and he was called directly to handle outages. Today, he sees the centralized dispatch system as a vast improvement for quick responses to problems.

Chuck's most vivid storm memory goes back to the winter of 1978 when he was the field supervisor. More than 100 co-op employees, municipal volunteers, contractors and cooperative members helped battle the

storm and restore power, especially to the hardest hit areas of Maroa and Clinton. The "crew" built 13 miles of line in four days. Members assisted the linemen by clearing old wire and framing cross arms for the poles.

Outside of regular work hours, Chuck has had a long-standing career as a coach, referee, and volunteer to many local and statewide organizations. Chuck always smiles as he recalls many close IHSA competitions, and reports that, in more than 40 years of officiating, he seldom, if ever, made any incorrect calls. Chuck takes his work with young athletes and coaches very seriously, and is responsible for starting a number of competitive programs for male and female athletes.

When asked, "What's most satisfying about your job?" Chuck states that there are two key times when he

(continued on 16b)



OFFICE CLOSING

Corn Belt Energy's offices will be closed
January 1, 2003 for New Year's Day.

(continued from 16b)

is most pleased. First, when his construction crew wraps up a project and he does the final check to see that all is in order and correctly completed. It is the feeling of a "job well done" by utility professionals for the benefit of the members.

Secondly, when he deals with difficult weather and power outages and the system/service is 100 percent restored; he feels that his skills were again put to the test and he completed his assignment. He enjoys the many comments of appreciation he has received from members throughout the years for his quality service and personable manner.

Chuck's skills are also shared with others as he has been a mentor to many young linemen at the cooperative and has been an instructor

for the statewide association. He credits former Line Superintendent Don Allen for teaching him the basics at a time when the co-op had only 5,000 members. Chuck's primary advice to all he instructs is to "work safe" at all times, and always ask questions.

Corn Belt will have to fill a construction foreman's position, but Chuck knows that there are others who he has trained and supervised that are ready to step in.

Chuck leaves a utility legacy of more than four decades and looks forward to a slower pace, and more time with his family, hobbies and volunteer activities. A man who enjoys fishing, gardening and woodworking, Chuck is looking forward to retirement. He laughs a bit and exclaims that wife Kathy has a long list of projects ready for him to complete.

Corn Belt Energy Corporation announces electric rate changes for northern region

The board of directors of Corn Belt Energy Corp. approved new rate schedules for northern region members at the October 25, 2002, board meeting. This follows a 5 percent reduction of all rates on January 1, 1999, when the Corn Belt Electric Cooperative and Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative merger took place.

The new rates are the result of buying-out a power supply contract with Soyland Power Cooperative four years ago. At that time, a loan was secured to cover the buyout of the contract, and payments were made from the new reduced power supply contract. That loan will be paid off at the end of 2002, enabling the cooperative to provide a rate decrease for northern region members. Northern region members receive a blue-colored bill.

Corn Belt's new rate structure has been calculated following an extensive cost of service study. Each rate class was reviewed and evaluated as it relates to the cost to provide electric service. All rates have been changed. Usage is a primary factor in determining the various rate classes.

The rate reduction for the residential rate, which is the largest rate class, is 6 percent. Residential members on new Rate 1, with av-

erage monthly usage of 812 kilowatt hours, would experience an average annual savings of 9 percent. Depending on each member's usage, savings will vary accordingly. Changes to Rate 1 also include winter and summer rate periods. Winter months are from October 20 - June 20.

Cooperative members will begin rate reductions for their January 20 - February 20 usage that is billed in March.

The northern region residential facility charge was increased to \$19.50 per month. This charge covers the cost of installation and maintenance of all the associated equipment that is necessary to bring electricity to a residential member.

Corn Belt Energy President/CEO Jeff Reeves said, "The cooperative is very pleased that we were able to negotiate a lower wholesale power contract and provide reduced rates for the northern region members. The cooperative currently has an all-requirements contract for fixed power prices for three more years."

Corn Belt Energy Corporation, a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative, is a 28,000-member cooperative, which has provided electricity for more than 65 years. The cooperative also supplies natural gas and propane to specific service areas.



Mark your calendar!

Corn Belt Energy's annual meeting of members will be held
Saturday, March 29, 2003.

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

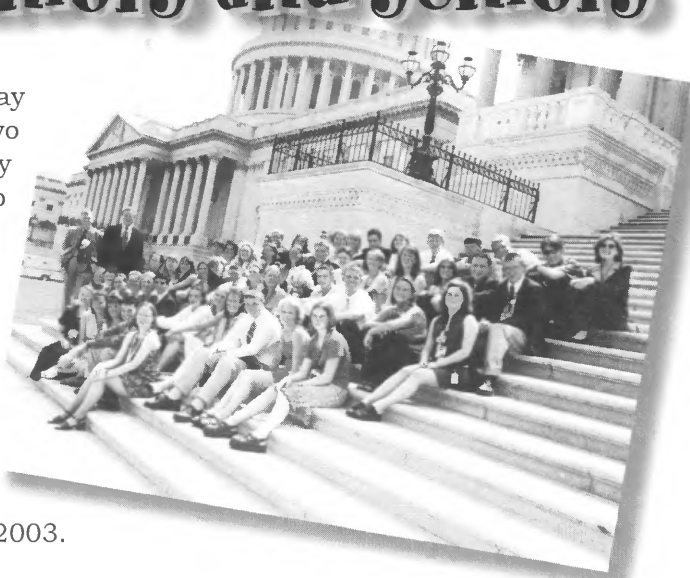
ATTENTION

High School juniors and seniors

Corn Belt's 44th Youth to Washington Essay Contest offers one \$2,000 scholarship and two \$1,000 scholarships to three winning essay writers. The high school junior or senior who is awarded the \$2,000 scholarship also wins an expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. in June 2002. Participants must be the son or daughter of a CBEC member.

Essay contest information is posted on the CBEC Web site www.cornbeltenergy.com.

Return all required contest information to Corn Belt Energy, attn. Barb Casper, PO Box 816, Bloomington, IL 61702-0816 no later than noon on Friday, February 14, 2003. Good Luck!



PROPANE PARTNERS



PROPANE GAS USERS!

Corn Belt Energy is partnered with FS throughout our service territory to offer propane to you. For your convenience, propane charges are added to your existing electric bill.

Contact our office today for prices.



Call our office toll-free for details (800) 879-0339 or (800) 654-1088 ext. 235 or ext. 250

PAY YOUR ENERGY BILL ONLINE

www.cornbeltenergy.com

■ REPORT STREET LIGHTS OUT OF SERVICE ONLINE ■ REPORT VEGETATION PROBLEMS ONLINE

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

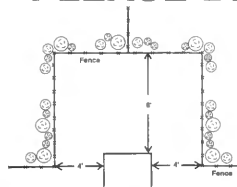
CENTRAL REGION

DAY OR NIGHT • Phone (800) 879-0339

NORTHERN REGION

DAY OR NIGHT • Phone (800) 654-1088

PLEASE BE COOPERATIVE



Whether restoring power or maintaining the system, our linemen need adequate clearance around our facilities to work safely. Do not PLANT, STACK or BUILD ANYTHING within 8 feet of the front or four feet of the sides and back of a pad-mounted transformer.

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

*Corn Belt Energy Corporation, Enerstar Power Corp.
and Shelby Electric Cooperative
Through*

ILLINOIS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC. (Clear Talk)

is now offering

Business and Residential Long Distance Phone Service

Billed by PowerNet Global Communications

Utilizing the QWEST Long Distance Network (The nation's 4th largest carrier)

4.9 cents **6.9 cents**

All calls in Illinois

All calls out of state

24 hours a day – 7 days a week – no codes to dial

- Free to join – No monthly fees – No monthly minimum
- No term agreements – Major carrier
- 800 Number 4.9 cents – 6.9 cents per minute – no fees
- Free calling cards 13.9 cents per minute (No surcharge)
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Low overseas rates. Call the United Kingdom for just 8 cents per minute.
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For additional information or to enroll by phone call toll free: 1-888-414-4116

Mail application to: Clear Talk, P.O. Box 1087, Paris, IL 61944

Applications may be faxed toll free to 1-877-990-7466

DETACH HERE

Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Numbers (____) _____ - _____ (____) _____ - _____ (____) _____ - _____

Other Services Desired: Toll Free 800 Number Travel Cards...Number of cards requested _____

*If 800 service is desired, enter the telephone number it should ring to (____) _____ - _____
(existing 800 numbers may be transferred to this service...applicable forms are available upon request)

I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator/agent, to transfer my Interlata and Intralata (local toll) long distance service. I agree to financial responsibility for all charges arising from all long distance services provided. The service requested will be provisioned only on the approval of credit for the application. A service charge may be assessed by the local telephone company when they make the carrier change.

Customer Signature _____ Date _____

Illinois Cooperative Association

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

FEBRUARY 2003

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

Corn Belt celebrates first anniversary in Downs location



On January 16th of this year, Corn Belt Energy marked the first anniversary at its new Downs location. As many of you remember, we held the 2002 annual meeting at the new facility. Our members are starting to learn where we are located as more of you drop in to conduct business or use the drop box at the building.

Landscaping has begun, and additional lighting and signage have been

installed to help direct you and deliveries to our facility. If you have not stopped by the facility, please visit us. It only takes about 15 minutes for a quick tour. The office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Corn Belt Energy Corporation employees and board members are very proud of the new building, which will serve the members for decades to come.

Mark your calendar!
Corn Belt Energy's annual meeting of members will be held Saturday, March 29, 2003.



SEE YOU AT THE
HOME SHOW
Interstate Center • Bloomington • March 7, 8, 9

Electronic funds transfer available

Corn Belt offers you the opportunity to pay your energy bills electronically. Your bill payment will be transferred automatically from your checking or savings account to Corn Belt each month on your bill's due date. Corn Belt will continue to send you a bill which shows your energy use and the amount due. Your bank statement will show the amount and the date of the transfer. Why use electronic funds transfer (EFT)?

- To save money. You will save money on postage and check related fees. Your payment will always be on time, so you will never pay late fees.
- To save time. You will no longer need to write and mail checks each month.

- No worries. You will know each month that your payment has been made.
- No hidden charges. EFT service is available to you at no charge.

To sign-up for EFT, simply complete the form below and return it to Corn Belt Energy, PO Box 816, Bloomington, IL 61702-0816. Attach a voided check or savings account deposit slip to your agreement form. Please allow three to six weeks for your agreement to be processed. When the EFT option is active on your account, your monthly Corn Belt Energy statement will have "AUTO PAY" printed on the bill stub. EFT forms are also available on the CBEC website: www.cornbeltenergy.com

Agreement Form

I authorize Corn Belt Energy Corporation and the designated financial institution to begin automatic deductions of my energy bill.

_____ checking account _____ savings Please attach voided check or deposit slip
Financial institution _____ Account # _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

Name (printed) _____ Signature _____
Address _____ Phone (_____) _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Date _____
Corn Belt Energy account number _____



For other questions about fireplace safety, call your local electric cooperative.

- F**ireplaces help warm your family's home, but can be dangerous if not properly attended. Please follow these steps to keep your home safe and warm in the dead of winter:
- Check your fireplace and chimney often and keep them clean and in good repair.
 - Always use a good fire screen in front of the fireplace.
 - Keep the damper set so the draft (flow of air) will remove all smoke and gases.
 - Keep the area near the fireplace clear of materials like papers, books, toys, etc.
 - Never leave a fire unattended, and make sure the fire is completely out before going to bed or leaving the house.
 - Always keep a fire extinguisher close at hand. Make sure everyone knows how to use it. Keep emergency phone numbers on or next to the telephone.
 - Do not stack artificial logs in the fireplace like you would real wood.
 - Do not use your fireplace if it has loose bricks or needs to be cleaned.
 - Do not burn charcoal, coal or plastic materials (wrap, cups, plates, etc.).
 - Never burn garbage in the fireplace.
 - Never use gasoline or other such liquid to start a fire.
 - Do not allow small children near the fireplace.

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

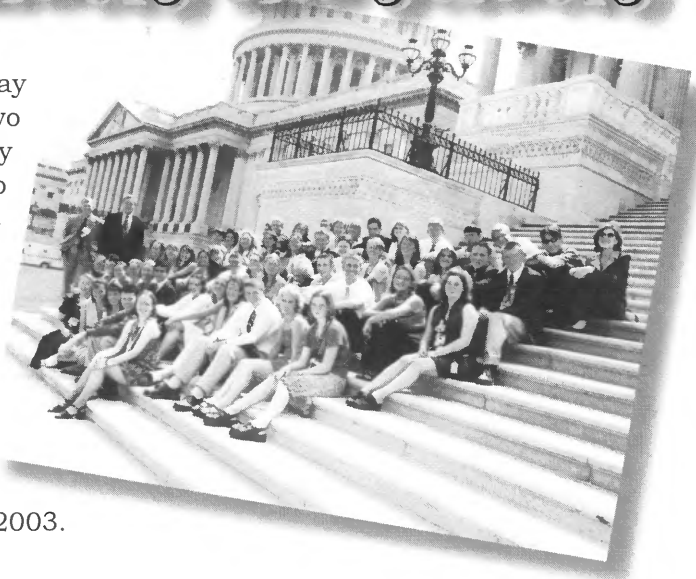
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Building a home? Geothermal Means Cheap Heat!

Our geothermal (GT) accounts are heating their homes for way, way less than they could with propane or natural gas. Cheap cooling too - about half the cost of a common air conditioner.

And, GT heats most of the domestic hot water for FREE! Another substantial savings. Do you honestly want low heating, cooling and water heating costs?

Then install GEOTHERMAL! Call the Member Services Department at (800) 879-0339 • Press #4 on your touch-pad

PAY YOUR ENERGY BILL ONLINE

www.cornbeltenergy.com

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TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

CENTRAL REGION

DAY OR NIGHT • Phone (800) 879-0339

.....
NORTHERN REGION

DAY OR NIGHT • Phone (800) 654-1088

ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS

flameless, ventless, odorless, silent, clean, safe, child-proof, low-priced, produce no carbon monoxide

**WE'LL HELP YOU BUY ONE
WITH UP TO \$125 CASH!**

Call Member Services for details (Press #4 on your touchpad)

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

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Through*

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All calls in Illinois

All calls out of state

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Mail application to: Clear Talk, P.O. Box 1087, Paris, IL 61944

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DETACH HERE

Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Numbers (____) _____ - _____ (____) _____ - _____ (____) _____ - _____

Other Services Desired: Toll Free 800 Number Travel Cards...Number of cards requested _____

*If 800 service is desired, enter the telephone number it should ring to (____) _____ - _____

(existing 800 numbers may be transferred to this service...applicable forms are available upon request)

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Customer Signature _____ Date _____

Illinois Cooperative Association

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS



NEWS

Mailing address: P.O. Box 816, Bloomington, IL 61702-0816
E-mail address: cbec@cornbeltenergy.com
Web address: www.cornbeltenergy.com

PHONE NUMBERS
DAY OR NIGHT
Northern (800) 654-1088
Central (800) 879-0339
FAX: (309) 663-4516

Office Hours: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm -
Monday thru Friday

MARCH 2003

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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



Corn Belt Energy invites you to attend the 65th Annual Meeting of Members

Corn Belt Energy will hold its 65th Annual Meeting of Members on Saturday, March 29, 2003, at the Normal West Community High School. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and continues until 10 a.m. The Annual Meeting begins at 10 a.m. and is scheduled to last until noon.

The program includes reports from the Chairman of the Board of Directors, the President and the Treasurer of Corn Belt Energy. Also scheduled are the election of board members, entertainment and drawings for prizes. Coffee, tea, milk, donuts and rolls will be served during morning registration, and there will be an Early Bird prize raffle at 10 a.m. A complimentary lunch will be served following the meeting.

The Nominating Committee met at the Corn Belt Energy office on December 19, 2002, to nominate candidates for five board positions to be filled by election at the Annual Meeting. The committee nominated the following members for election: Myron Erdman, District 1; Janice Reimer, District 1; James Adams, District 1; Thomas Johns, District 2; Gary Archey,

District 4 and Charles Meisenheimer, District 7. Two directors will be selected from the three nominees for District 1 based on the vote count. You must be present to vote. All members are eligible to vote regardless of where they reside. Ballots will be issued at registration.

Corn Belt Energy members are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting of Members. The cooperative's annual meeting is an opportunity for those who receive CBEC services to participate and keep informed of developments affecting the cooperative. Each member has voting rights and part ownership of the cooperative. The annual meeting booklet will be mailed directly to members' homes in March.

Corn Belt Energy has been in business since 1938 and is currently a provider of electricity to more than 28,000 services in a 19-county service territory. In addition to providing electricity, CBEC is a propane provider and has been certified by the Illinois Commerce Commission to supply natural gas to customers within Nicor Gas' service territory. Visit our Web site at www.cornbeltenergy.com for more details.

Help us improve our service to you

Here are some ways you can help us improve our service.

- Keep us updated on your correct name, mailing address and phone number. Our outage restoration system identifies your phone number and links it to your service location to track the source of an interruption. This allows us to respond quicker and minimize your outage time.
- Right to privacy laws prohibit us from providing account information to anyone other than the person(s) of record. Make sure you and your spouse (or other responsible parties) are listed on our billing records.
- Do you receive more than one bill from us in multiple envelopes? Just ask, and we'll be happy to group your bills together into one envelope. You can pay all accounts with one check, provided you identify how much you are paying toward each account.
- Tell us if you have an e-mail address, and we'll notify you when your bill is ready to be viewed online. Once you're at our site, you can pay by check or credit card. You can choose to view your bill online every month and eliminate a paper bill.
- What kind of information or articles would you like to see in the *Newsline* that is enclosed with your bill or the *Illinois Country Living* magazine?



With your help, Corn Belt Energy's Member Accounts Representatives keep your accounts current and accurate. From left are Chantel Eddins, Angie Haws and Lisa Gaddis.

We want to hear from you about ways we can improve our service. Include a note with your payment, call us at (800) 879-0339 (Ext. 250), or visit our Web site at www.cornbeltenergy.com and select "Contact Corn Belt Energy".

Thanks for helping us serve you better.

Have you visited us lately on the Web?

Visit us online at www.cornbeltenergy.com and learn more about your cooperative and the energy industry, pay your energy bill and much more. Check it out!



- Enter your own meter reading
- Report trees that are growing into our lines
- Rebates
- Scholarships
- Report a street light not functioning
- Energy efficient standards
- Link to other energy sites
- Energy assistance
- Save on air conditioning and water heating
- Products - natural gas, propane, surge protection and more
- Save money on long distance service
- Various payment options
- Request copy of our by-laws
- Items for sale
- Membership information
- Average cost to operate appliances
- Suggestions and complaints
- Compliments

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS

flameless, ventless, odorless, silent, clean, safe, child-proof, low-priced, produce no carbon monoxide

**WE'LL HELP YOU BUY ONE
WITH UP TO \$125 CASH!**
Call Member Services for details

REPORTING AN OUTAGE?

Before you call CBEC:

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



PROPANE PARTNERS PROPANE GAS USERS!

Corn Belt Energy is partnered with FS throughout our service territory to offer propane to you. For your convenience, propane charges are added to your existing electric bill. Contact our office today for prices.



Call our office toll-free for details (800) 879-0339 or (800) 654-1088 ext. 235 or ext. 250

Please plan to attend

**Saturday,
March 29, 2003**

to be held at Normal West Community High School
in Normal, Illinois.

8:30 - 10:00 a.m. - Registration. Coffee, tea, milk, donuts and rolls served

10:00 a.m. - Early Bird prize raffle

10:00 a.m. - Noon - **Annual Meeting**

Reports from the Chairman of the Board of Directors,
the President and the Treasurer of CBEC

Election of board members

Entertainment

Drawing for prizes

Noon - Lunch will be served

Please return reservation form before March 27, 2003 or
reply via e-mail to thomlinson@cornbeltenergy.com

Lunch reservation form ■ 65th Annual Meeting of Members

There is no charge for the meal. Please return the completed form to
CBEC, P.O. Box 816, Bloomington, IL 62702-0816, or call 1-800-879-0339 or
reply via e-mail to thomlinson@cornbeltenergy.com before March 27th

Please make dinner reservations for _____ people.

Member name (please print) _____

City _____ Map location number _____

Telephone number (incl. area code) (_____) _____-

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Now available from Corn Belt Energy Corporation,
 EnerStar Power Corp and Shelby Electric Cooperative,
 in conjunction with Illinois Cooperative Association, Inc. (Clear Talk)

- NO NONSENSE - LONG DISTANCE



NO MONTHLY FEES • NO MINIMUM USAGE • NO TERM AGREEMENT

4.9¢
ALL CALLS IN ILLINOIS

6.9¢
ALL CALLS OUT OF STATE

- Free to join • No monthly fees • No monthly minimums
- No term agreements • Major carrier
- 800 Number 4.9¢ — 6.9¢ per minute — no fees
- Free calling cards 13.9¢ per minute (No surcharge)
- All switching fees will be reimbursed
- **NO CODES TO DIAL**
- Overseas calling e.g. United Kingdom: 8 cents per minute.
- Six-second increment billing

FREE Personal 800 NUMBER — No fees. Same low rate.

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Customer Signature _____ Date _____

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Mailing address: P.O. Box 816, Bloomington, IL 61702-0816

E-mail address: cbec@cornbeltenergy.com

Web address: www.cornbeltenergy.com

PHONE NUMBERS

DAY OR NIGHT

Northern (800) 654-1088

Central (800) 879-0339

FAX: (309) 663-4516

Office Hours: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm –
Monday thru Friday

APRIL 2003

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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

Put a little future in your life – plant a tree

April 25th is Arbor Day, so it's a great time to think about the benefit of planting trees, appropriate placement and proper care to maintain healthy trees. Cal Williams, a 30-year employee of Corn Belt Energy and Manager of Vegetation and Safety, says the best time to plant trees was 20 years ago. The next best time is today.

Some of the benefits of trees other than enhancing our landscape include:

- Provide shade in the summer by blocking the sun. This creates a cooling effect and reduces energy costs
- Provide shelter in winter against wind and snow, helping to reduce heating costs.
- Improve the air we breathe by producing oxygen and absorbing harmful chemicals such as carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide.
- Clean our air by filtering and trapping pollutants such as smoke, dust, and ash.
- Absorb water, which reduces the amount of topsoil that runs off into sewers and streams and holds moisture in the ground.
- Attract birds and wildlife making our physical environment more pleasant.

If you plant the wrong species in the wrong area, it defeats the purpose. Know the overall characteristics of the tree you are planting including mature dimensions, where it will grow best and its proper care. Your county agricultural extension agent can offer helpful information about selections, planting and recognizing and controlling diseases.

When considering placement, make sure there are no utility lines above or within reach of the tree's limbs when it matures. Did you know that tree limbs that have grown into electric lines can conduct electricity, therefore creating a hazardous situation? You can get electrocuted by climbing a tree that's touching a power line or even by touching low-hanging branches!



From left: Aaron Stacey, Forestry First year; Frank Kinnison, Forestry Foreman; and Cal Williams, Manager of Vegetation and Safety.

Trees in electric lines also create problems for maintaining continuity of electric service. That's why Corn Belt Energy has a Forestry Department that works hard to maintain clear paths to our substation right-of-way areas and respond to members' requests to trim trees that have grown into lines. They also keep very busy during storms clearing away debris so linemen can restore electricity. Corn Belt Energy is committed to being proactive with vegetation management to avoid hazardous situations before outages or hot spots occur.

Corn Belt Energy is very unique in that we have our own in-house Forestry Department. Cal Williams and Frank Kinnison studied for approximately one year to become International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborists*. In addition, Cal is an ISA Certified Utility Specialist. Both men have also completed the ACRT* program to become certified as line clearance arborists, as well as completing the Arborist Master Program.

(Continued on 16b)

(Continued from 16a)

Frank, the Forestry Foreman, has worked for Corn Belt for more than 26 years. Aaron Stacey, Forestry Apprentice, joined the company last year after working in forestry for more than 12 years with a utility contracting company. Aaron is also an IBEW Certified Journeyman. He plans to go through the ISA certification studies within the next year. The personnel in the Forestry Department continue to train and share their knowledge with our members.

Their objectives are to work safely and always save the tree if possible. Whenever they are trimming or taking down a tree, they have to be mindful of energized electric lines, people and structures in the area, and the weight of the tree above them. They must also consider a plan of escape in the event the tree falls their way. Their biggest challenge, they say, is when they're working near lines that are hot. Their tools are fiberglass and tested for safety. Most of the time, they're working at an average of 35 to 40 feet (the height of most of our distribution system), but they frequently work at greater heights. The bucket truck's working height is 55 feet, and they often have to climb the tree beyond that to reach the limbs they need to cut.

When they prune trees, they consider what is best for the tree, while allowing room for lines that sway from wind and sag from heat and ice loading. When it's necessary to completely remove a tree from a member's property, the Forestry Department may decide to trade a tree. On a case-by-case basis, the coop may offer a tree credit at a nursery of the member's choice to replace a tree that has grown into electric lines and cannot be saved. We often have calls for wood chips that are produced from the cuttings. When there are supplies available and time allows, we deliver the free mulch to members. The only problem is we have more requests than we have mulch available.

There are no shortage of stories the men in the Forestry Department have to tell about their experiences dealing with various wildlife and insects that live in trees. They often relocate birds' nests, baby squirrels, possums or raccoons to other trees. They've also experienced dodging bees and hornets or making quick escapes from skunks and charging livestock. Once they found

an osprey nest full of eggs, so they called the Illinois Department of Conservation to see when the eggs would be hatching. Because osprey is a protected species, they weren't able to take down the tree until after the nesting period was past.

The men are glad they have good equipment to work with and that the people of Corn Belt Energy are so safety conscious. They carefully maintain their saws and equipment to work safely and maximize the life of their equipment. This presents a challenge when they hit various objects that are imbedded into the trees such as nails, bullets and horse-hitching equipment.

Another responsibility of the Forestry Department is to clear vegetation that prevents electric crews from opening pad-mount transformers. These are the square cabinets that house the underground electric lines and are frequently located in subdivisions. Before planting around an underground transformer, make sure to read the sticker on the cabinet and follow directions. Improper planting near the transformer cabinet will hinder entry into our equipment, and create a safety hazard.

The Forestry Department wishes to express their appreciation to our members for their continued willingness to work with the cooperative's crews in order to safely manage vegetation near the utility's lines and equipment.

For additional information related to topping trees, buying high quality trees, recognizing tree hazards, avoiding tree and utility conflicts, pruning trees and avoiding tree damage during construction, contact us at (800) 879-0339.

**The ISA is known worldwide as a scientific and educational organization, where arborists share their experience and knowledge for the benefit of society. One of their codes of ethics is to hold paramount the safety and health of all people and endeavor to protect property and the environment in the performance of professional responsibilities.*

**ACRT is an international biological, environmental, and natural resource consulting firm, which provides training in utility and urban forestry, arboriculture, line clearance training and certification, environmental planning, asset management software and ecological sciences.*

PROPANE PARTNERS



PROPANE GAS USERS!

Corn Belt Energy is partnered with FS throughout our service territory to offer propane to you. For your convenience, propane charges are added to your existing electric bill.

Contact our office today for prices.



Call our office toll-free for details (800) 879-0339 or (800) 654-1088 ext. 235 or ext. 250

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Easy ways to pay

— Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) —

Contact us for an authorization form to begin having your energy bills automatically deducted from your bank account every month. We will still send you a paper bill, so you will see the amount of your bill and the date the withdrawal will occur.

— Automatic Credit Card Payment —

Contact us for an authorization form to have your energy bill charged to your credit card automatically each month on the billing due date.

— Online Payment —

Go to our Web site at www.cornbeltenergy.com and sign up for e-billing. Each month we will notify you when your bill is available to be viewed. Click on our link, and you can view and pay your bill online using Master Card or Visa credit or debit. You can also choose to eliminate the paper bill and receive the electronic bill only.

— Check by Phone —

Call us during regular business hours, and we will debit your bank account without writing a check. Just have the following information available:

- Corn Belt Energy account number
- Name of person(s) listed on the bank account
- Name of the bank
- Bank transit number (DFI number)
- Bank account number

— Credit Card by Phone —

Call us during regular business hours, and charge your energy bill. Have the following information available:

- Master Card or Visa
- Name listed on the card
- Credit card number
- Expiration date

— By Mail —

Send your payments to Corn Belt Energy Corporation, P.O. Box 816, Bloomington, IL 61702-0816. If you are paying for more than one account, include both bill stubs and indicate the amounts you want applied to each account.



Angie Haws, Member Accounts Representative

— At Our Office – Lobby or Drop Box —

Stop by our office located five miles southeast of Bloomington on US 150 at Towanda-Barnes Road. Our office hours are 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Or you can drop off your payment anytime at the drop box located outside our building.

Keep in touch

Keep reading the Electric Newslines and Illinois Country Living for the latest news about Corn Belt Energy, important billing and rate information, safety and health tips, and other energy-related news. Tell us your suggestions for future articles in the Newslines or Illinois Country Living.

Also, visit our Web site at www.cornbeltenergy.com for up-to-date information and links to other statewide and national energy sites.

NATURAL GAS NEWS

Get the latest news about our natural gas offer for 2003. Visit our Web site at www.cornbeltenergy.com or call us at (800) 879-0339, Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. We'll be happy to send you our new natural gas information.

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

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 in conjunction with **Illinois Cooperative Association, Inc. (Clear Talk)**

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- 800 Number 4.9¢ — 6.9¢ per minute — no fees
- Free calling cards 13.9¢ per minute (No surcharge)
- All switching fees will be reimbursed
- NO CODES TO DIAL
- Overseas calling e.g. United Kingdom: 8 cents per minute.
- Six-second increment billing

FREE Personal 800 NUMBER — *No fees. Same low rate.*

Corn Belt Energy Corporation, EnerStar Power Corp and Shelby Electric Cooperative, in conjunction with Illinois Cooperative Association, Inc. (Clear Talk) is offering long distance telephone service through PowerNet Global Communications. This long distance service is one of

the lowest-cost long distance services available. As you can see, you can call anywhere in the State of Illinois for a low \$0.049 per minute or anywhere out of state in the continental United States for \$0.069 per minute. In addition, you can have your own personal 800 number to receive calls from

family members or acquaintances. Incoming calls on your 800 number are billed at the same rates noted above. All rates are the same 24 hours a day — 7 days a week. There are no monthly fees, no minimums, or long-term agreements.

For additional information or to enroll by phone, call toll free: 1-888-414-4116 • Fax applications toll free to: 1-877-990-7466
Mail applications to: Clear Talk, 11596 Illinois Hwy. 1, Paris, IL 61944

Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Numbers (_____) _____ - _____ (_____) _____ - _____

Other Services Desired: Toll Free 800 Number Travel Cards...Number of cards requested _____

*If 800 service is desired, enter the telephone number it should ring to (_____) _____ - _____
 (existing 800 numbers may be transferred to this service...applicable forms are available upon request)

I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator/agent, to transfer my Interlata and Intralata (local toll) long distance service. I agree to financial responsibility for all charges arising from all long distance services provided. The service requested will be provisioned only on the approval of credit for the application. A service charge may be assessed by the local telephone company when they make the carrier change. PowerNet Global will reimburse any such charges if you enclose a copy of said charge when remitting a payment to PowerNet Global.

Customer Signature _____ Date _____

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

MAY 2003

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

Natural Gas Program

You may have recently received a natural gas brochure or renewal form from Corn Belt Energy. This offer is only available if Nicor Gas is your natural gas utility. If you have propane rather than natural gas, this offer is not available to you.

Corn Belt Energy has been participating in the Nicor Gas Customer Select Program for the past five years. We are licensed by the Illinois Commerce Commission to supply natural gas to customers in the Nicor Gas service territory.

Frequently Asked Questions

■ **What will change if I choose Corn Belt Energy as my natural gas supplier?**

The only change is that Corn Belt Energy will send you a monthly bill for your natural gas supply. Nicor will continue to bill you for delivering the natural gas through their distribution system.

■ **What will remain the same if Corn Belt Energy is my supplier?**

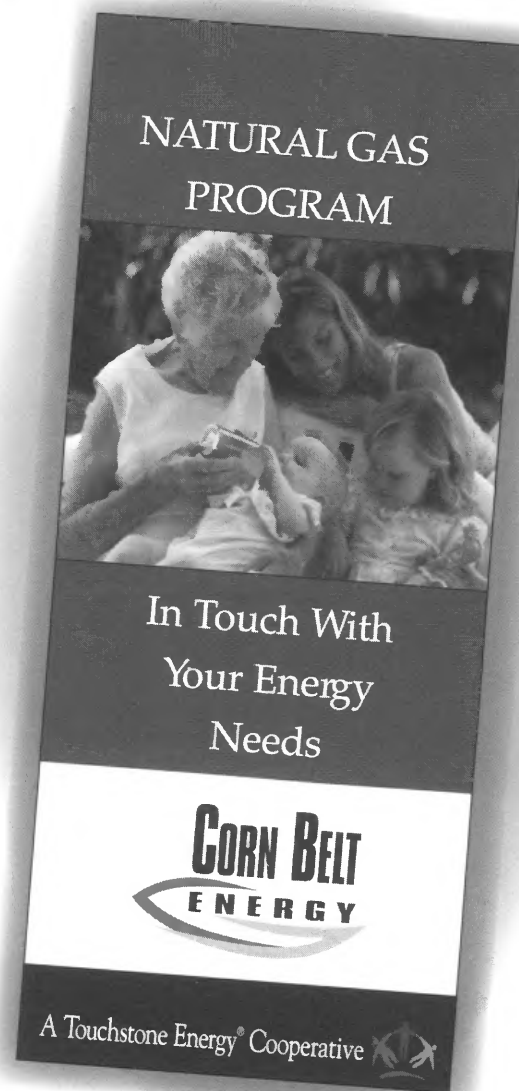
You will still contact Nicor regarding any gas emergencies, meter reading issues, gas service or billing questions related to the Nicor Gas charges.

■ **Will I save money by choosing Corn Belt Energy as my natural gas supplier?**

We do not guarantee a savings, but Corn Belt Energy has been able to offer a lower price than Nicor Gas during three out of the past four months. These were during the winter months, when our customers typically use the most natural gas.

■ **If I already have Corn Belt Energy as my natural gas supplier, do I have to complete another contract?**

If you want to renew, but do not want to change your billing or payment option, just call us, and we will extend your contract. If you want to change your billing or payment option, you need to complete the renewal form and return it to Corn Belt



Energy. If you are changing your billing option to actual billing with electronic funds transfer (EFT) or automatic credit card payment (ACC), make sure to complete the payment authorization form. For EFT, please include a voided check with your payment authorization form.

■ **I am already paying my Corn Belt Energy**
(Continued on 16b)

(Continued from 16a)

bill automatically. Do I have to fill out another payment authorization form?

No, you do not have to complete another payment authorization form. But if you are changing your billing option, make sure to return the renewal form stating which billing option you are selecting.

■ **What are the advantages of having Corn Belt Energy supply my natural gas?**

1. You are a member/owner of Corn Belt Energy. Therefore, you have a voice in the decisions we make.
2. You can call us directly and have your questions answered by experienced personnel who live and work in your community.
3. Corn Belt Energy does not charge a natural gas service charge or additional fees for various payment options as some other companies do.
4. As a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative, we are committed to the four key Touchstone Energy principles of business, which are accountability, integrity, innovation and commitment to community.
5. You can trust us to have your best interest in mind. We watch the natural gas market diligently and look for opportunities to offer

the best price to you.

■ **Can I switch to Corn Belt Energy if another company is currently my natural gas supplier?**

Yes, but check the cancellation policy on your current supplier's contract. Just submit your sign-up form to Corn Belt Energy, and we will notify Nicor Gas of your request to switch suppliers.

■ **Once I sign up, when will I start receiving natural gas from Corn Belt Energy?**

Once the application is processed by Corn Belt Energy and Nicor, we will send a confirmation card. Corn Belt Energy will begin supplying your natural gas starting with your meter reading following the enrollment. If your meter is read less than 14 days from your enrollment, Nicor Gas will delay the switch until the following month.

■ **How do I sign up?**

Complete the sign-up form and return it to Corn Belt Energy. We take care of the rest. If you didn't receive a brochure or renewal form, you can sign up on our Web site at www.cornbeltenergy.com or call us at (800) 879-0339, and we will send information or answer your questions.

Building a new home or structure?

Here are some tips that our Engineering Department suggests you keep in mind when building.

- **Communication** - Good communication between all interested parties is vital! This includes homeowners (both spouses), builder, electrician, plumber and contractors. If only one person is able to meet with the Corn Belt Energy engineer, that person should communicate details of the meeting to all other parties who are involved in the building project.
- **Decision makers should be present** - Be prepared to make decisions on locations of poles and/or underground transformer and any trenching that is needed.
- **Location** - Have the location of the house or building staked out or marked prior to meeting the engineer on site. This enables the engineer to determine the best route to install the new service.
- **Know the location of all privately-owned underground facilities** including septic systems, wells, geothermal lines, etc. J.U.L.I.E. will not mark private facilities. Have all underground lines and facilities clearly marked, so Corn Belt Energy can avoid them when poles or underground service is installed. Corn Belt Energy will call



Jason Cotner, Assistant Field Engineer, (left) and Steve Wheeler, Field Engineer, survey a member's building site.

J.U.L.I.E. prior to our installation to request locates for other utility lines.

- **Time** - Give the cooperative as much lead time as possible (at least 4-6 weeks) to allow for engineering work to be done in the field and for the construction work order to be created.
- **Meter base installation** - If we are providing an underground service to the new home or structure, make sure the meter base is in the

(Continued on 16c)

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

(Continued from 16b)

proper location. If you have questions about where to mount the meter base, contact the Engineering Department prior to installation.

- **Ask questions** - Don't be afraid to ask us questions. We are here to help your building project go as smoothly as possible.
- **Contact Names** - Supply the engineer with

the names of your builder and electrician as soon as this information becomes available.

Following these simple guidelines will allow us to do our job more effectively, and help make your building experience less stressful. To contact the Engineering Department, call (800) 879-0339, ext. 702.

Timber-frame builder in Knox County

One of the most beloved and time-honored of American construction methods is the timber-frame with its exposed network of posts, beams, and trusses. Bold and sturdy, it symbolizes all that is most endearing about the American pioneering spirit.

Rick Collins of Trillium Dell Timberworks in Knox County, Illinois (in Corn Belt Energy's northern region), explains timber-framing as "a centuries-old building system, which utilizes mortise and tenon joinery to connect timbers and form a structural framework, or skeleton. Wooden pegs secure the interlocking members, which are left fully exposed to the structure's interior. The result of this traditional, yet highly-evolved craft is a sturdy, spacious, organic home or building that is as aesthetically pleasing as it is functional." Trillium Dell Timberworks is in the process of building such a home for a couple in Peoria, Illinois.

There was a time when nearly every structure including houses, barns and other early buildings were built using timber-frame construction. Trillium Dell Timberworks specializes in the restoration of historic homes and barns. Trillium Dell has been involved in several exciting restoration projects including building the timber-frame on the lantern section of the Old Capitol Dome in Iowa City. This summer, they'll be dismantling a Greek revival home in Detroit, Michigan, and then erecting the structure in Sonoma, California. They will also be rebuilding the Phelps Barn in Elmwood, which was once a key location on the Underground Railroad. Trillium Dell is involved in the reconstruction of the 1804 version of historic Fort Massac in Metropolis, Illinois. PBS has filmed the fort project for an upcoming documentary.



To learn more about Trillium Dell Timberworks and keep updated on their upcoming projects, please visit online at www.trilliumdell.com or call (309) 289-7921 to schedule a visit and see their skilled craftspeople at work.

If you have a unique business or building style, contact Corn Belt Energy at (800) 879-0339, ext. 250.

OFFICE CLOSING  **MEMORIAL DAY**

Our offices will be closed May 26 in observance of Memorial Day.

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

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Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Numbers (_____) _____ - _____ (_____) _____ - _____

Other Services Desired: Toll Free 800 Number Travel Cards...Number of cards requested _____

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Customer Signature _____ Date _____

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

JUNE 2003

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

The closing of Sabina Elevator will impact more than just the harvest

Since 1914, local and world problems have been discussed, debated and resolved in a grain elevator office in Sabina, Illinois. If you've never been to Sabina, then you've missed meeting their 15 townspeople and some lively discussions in the Evergreen FS Sabina Elevator. Sabina is located on County Road 15, approximately seven miles east of LeRoy.

The Evergreen FS Sabina Elevator, a longtime Corn Belt Energy member, is the last remaining business in Sabina, and on July 1, it will also be closing. Evergreen FS board of directors made the decision to close the Sabina Elevator due to transportation limitations and declining economic conditions at the facility.

At one time, this little community was named Monarch, and there were several local businesses, including a second elevator, a post office, a general store, and a hotel. One-room schoolhouses dotted the rural areas of the county, and in 1950, four schoolhouses were moved together onto the property located at the four-way stop just north of town. Now the schools are gone as well as the other businesses. The U.S. Postal Service now considers this community Arrowsmith Rural Free Delivery.

The Illinois Central Railroad had a branch line that ran through Sabina. It was called the Pumpkin Vine. But trains quit running on the Pumpkin Vine, and the railroad tracks were removed in 1978, cutting off the main transportation source to move the grain to market.



Front row from left are Andy Goller, Claude Jiles, Paul Heagy and Keith Jiles. Back row from left are Harry Jiles, Bill Forrest, Dennis Mennenga and Bob Borngasser.

Since then, the elevator has depended solely on truck transportation, which is constrained by seasonal load limits on area roads.

So what is the impact of closing the last remaining business in a community of 15 people? For about 15 local farmers who haul 100 percent of their grain to this elevator, it will mean transporting the grain a little farther to another facility. For Dennis Mennenga, Manager of the Sabina, Glenavon and Weedman elevators for the past 27 years, he will be working at Arrowsmith. The Weedman and Glenavon facilities will also be closing. Dennis has purchased the Sabina Elevator property and will be using it for his own grain storage needs, and renting the other buildings on the property.

For the diverse group of young and old who make this stop a part of their daily routine, this is about more than a change in their routine. It's about a way of life. Paul Heagy, now of LeRoy, moved to rural Sabina in 1949. Andy Goller moved there in 1953. Others like Claude Jiles and his sons, Harry and Keith, have been stopping by the elevator to visit for most of their lives.

(Continued on 16b)

**The Corn Belt Energy Corporation office
will be closed**

Friday, July 4th

in observance of Independence Day.

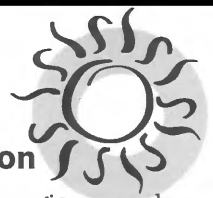
In the event of an electrical emergency, please call:

1-800-879-0339 – Central Region

1-800-654-1088 – Northern Region

Summer rates begin in June

Northern Region



Purchasing electricity in the summer is more costly than in the winter months due to greater demand created by summer air conditioning load. The greater demand creates the need to operate additional generating plants that are older and less efficient. These "peaking" plants are typically on standby during the non-summer months. This creates higher costs to the cooperative to buy electricity during peak months.

Central Region

The majority of our Central members are served on Residential Rate 1, which has summer and winter rate schedules. Other rates that have summer and winter rate schedules are Rates 2, 4, 5, 11 and 12. Summer rates are effective June 1 through August 31 and are reflected on the July through September bills. The interrupt period for water heating and air conditioning load management devices begins June 1 for Central region members.

The majority of our northern region members are served on Residential Rate 1, which has summer and winter rate schedules. Other rates that have summer and winter rate schedules are Rates 2, 4, 5 and 113. Summer rates are effective June 20 through September 20 and are reflected on the July through September bills.

Interruptible rates begin June 1st for members who are on rates that allow the cooperative to curtail usage during peak times.

If you anticipate difficulty paying your CBEC electric bill, contact our Member Services Department at 1-800-879-0339, extension 253, to set up a payment arrangement. We can also provide information about Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Energy saving tips for summer

- Close shades during the day to reduce solar heat gains. Outdoor awnings reduce heat gain through a window by as much as 90 percent while letting light in.
- Consider planting shade trees on the sunny side of the house.
- Leave storm windows on windows that don't need to be opened, or on windows in air-conditioned rooms. They help keep the heat outside.
- Use cross ventilation by using a fan to blow in a window on the cool side of the house which will push out hot air while pulling cool air into the rest of the house.
- When using air conditioning, set the thermostat at 78 degrees or higher - a reasonably comfortable and energy efficient indoor temperature. This will save you about 15 percent or more on cooling costs over a 72-degree setting.
- Don't set the thermostat at a colder than normal setting. It will not cool the house any faster, but, as with the furnace, will simply overshoot the desired temperature and waste energy.
- Clean or replace filters at least once a month. A dirty filter can lower your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5 to 15 percent.
- Turn off the air conditioner when you are going to be gone for several hours and draw the shades to keep heat out. It takes less energy to re-cool the house when you return than it does to keep it cool while you're gone.
- Don't place lamps or other heat-generating devices near the thermostat since it could sense this heat and make the air conditioner run longer than needed.
- Room air conditioners should fit snugly to window frames. If the seal between the air conditioner and the window frame isn't tight, cool air can easily escape from your home. Moisture can damage the seal, so inspect it annually.
- Have your central air conditioning unit checked and tuned when you have your furnace serviced.
- Periodically clean and vacuum the grills, coils and cooling fins and keep them clear of obstructions.

Source: Department of Energy (www.eren.doe.gov/consumerinfo/energy_savers/sourcebody.html)

Sabrina Elevator closing (Continued from cover)

The men recall the birthday and anniversary celebrations they've shared together. They also talk about when the top of the elevator was ripped away by a tornado that passed through in 1995. Once the newly constructed top was hoisted and set in place, they celebrated with a big cookout. Another time, an area farmer was severely injured in a farming accident, so about 20 farmers came together and harvested their neighbor's crops.

This is where a group of old friends have shared concerns about farming challenges, the economy, the

war and collected money for funeral flowers. This little elevator office is not unlike local gathering spots in most communities where people keep in touch with each other and the needs of their neighbors, sharing a cup of coffee, some good stories and lots of laughs. For people who are caught up in the "rat race" of daily routine, many don't take the time any more to build relationships with their neighbors that last a lifetime. This group of Sabina area farmers reminds us that life is so much richer, when you share it with others in your community.

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Summer Safety Tips

Summertime means kids are out of school, adults are on vacation, and it's time for outdoor activities like riding bikes and hosting barbecues. However, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) warns that summer is also the time of year consumers are most likely to be injured. Here are some tips to keep you and your family safe this summer:



completely covers the springs and place the trampoline away from structures, other play areas or electric lines. Kids under 6-years-old should not use full-size trampolines.

- Don't allow a game of hide-n-seek to become deadly. CPSC has received reports of numerous suffocation deaths involving children who crawled inside old cedar chests, latch-type freezers and refrigerators, iceboxes in campers, clothes dryers and picnic coolers. Childproof old appliances and warn children not to play inside them.

- Wear a helmet and other safety gear when biking, skating, skateboarding, riding scooters, all-terrain vehicles and horses. Studies on bicycle helmets have shown they can reduce the risk of head injury by as much as 85 percent.
- Prevent a swimming pool tragedy by placing barriers completely around your pool to prevent access, using door and pool alarms, closely supervising your child, and being prepared in case of an emergency.



- Never bring charcoal grills indoors. Burning charcoal produces deadly carbon monoxide.

- On outdoor gas grills, check the air tubes that lead into the burner for any blockage from insects

or food grease. Check grill hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes and leaks. Make sure there are no sharp bends in the hose or tubing. If you ever detect a leak, immediately turn off the gas at the tank and don't attempt to light the grill until the leak is fixed.

- Make sure your home playground is safe. Falls cause 60 percent of playground injuries, so having a safe surface is critical. Concrete, asphalt or packed dirt surfaces are too hard. Use at least 9 inches of wood chips or mulch.
- Use softer-than standard baseballs, safety-release bases and batting helmets with face guards to reduce baseball-related injuries to children.
- Movable soccer goals can fall over and kill children. Make sure the goal is anchored securely at all times and never allow anyone to climb on the net or goal framework or hang from the cross bar. Remove nets when the goals are not in use.
- To prevent serious injuries while using a trampoline, allow only one person on at a time, and do not allow somersaults. Use a shock-absorbing pad that

- If you want heat inside your tent or camper, use one of the new portable heaters that are equipped with an oxygen depletion sensor (ODS). If oxygen levels start to fall inside your tent or camper, the ODS automatically shuts down the heater before it can produce deadly levels of carbon monoxide (CO). Do not attempt to use alternative sources of heat or power to warm a tent or camper. Traditional camping heaters, charcoal grills, camping lanterns, and gas generators also can cause CO poisoning.

- Install window guards to prevent children from falling out of open windows. Guards should be installed in rooms where young children spend time. Or, install window stops that permit windows to open no more than four inches. Whenever possible, open windows from the top-not the bottom. Also, keep furniture away from windows to discourage children from climbing near windows.

- Summer means yard work. When mowing, keep small children out of the yard and turn the mower off if children enter the area. If the lawn slopes, mow across the slope with a walk-behind rotary mower, never up and down. With a riding mower, drive up and down the slope, not across it. Never carry children on a riding mower.



Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Web site at www.cpsc.gov/talk.html.

Natural gas news

If Nicor Gas is your natural gas utility, you are eligible to choose Corn Belt Energy as your natural gas supplier. We are offering very competitive pricing, additional billing options and no extra charge for any of our payment

options. Call us toll free at 866-806-3411, if you have questions, or visit our Web site at www.cornbeltenergy.com.

Support your cooperative, and choose CBEC as your supplier.

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Now available from **Corn Belt Energy Corporation,**
EnerStar Power Corp and Shelby Electric Cooperative,
 in conjunction with **Illinois Cooperative Association, Inc. (Clear Talk)**

-NO NONSENSE- LONG DISTANCE



NO MONTHLY FEES • NO MINIMUM USAGE • NO TERM AGREEMENT

4.9¢

ALL CALLS IN ILLINOIS

6.9¢

ALL CALLS OUT OF STATE

- Free to join • No monthly fees • No monthly minimums
- No term agreements • Major carrier
- 800 Number 4.9¢ — 6.9¢ per minute — no fees
- Free calling cards 13.9¢ per minute (No surcharge)
- All switching fees will be reimbursed
- NO CODES TO DIAL
- Overseas calling e.g. United Kingdom: 8 cents per minute.
- Six-second increment billing

FREE Personal 800 NUMBER — *No fees. Same low rate.*

Corn Belt Energy Corporation, EnerStar Power Corp and Shelby Electric Cooperative, in conjunction with Illinois Cooperative Association, Inc. (Clear Talk) is offering long distance telephone service through PowerNet Global Communications. This long distance service is one of

the lowest-cost long distance services available. As you can see, you can call anywhere in the State of Illinois for a low \$0.049 per minute or anywhere out of state in the continental United States for \$0.069 per minute. In addition, you can have your own personal 800 number to receive calls from

family members or acquaintances. Incoming calls on your 800 number are billed at the same rates noted above. All rates are the same 24 hours a day — 7 days a week. There are no monthly fees, no minimums, or long-term agreements.

For additional information or to enroll by phone, call toll free: 1-888-414-4116 • Fax applications toll free to: 1-877-990-7466
Mail applications to: Clear Talk, 11596 Illinois Hwy. 1, Paris, IL 61944

Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Numbers (_____) _____ - _____ (_____) _____ - _____

Other Services Desired: Toll Free 800 Number Travel Cards...Number of cards requested _____

*If 800 service is desired, enter the telephone number it should ring to (_____) _____ - _____
 (existing 800 numbers may be transferred to this service...applicable forms are available upon request)

I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator/agent, to transfer my Interlata and Intralata (local toll) long distance service. I agree to financial responsibility for all charges arising from all long distance services provided. The service requested will be provisioned only on the approval of credit for the application. A service charge may be assessed by the local telephone company when they make the carrier change. PowerNet Global will reimburse any such charges if you enclose a copy of said charge when remitting a payment to PowerNet Global.

Customer Signature _____ Date _____

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

PHONE NUMBERS	
DAY OR NIGHT	
Northern	(800) 654-1088
Central	(800) 879-0339
FAX: (309) 663-4516	
Office Hours: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm - Monday thru Friday	

JULY 2003

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

Include Prairie Aviation Museum in your summer plans

The Prairie Aviation Museum is located two miles east of Veterans Parkway on E. Empire (IL Route 9) just west of the former Bloomington airport terminal. The 2,400 square foot facility (with the red canopy out front) is filled to the brim with an extensive aviation and space collection.

Stop by and learn about the history of military, commercial and general aviation. Among the artifacts is a remnant of Charles Lindbergh's plane that crashed near Bloomington. You'll also see an engine from a B-29 Super Fortress aircraft used in the Pacific Theatre during WWII. There's also a mini-theatre, museum store and outdoor displays of historically important aircraft, helicopters and military vehicles.

Included in their collection of aircraft is a 1942 vintage DC-3 with a 1950s Ozark Airlines paint scheme. This aircraft became the first DC-3 listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It has been fully restored inside and out, including replacing the electrical panels and avionics. The airplane is IFR (Instrument Flight Rules) certified and is flown regularly for contract appearances, air shows, flight training, recurrent check rides and scheduled flights. For a fee, you or your group can experience a 25-minute flight during daylight hours or in the evening. Sit back and relax in one of the nine first-class seats, while the crew of two pilots and one flight attendant give you the "Tour of the Heartland." What a great idea for a special birthday surprise, anniversary gift, date or corporate event!

Best-known as the "Gooney Bird," the DC-3 was the primary aircraft used to transport troops and equipment during WWII. After the war, Continental and Southern Airway (now Northwest Airlines) used this aircraft for commercial flights. Later, it was privately owned by a Texas billionaire and once transported the famous actress, Grace Kelly.



Norm Wingler, pictured here with a B-29 engine.

History of the Prairie Aviation Museum

In 1983, Norm Wingler, along with others, organized a group of local aviation fans and supporters to form a not-for-profit educational corporation. Their vision was to keep aviation history alive through presenting air shows, exhibits at events, traveling presentations and an operational DC-3 aircraft. In 1984, they discovered this DC-3, which by that time was a neglected old relic. Together, they repaired the aircraft and flew it back to its new home in Bloomington, where it was fully restored to the classic DC-3 that it is today.

Currently, there are nearly 400 museum members who donate their time,

(Continued on 16b)

(Continued from 16a)

talents and financial support. Their mission is to "Inspire generations to accomplish things that may at first appear impossible."

Museum volunteers have created a youth group (ages 7-17) dedicated to aviation interests. The group is called "The Soaring Cobras." Monthly meetings include airport tours, guest speakers, field trips, painting outdoor displays and planning for the Annual Youth Day at the airport. The Cobras also take an active part in various museum events.

Major funding for the museum comes from the Prairie Air Show. This year, the Air Show will be held Saturday, July 5th and Sunday, July 6th at the Greater Peoria Airport and will feature the U.S. Thunderbirds.

In July, the Prairie Aviation Museum and Heartland Community College will sponsor the second annual Space and Aviation Camp, "Wings of Flight," for students entering grades 6-8. All slots are filled for the eight-session camp, which provides hands-on activities such as rocket model building, exploring the night sky, and learning about hot air balloons and other aircraft. Certified teachers, licensed pilots, aviation enthusiasts and museum personnel will provide the instruction.

Vision for the future

Plans have been developed to create a Challenger Learning Center. The Grand Opening is

scheduled for December 17, 2003, which is the 100-year anniversary of the historical Wright Brothers flight. Families of the crew members who were lost in the Challenger space shuttle tragedy developed this program for students in grades 5-8. It includes flying a simulated space mission with hands on learning opportunities in math, English, technology, science, teamwork and problem solving skills.

Plans also include constructing a new 49,000-foot facility to house the vast collection of aviation memorabilia the museum has acquired and hangars to protect aircraft from the elements. The two-story complex flanked by two large hangars will be built on public property at the Central Illinois Regional Airport. It will have a 60-seat theater, an "Edventure" Room (with a wonderland of interactive modules and computer simulations), display galleries, conference center, gift shop, two hangars complete with a canteen and the Challenger Learning Center.

For additional information about the museum or to learn how you can share in the vision, call (309) 663-7632 or visit their Web site at www.prairieaviationmuseum.org.

Discover other fun things to do this summer by calling your local Chamber of Commerce or visiting their Web sites. Here are some sites you might want to check out: www.enjoyillinois.com, www.visitbn.org, www.princeton-il.com.

Cooperative upgrades Norway substation

In May, capacity at the Norway substation almost doubled when Corn Belt Energy personnel installed a 5/7 MVA transformer at the site. This is the first self-contained 3-phase transformer to be installed in the Northern Region. The substation capacity was increased as a proactive move to accommodate continued residential growth in the Norway substation area. This substation serves members in areas around Norway, Sheridan, Newark, and the east side of the Fox River.

A typical residential member is served by a 10 kVA transformer. A 5/7 MVA transformer is 5,000-7,000 kVA, or 500-700 times the capacity of a single residential transformer.

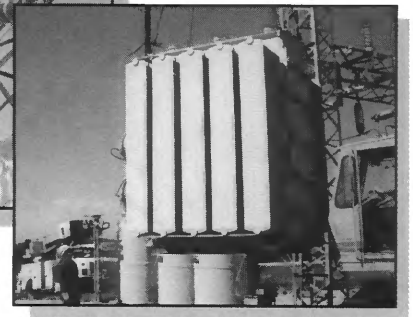
Nine linemen worked all day



Northern Region Maintenance Foreman Tom Dixon, left, and Central Region Substation Foreman Mike Butler prepare to hook-up the new transformer.

to transport the unit from the Central Office in Bloomington, remove and upgrade existing equipment, and install and energize the new transformer.

May was the optimum time to upgrade the equipment since electric consumption peaks dur-



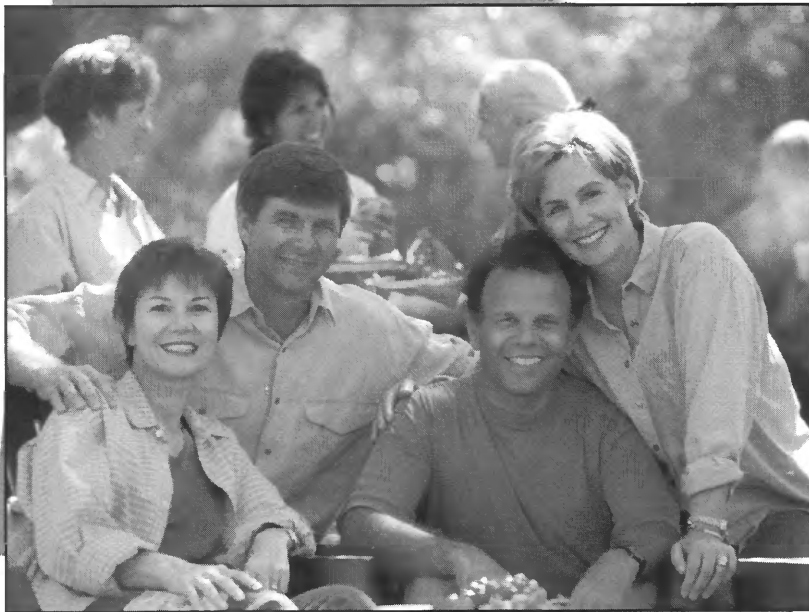
ing summer months. Power was supplied through The Wedron substation during the transition, so that no members experienced service interruption.

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Let your friends and neighbors help pay your gas bill

Every time one of your friends or neighbors sign up for natural gas from Corn Belt Energy Corporation (CBEC), you can receive a \$10.00 credit on your gas bill! Here's how it works:

- You must already be a CBEC natural gas customer.
- The person you are referring must have Nicor Gas as their natural gas utility and not currently supplied natural gas by CBEC.
- Nicor and CBEC must accept the new customer for participation in this program.
- The referral credit will be applied to your natural gas account once Nicor and CBEC have processed the new application. Allow up to two months for the credit to appear on your bill.
- Residential and commercial customers are eligible to participate.
- You may refer as many new



customers as you like, and a \$10 credit will be applied to your natural gas account for each new customer (not per meter).

- Only one credit will be given per new customer. If more

than one customer refers the same person, the first referral Corn Belt Energy receives will be honored.

- Call toll free: (866) 806-3411 for additional referral coupons.

CORN BELT ENERGY REFERRAL COUPON

Good for \$10 credit toward natural gas bill

I refer the following person to Corn Belt Energy Corporation (CBEC) for natural gas. I understand this credit will apply only if this person's application for natural gas service is accepted by CBEC and Nicor Gas. Offer expires September 2, 2003.

Send brochure to:

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

My Name _____

CBEC Gas Acct. Number _____ Phone _____

**Return Referral Coupon to: Corn Belt Energy Corporation, P.O. Box 816,
Bloomington, IL 61702 Attention: Gas Dept.**

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives® partner with Discovery Channel School

When middle school students in Corn Belt Energy's service territory go back to school in the fall, they will get energized about the world of electricity. Wabash Valley Power Association (CBEC's power supplier), in conjunction with Corn Belt Energy representatives are delivering Get Charged! kits for 5th - 9th grade science classes. This is a new educational initiative sponsored by Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, in partnership with Discovery Channel School, a provider of educational materials to schools nationwide.

The Get Charged! Program, administered through Touchstone Energy's more than 600 local electric cooperatives, is designed to answer basic questions about electricity - where it comes from, how it works and how to use it safely. The goal is to give students a real-world understanding of electric power, and the important role electric cooperatives play in delivering the "juice" that powers our everyday lives.

The kits provide educational tools, including videos, CD-



Touchstone Energy®

ROMs, a Teacher's Resource Guide, student activity books and other collateral materials - all at no charge - to augment the existing curriculum.

"Touchstone Energy cooperatives are committed to the communities," says Tom Upsaw, chair of the Touchstone Energy board of directors. "The Get Charged! Program is a natural outgrowth of the schools' safety programs that electric co-ops have provided."

Discovery Channel School products have been developed by the world's most respected brand for television quality and recognized by leading educational groups for their excellence. Drawing on Discovery's award winning programming for much of its content, the curriculum and materials used in the Get Charged! Program represents a first-time partner-



Marketing and Member Relations Coordinator Barb Casper, left, and Engineering Clerk Jill Dirr prepare the Get Charged! Program materials for delivery to local schools.

ship for Discovery with a non-educational entity to provide content directly to schools.

"Lots of kids are still in the dark about electricity," said Paul Thomas, Vice President, Discovery Education. "We're delighted to partner with Touchstone Energy cooperatives to help get kids energized about electric power."

Time is running out to sign up for our new natural gas offer.

Visit us at www.cornbeltenergy.com

and see how our prices have compared to Nicor. Check out our new offer with competitive pricing and additional billing and payment options! Sign up online, or call us toll free at (866) 806-3411 for additional information.

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

AUGUST 2003

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

Tornadoes can strike without warning

On average, 770 tornadoes are reported annually in the United States. Recently, Susan Bohm, Payable Accountant for Corn Belt Energy, learned how important it is to keep your eye on the sky, even when there are no weather warnings for your immediate area.

The grass and sky looked unusually green on the evening of May 30 when Susan looked out her kitchen window. It was about 7:25 p.m., and the sun was shining all around a large, flat, black cloud. The tail of the cloud was breaking a clear horizon. There was a small amount of hail, but nothing to be alarmed about. Tornado warnings had been issued for La Salle and Woodford Counties, but none for Mason County, where Susan's home is located. (Even if there had been a tornado warning for Forest City, there is no emergency siren to alert its 150 residents.)

Then Susan noticed leaves and dirt churning up from the ground about 1/2 mile away. She called for her husband, Tom, to come look out the window. About that time, they saw a spark from a utility pole nearby, and the power went out. They quickly made the decision to go to the basement. Once downstairs, the air pressure was so "unbelievable," they couldn't hear. Susan and Tom could see debris flying past their basement window.

In just a few minutes, the pressure in their ears stopped, the sky was brighter and the wind subsided. They headed back upstairs to assess any damage. Broken glass from eight windows covered the floors, and there was a gaping four-foot hole in the kitchen ceiling, where a large tree had crashed. Once outside, they saw that the roof of the machine shed was gone and debris surrounded them on all sides. Large trees



were pulled from the ground and laid on their sides.

Their surrounding neighbors also suffered damage including destroyed outbuildings (including a 600-bale hay barn), a windmill, downed trees, broken windows, siding ripped from their homes, and a totally demolished vehicle. Some structures and equipment had completely vanished from their properties. But, thankfully, all of the residents were safe.

None of them suspected the tornado would hit there. After all, no one saw a funnel cloud, the media hadn't warned of a tornado in their county, and no one heard the sound of a freight train that's typically reported when a tornado hits. The air pressure had been so great, they couldn't hear at all!

According to the National Weather Service, don't be fooled by a blue sky. When you hear of a tornado watch or warning, keep your eye on the sky for signs of a possible tornado and listen to the radio for the latest advice from the National Weather Service. Also consider that weather conditions change very quickly, and tornadoes can occur without warning, or you may be out of range of emergency sirens. Stay alert to changing weather and know when to take cover.

(Continued on 16b)

What should you do if you spot a tornado or hear a warning siren and



■ You're in your home, office or school

- Get away from windows
- The safest place to be is underground. Go to the basement if possible.
- If there is no basement, go to an inside closet, bathroom or hallway on the lowest level of the building away from windows, and lie flat. The more walls between you and the outside, the better.
- Get under a mattress or protect your head with your hands.



■ You're in a mobile home

- Get out! Even if it's tied down, a mobile home can be shattered by a tornado.
- Go to a safer place. If you can't get to a shelter, as a last resort, go outside and lie flat in a ditch covering your head and neck with your hands. Be alert for flash floods that often accompany such storms.



■ You're outside or in a car

- Get inside a strong building if possible.
- Don't try to outrun the tornado in a car. Tornadoes can toss cars and trucks through the air like toys.
- Get out of your car and lay flat in a ditch. Watch for downed power lines and stay away.
- Cover your head and neck with your hands.



Sources: www.noaa.gov, www.fema.gov, www.statefarm.com

PAY YOUR ENERGY BILL ONLINE

www.cornbeltenergy.com

■ REPORT STREET LIGHTS OUT OF SERVICE ONLINE ■ REPORT VEGETATION PROBLEMS ONLINE

A better sports drink

Here's a sports drink idea that both works and tastes great – and you make it yourself. It's a glass of orange juice with a pinch of added salt and diluted with an equal amount of water.

This electrolyte-rich beverage provides roughly the same number of calories and grams of

carbohydrate as commercially prepared sports drinks.

And because orange juice contains fructose (fruit sugar), studies show it may help keep levels of blood sugar more stable than



commercial drinks made with glucose.

Source: *American Running Association; Journal of Sports Medicine and Physical Fitness*, Vol. 40, Pg. 343

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Energy saving tips for summer

- Close shades during the day to reduce solar heat gains. Outdoor awnings reduce heat gain through a window by as much as 90 percent while letting light in.
 - Consider planting shade trees on the sunny side of the house.
 - Leave storm screens on windows that don't need to be opened, or on windows in air-conditioned rooms. They help keep the heat outside.
 - Use cross ventilation by using a fan to blow in a window on the cool side of the house, which pushes hot air out while pulling cool air into the rest of the house.
 - When using air conditioning, set the thermostat at 78° or higher - a reasonably comfortable and energy efficient indoor temperature.
- This will save you about 15 percent or more on cooling costs over a 72° setting.
- Don't set the thermostat at a colder than normal setting. It will not cool the house any faster, but, as with the furnace, will simply overshoot the desired temperature and waste energy.
 - Clean or replace filters at least once a month. A dirty filter can lower your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5 to 15 percent.
 - Turn off the air conditioner when you are leaving for several hours and draw the shades to keep heat out. It takes less energy to re-cool the house when you return than it does to keep it cool while you are gone.
 - Don't place lamps or other heat-generating devices near the thermostat since it could sense this heat and make the air conditioner run longer than needed.
- Room air conditioners should fit snugly to window frames. If the seal between the air conditioner and the window frame isn't tight, cool air can easily escape from your home. Moisture can damage the seal, so inspect it annually.
 - Have your central air conditioning unit checked and tuned when you have your furnace serviced.
 - Periodically clean and vacuum grills, coils and cooling fins, and keep them clear of obstructions.

Source: Department of Energy; www.eren.doe.gov/consumerinfo/energy_savers/sourcebody.html

CREDITS for Central Region Interruptible Switches

During the months of June, July, August and September, participating members are credited \$9 per month for air conditioning switches and \$4.50 per month for electric water heater switches. These switches allow Corn Belt Energy to limit electric usage to appliances during peak times.

Participating members receive credit on July, August, September and October bills. Call Member Services for more program information. (800) 879-0339, Ext. 222, Ext. 253 or Ext. 228.

September 2 is the deadline to sign up for natural gas

Visit us at www.cornbeltenergy.com

and see how our prices have compared to Nicor. Check out our new offer with competitive pricing and additional billing and payment options! Sign up online, or call us toll free at (866) 806-3411 for additional information.

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Average Energy Costs for Some Household Appliances

<i>Large Appliances</i>	<i>USE</i>	<i>KWH</i>	<i>COST/MONTH</i>
Air Conditioner - 5,000 - 8,000 BTU 12,000 - 14,000 BTU	8 hr/day 8 hr/day	125 320	\$13 \$32
Water Heater - Conventional	24 hr/day	400	\$28
Dishwasher - Without hot water Hot water costs	1 load/day	25 105	\$2 \$7
Washer/Dryer - Clothes Washer (w/o hot water) Warm wash/cold rinse cost Clothes Dryer (40-mins. cycle)	8 loads/wk 8 loads/wk	11 98 96	\$1 \$7 \$7
Range/Oven -	Average/month	45	\$3
Refrigerator (19-25 cu. ft.) Before 1980 After 1980	Average/month Average/month	140 - 300 75 - 200	\$10 - \$21 \$5 - \$14
Freezer (12-20 cu. ft.) Before 1980 After 1980	Average/month Average/month	130 - 200 70 - 150	\$9 - \$14 \$5 - \$11
<i>Small Appliances</i>	<i>USE</i>	<i>KWH</i>	<i>COST/MONTH</i>
Clock	24hr/day	1.4	10 cents
Coffee maker	8 min/day	5.0	35 cents
Fans (ceiling or stand-up)	4 hr/ day	12.0	\$1.00
Hair Dryer	10 min/day	6.0	42 cents
Iron	10 min/day	2.5	18 cents
Microwave Oven	20 min/day	15.0	\$1.05
Radio	6 hr/day	.9 - 12.6	6 - 88 cents
Television	6 hr/day	18 - 36	\$2.52
Toaster	4 min/day	3.0	21 cents
Vacumn Cleaner	10 min/day	3.3	23 cents
Lights Standard bulbs 75w Standard bulbs 100 w Fluorescent, 4 - foot tube Fluorescent, compact	3 hr/day 3 hr/day 3 hr/day 3 hr/day	5.4 9 4.0 1.4	38 cents 63 cents 28 cents 10 cents
Computers Computer Printer, laser	2.5 hr/day 15 min/day	15 1.9	\$1.05 13 cents

Cost per month estimates are rounded based on 7 cents winter/10 cents summer per kilowatt-hour and average use for a family of four. Actual costs will vary according to each household's billing rate, usage, activities, and number, age, type, style, and efficiency of appliances.

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

CENTRAL REGION
DAY OR NIGHT • (800) 879-0339

NORTHERN REGION
DAY OR NIGHT • (800) 654-1088

Reporting an outage?

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

Before you call CBEC:

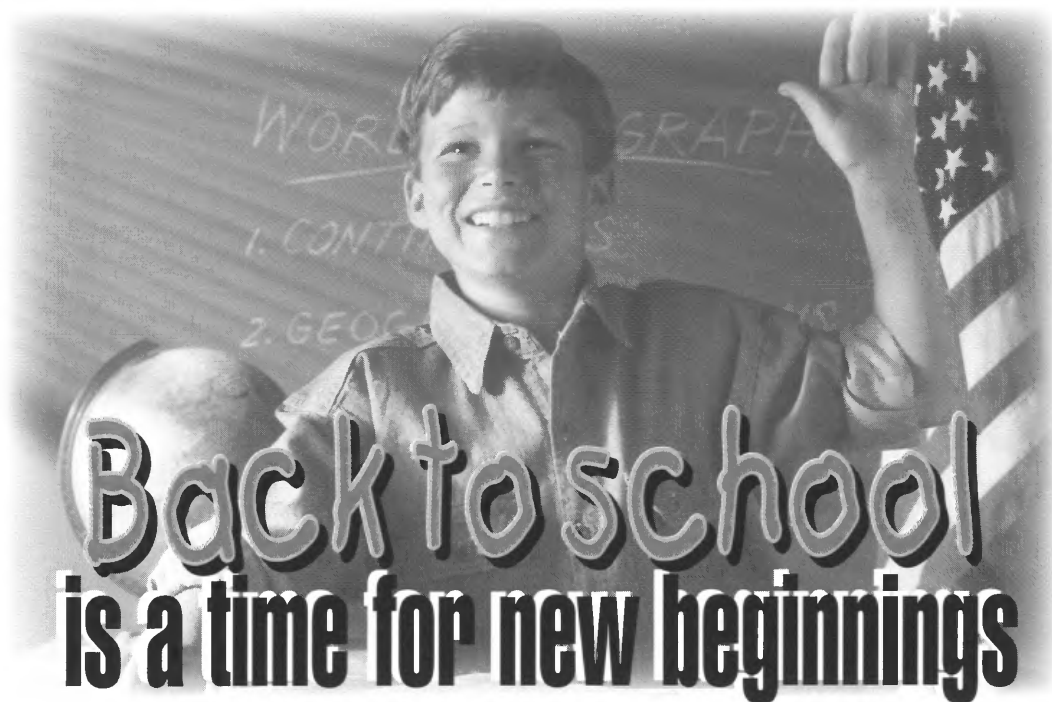
1. Look around the neighborhood to see if other homes on your line have lights.
2. If they do, you probably still have electricity.
3. Often, inserting a new fuse or switching the breaker to "on" will restore your power.
4. If we send a crew out and the problem is in your equipment, we'll bill you \$50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

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

SEPTEMBER 2003

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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



The beginning of a new school year is a good time to talk with your children about ways to make the following year fun, safe and successful. By planning ahead and establishing guidelines, you can help reduce your child's anxieties about starting the new school term.

■ **Bedtime routine**

Establish a bedtime and the best time to get up in the morning. Allow time for breakfast as well as a cushion for unexpected surprises. Prepare for the next day before going to bed each night. Lay out clothes, including socks and shoes, backpack including books, supplies, workbooks, completed homework assignments, signed notes to be returned to the teacher, and lunch money (or have a prepared sack lunch in the refrigerator). If the child is participating in after-school activities, make sure to pack any necessary items for those events.

■ **Central calendar**

Include children's and parent's schedules on a central calendar. If you have a home computer, you can enter the week's activities on the calendar within your e-mail system, and print copies for each family member. Or buy your child a simple pocket calendar with a phone section, that he/she can carry to school. Encourage him/her to keep the calendar updated with project deadlines. This helps to form good planning skills. Include contact and emergency phone numbers.

■ **Communication**

Keep communication open with your child and with teachers. Talk with your child about their day, know who his/her friends are and if there are any problems with school work or relationships. Introduce yourself to teachers and stay in touch. Call or send notes occasionally to let the teacher know you are interested in

(Continued on 16b)

(Continued from 16a)

knowing the child's progress. Be involved in your child's school and studies.

■ Safety

Talk to your child about safety when boarding and unloading the school bus. If your child will be alone after school, set strict rules about reporting in when he/she gets home, taking phone calls, answering the door, having friends over and cooking. Before allowing your child to be alone after school, give serious consideration to other alternatives.

■ Talk about avoiding temptations

Talk to your child about drugs, drinking, smoking and other temptations. Set clear rules and discuss in advance the consequences of breaking them.

■ Study habits and homework

Provide books, supplies and a special place for studying. Establish a routine time for study/homework, such as right after he/she gets home from school or immediately following dinner.

■ Overcoming school stress

Here are some ways to help your child overcome school stress:


1. Have realistic expectations.
2. Teach some simple relaxation techniques.
3. Identify their learning style and ways to learn information.
4. Provide nutritious meals.
5. Be consistent about bedtimes.
6. Cut down on chaos at home by preparing the night before.
7. Don't over-commit the child with too many extra activities.
8. Spend time having fun.
9. Help them prepare for tests and manage time wisely.
10. Be available to listen.

Sounds-like QUIZ

Get your brain cells working by saying the following phrases out loud, over and over, and faster and faster until you hear the answer. Example: Lawn Sand Jealous (place)

Answer: Los Angeles. *Answers are located to the right.*

1. Shock Cussed Toe (person) _____
2. Sand Tack Laws (fictional character) _____
3. My Gulch Hoard Un (person) _____
4. Mow Bead Hick (book) _____
5. Tall Mischief Her Sun (person) _____
6. Chick He Tub Ban An Us (product) _____
7. Though Tight An Hick (thing) _____
8. Aisle Oh View (phrase) _____
9. Tub Raid Heap Hunch (TV show) _____
10. Caress Trougher Clump Us (person) _____
11. Docked Hearse Whose (person) _____
12. Thumb Ill Key Wake Owl Licks He (place) _____
13. Age Ant Hub Blows Heaven (fictional character) _____
14. These Hound Dove Moo Sick (movie) _____
15. Buck Spun He (fictional character) _____



(1) Jacques Cousteau; (2) Santa Claus; (3) Michael Jordan; (4) Moby Dick; (5) Thomas Jefferson; (6) Chiquita Banana; (7) The Titanic; (8) I love you; (9) The Brady Bunch; (10) Christopher Columbus; (11) Doctor Seuss; (12) The Milky Way Galaxy; (13) Agent 007; (14) The Sound of Music; (15) Bugs Bunny

ANSWERS

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

CENTRAL REGION
DAY OR NIGHT • (800) 879-0339

NORTHERN REGION
DAY OR NIGHT • (800) 654-1088

Reporting an outage?

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

Before you call CBEC:

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

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Corn Belt Energy names Princeton man as new Vice President

Patrick Griggs was named as Corn Belt Energy Corporation's Vice President of Electric Distribution on July 1, 2003. He replaces Tony Campbell, who accepted the position of CEO/President with a Missouri electric cooperative.

Mr. Griggs joined the cooperative in June of 1981, while it was still Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative. In 1999, Corn Belt Electric Cooperative merged with Illinois Valley Electric Co-

operative and formed Corn Belt Energy Corporation.

Prior to accepting this vice presidential position, Mr. Griggs was the Manager of Engineering and Power Use in Corn Belt Energy's Northern Region. As Vice President of Electric Distribution, he will be responsible for all electric operations including distribution, engineering, vegetation management, construction and maintenance.



View your bill online

Would you like to see your energy bill as soon as it's generated? If you tell us your e-mail address or sign up for e-billing at our Web site, Corn Belt Energy will send you an e-mail as soon as your bill is calculated. When you click on the hyperlink in the e-mail message, you can go directly to your account information, where you can view your bill or pay online using your credit card, debit card or check.

Many of our members are choosing e-billing because they like the quick notification and convenience of paying online. **And best of all, this**

online service is available to you at no cost!

To sign-up for e-billing, include your e-mail address on your bill stub, when you pay your bill, or go to our Web site at www.cornbeltenergy.com. Then select "Direct Link For Electronic Billing." Click on yes and enter your e-mail address and password. That's all there is to it!

If you'd prefer to only receive an e-bill notification, you can turn off the printed statement when you view your first bill online. Just go to the bottom of the page where your bill is displayed, and

select "Turn On/Off Printed Statement."

Please Note: Make sure you update your e-mail address in our e-bill system if you change your e-mail address. If you have turned off the printed statement and we have an incorrect e-mail address, you won't receive an e-mail or paper bill, and your account could become delinquent.

While you're at our Web site, check out the other information and online services. You might be surprised to know what other services Corn Belt Energy has available to you.

Last chance to sign up for natural gas with Corn Belt Energy

All applications must be received in our office by **September 2, 2003**, in order to select Corn Belt Energy for your natural gas supplier. Don't miss out!

We offer competitive pricing, simple terms and personalized customer service. For more information or to sign up online, visit us at www.cornbeltenergy.com, or call toll free at (866) 806-3411, and we'll be happy to answer any questions for you. If you've already received our natural gas brochure, complete the form and return it to our office or fax it to (309) 663-4516.

Let Corn Belt Energy be your total energy supplier.

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Winter rates begin

CENTRAL REGION winter rates begin

Sept. 1st for the following rates:

- Rate 1 - Residential & Farm
- Rate 2 - Residential & Farm 3 Phase
- Rate 4 - General Service 3 Phase
- Rate 5 - General Service Over 50 kW
- Rate 12 - Residential Electric Heat Apartments

Rate 11 Residential & Farm Service Interruptible winter rate begins Oct. 1. Credits end Sept. 30 for Central Region Load Management Interrupt Programs.

NORTHERN REGION winter rates begin

Sept. 21 for the following rates:

- Rate 1 - Residential, Campground & Farm - Single Phase
- Rate 2 - Residential & Farm Service - 3 Phase
- Rate 4 - General Service - 3 Phase
- Rate 5 - General Service >50 kw - 3 Phase
- Rate 19 - Electric Heat - Separately Metered

Rate 113 - Campground Seasonal - Single or 3 Phase

Now available from Corn Belt Energy Corporation, EnerStar Power Corp and Shelby Electric Cooperative, in conjunction with Illinois Cooperative Association, Inc. (Clear Talk)

- NO NONSENSE - LONG DISTANCE

NO MONTHLY FEES • NO MINIMUM USAGE • NO TERM AGREEMENT

4.9¢

ALL CALLS IN ILLINOIS

6.9¢

ALL CALLS OUT OF STATE

- Free to join • No monthly fees • No monthly minimums
- No term agreements • Major carrier
- 800 Number 4.9¢ — 6.9¢ per minute — no fees
- Free calling cards 13.9¢ per minute (No surcharge)
- All switching fees will be reimbursed
- NO CODES TO DIAL
- Overseas calling e.g. United Kingdom: 8 cents per minute.
- Six-second increment billing

FREE Personal 800 NUMBER — No fees. Same low rate.

Corn Belt Energy Corporation, EnerStar Power Corp and Shelby Electric Cooperative, in conjunction with Illinois Cooperative Association, Inc. (Clear Talk) is offering long distance telephone service through PowerNet Global Communications. This long distance service is one of

the lowest-cost long distance services available. As you can see, you can call anywhere in the State of Illinois for a low \$0.049 per minute or anywhere out of state in the continental United States for \$0.069 per minute. In addition, you can have your own personal 800 number to receive calls from

family members or acquaintances. Incoming calls on your 800 number are billed at the same rates noted above. All rates are the same 24 hours a day — 7 days a week. There are no monthly fees, no minimums, or long-term agreements.

For additional information or to enroll by phone, call toll free: 1-888-414-4116 • Fax applications toll free to: 1-877-990-7466

Mail applications to: Clear Talk, 11596 Illinois Hwy. 1, Paris, IL 61944

Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Numbers (_____) _____ - _____ (_____) _____ - _____

Other Services Desired: Toll Free 800 Number Travel Cards...Number of cards requested _____

*If 800 service is desired, enter the telephone number it should ring to (_____) _____ - _____


(existing 800 numbers may be transferred to this service...applicable forms are available upon request)

I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator/agent, to transfer my Interlata and Intralata (local toll) long distance service. I agree to financial responsibility for all charges arising from all long distance services provided. The service requested will be provisioned only on the approval of credit for the application. A service charge may be assessed by the local telephone company when they make the carrier change. PowerNet Global will reimburse any such charges if you enclose a copy of said charge when remitting a payment to PowerNet Global.

Customer Signature _____ Date _____

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

OCTOBER 2003

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOUR LIGHTS GO OUT?

Have you ever lost power during a storm and been upset about the inconvenience? In today's high-tech world, we're all dependent on electricity to keep us comfortable, to operate appliances and equipment, store data and communicate. In 1938, when the cooperative was first formed, life was very different. It's reported that members often sent post cards when their power was out. Handwritten notes frequently said, "When you get around to it, would you send someone out to get my power back on?" Or, members called on Monday to report that their lights had been out since Friday night. They didn't want to bother anyone over the weekend.

None of us would be that patient today. Electric service reliability is our primary goal at Corn Belt Energy, and we understand how important it is to have dependable energy. Our service personnel strive to construct and maintain our electric distribution system, so that power outages are minimal; but sometimes, circumstances beyond our control cause power interruptions. Whenever that happens, despite the hour or weather conditions, our line personnel are there to restore your power and minimize your inconvenience.

Common causes of power outages



Journeyman Lineman Ryan Campbell, Maintenance Foreman Scott Farmer, Journeyman Lineman Steve Rosenthal and Construction Foreman Richard Lingemann work together to change-out a pole in Galva after storms damaged it.

■ Weather-related problems - Ice on lines, high winds, trees in lines and lightning striking electrical equipment all contribute to power interruptions.

■ Equipment failure - Electrical devices, such as breakers, fuses, transformers, switches and electrical conductors can fail for various reasons including weather, deterioration or overloading. If a member's load increases significantly and equipment is not upgraded to accommodate the increased load, the same

thing happens to our distribution system as it would in your home... fuses blow, equipment is destroyed and electric lines burn. When an electric line burns, other members who live nearby may also lose their power.

■ Accidents caused by vehicles or farm machinery hitting lines, poles or equipment, or when someone digs into underground electric cable.

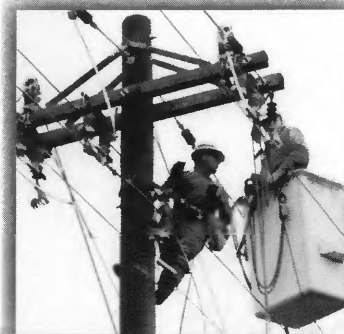
■ Animals in substation equipment, on poles, breakers, transformers or inside pad-mount transformers.

■ Transmission outages - High voltage transmission lines that feed into Corn Belt Energy's substations are primarily owned by Illinois Power and AmerenCILCO. If one of those utilities has a problem with their transmission equipment, members served by that substation will lose power. In the event of a transmission outage, several thousand members would lose power until the transmission utility restores power to our substation.

Please notify the cooperative when you've increased your electric load by:

Adding large electric appliances, converting to electric heat, installing a hot tub or swimming pool, increasing the size of your air conditioner, building a room addition, installing heaters for animals, adding commercial equipment, or adding grain bins or grain dryers.

Challenges to restoring your power



Apprentice Lineman Norman Dunlop (left) and Construction Foreman Dick Albert work together to restore service.

Have you ever wondered how cooperative personnel remove fallen trees from electric lines in the middle of the night? Guided only by a spotlight

on the ground and lights on their hard hats, Corn Belt Energy's forestry crews operate chain saws to cut

(Continued on 16b)

(Continued from 16a)

away the fallen debris. They must focus on using their equipment safely, while at the same time, avoiding energized electric lines and assessing where the debris might fall. Keep in mind that this takes place at heights of 35 to 50 feet above the ground and in weather conditions such as high winds, lightning or freezing rain! That's why the cooperative frequently communicates the importance of planting trees away from electric lines, pruning and removing dead vegetation.

During ice storms, a combination of ice on the electric lines and wind can cause the lines to gallop. When this occurs, electric lines slap together, creating tremendous stress on electrical facilities. Often cross-arm braces and poles break as a result. During these conditions, it's extremely difficult and dangerous for line personnel to repair equipment and restore power.

One of the greatest challenges concerns traffic control and keeping curious people away when crews are repairing storm or accident damage. Frequently, drivers impatiently go around barricades or flares, unaware they may be endangering their lives as well as our utility workers. **When you see crews at work, please be patient.** Slow down, respect warning signs and traffic instructions, and keep your eyes on the road to watch for dangerous conditions ahead. When possible, take an alternate route.

Sometimes people walk up to line personnel to ask when their power will be restored. This could endanger the member, as well as delay work completion. Stay back from downed lines or trees that may be touching live wires. And if a tree falls onto an electric line on

your property, don't go out to assess the damage, just call us.

Who are these people who restore your power?



Underground Foreman Dan Beard participates in the co-op's annual pole-top rescue training. Safety training is a large part of a lineman's job.

Corn Belt Energy's line personnel are highly trained professionals, who, when the need requires, get out of their warm beds to restore power to our members. Despite strong winds, torrential rains, crashing lightning or ice coating poles, they strap on their tool belts (that typically weigh about 60-pounds), strap hooks onto their boots, and put on their hard hats and safety gear to climb poles and repair equipment. Staying focused and using safe practices can mean the difference between life and death.

In order to become certified as a Journeyman Lineman, an Apprentice Lineman is required to complete three years on-the-job training, off-sight classes and testing. The training doesn't stop once they become Journeymen Linemen. They must attend ongoing training to learn how to use new equipment, safety courses,

CPR and First Aid, and annual pole-top and bucket truck rescue.

Along with responding to service calls, constructing and maintaining Corn Belt Energy's distribution and substation facilities, Linemen are also responsible for reporting conditions that pose a threat to the public, such as when buildings are being constructed too close to power lines or reporting locations where trees have grown into electric lines.

Many other Corn Belt Energy personnel play a valuable role in restoring service.



Tammy Woosley, Operations Assistant, dispatches line personnel to problem sites.

These include the people who take your calls, dispatch instructions to the crews, review computer data to analyze system issues, coordinate crew activities, purchase parts and equipment, warehouse personnel who maintain inventory and load equipment onto the trucks, and the mechanics who keep the fleet running.

Now, you may understand why Corn Belt Energy wants your lights to stay on as much as you do.



What should you do when your power goes out?

Before calling the cooperative, first check your breaker box to determine if the cause of the power failure is inside your home or business. If it's at night, look outside to see if streetlights and neighbors' lights are out. If it appears that the problem is on Corn Belt's system, call us. It doesn't

matter what time it is or what the weather conditions are, Corn Belt Energy Linemen will be dispatched.

Just call (800) 879-0339 (Central Region surrounding Bloomington) or (800) 654-1088 (Northern Region). You will reach our automated outage system. Listen carefully, and follow directions on the message. If you're calling from your home number, and it's listed in our computer

records, the outage system will match your phone number with your account information. If you're calling from a cell phone or from a different location, you will be asked to enter the phone number where the power is out. A third option allows you to leave a voice message.

Please Note: The phone number that we have on file for you is listed on the bottom of your energy bill. If that number isn't correct, please write down the correct number and return it with your payment.

(Continued on 16c)

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

(Continued from 16b)

Should you call if you know your neighbors are also out?

Yes. Don't assume someone else has called Corn Belt Energy. Also, when more than one person calls, our outage system identifies all common devices leading back to the substation. If only one person calls, it may appear the outage is isolated to just one service. When calls are received from various segments along the distribution line, it alerts personnel to the source of the problem.

If there's a widespread outage, how does Corn Belt determine where to start restoring power?

Line personnel repair the main line source first, and then repair equipment on the taps leading away from the source. By repairing 3-phase services first, followed by 2-phase and single-phase services, we are able to restore power to the greatest number of members sooner.

Top priority is also given to members who have notified us in advance that a household member is dependent on life-support

equipment. These members are advised to also have back-up generation or a place to relocate the patient. If you or a family member have a medical condition that requires electric life-support equipment, please fax or mail us a letter completed by a medical provider which states the medical condition. Also include the patient's name, the name on the Corn Belt Energy account, the address and phone number. The fax number is (309) 663-4516, and the address is Corn Belt Energy Corp., P.O. Box 816, Bloomington, IL 61702-0816.



THE LINEMAN


What are their thoughts, these hardy souls, tangled in knots on top of poles,
Sweating it out in a blend of blue, doing a job only few would do?
What are their thoughts, this gallant crew, who risk their lives the long day through,
In summer heat or winter snow, taking orders from afar and below?
What are their thoughts, these men of brawn, who joke and swear or hum a song,
Who know their distance well could be, a rubber glove from eternity?
What are their thoughts at the close of the day, as they scramble down and put hooks away?
Do they thank God for the heart-skipped beat to feel the earth beneath their feet?
What are their thoughts as they head for home, longing once more to greet their own?
Surely they must feel some delight, knowing they helped turn darkness into light.

Author Unknown

From: Paul Harvey News and Commentary February 3, 1986

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

You may receive a card that looks like this if you were a Corn Belt Energy member during 2002.



Corn Belt Energy Corporation
A Touchstone Energy* Partner
One Energy Way, P.O. Box 816, Bloomington, IL 61704-0816
800-879-0339 OR 309-662-5330

THIS IS NOT A REQUEST FOR PAYMENT

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
MAILED FROM
ZIP CODE 03378
PERMIT NO. 358

CAPITAL CREDIT STATEMENT		Year	Member Number	
Account Number	Total Billing	Capital Credits	Code	
DO NOT PAY				
Totals				
Current Total of the assigned Capital Credits in your accounts				

SEE REVERSE SIDE

Capital credits are not being refunded at this time.

This card is

- To inform you of the amount that was allocated to your **capital credit account** for 2002.
- A statement of your **equity** in Corn Belt Energy.
- **Not a bill.** You do not owe this amount.
- **Not a notice of a credit balance in your billing account**
- **Not a cash refund notice**

What are capital credits, and how do they benefit you?

Corn Belt Energy Corporation is operated on a not-for-profit basis. Energy cooperatives, unlike investor-owned utilities, are owned by the members they serve. When you pay your energy bill, you are accumulating equity in your cooperative. It's similar to building equity in your home as funds are applied toward the principle.

Margins in excess of the cost to serve members are used as operating capital. When the cooperative realizes a positive margin (excess of income over expenses), the margins are **allocated** through a capital credits system according to your usage. This is called capital credit allocation.

Each member is assigned an individual capital credit account, **separate from your billing account**. Whenever funds are allocated to your capital credit account, your **equity** in the cooperative increases.

What's the difference between allocating and refunding capital credits?

The Board of Directors determines when capital credits may be refunded to members for previous years of patronage. Capital credits are refunded as the

financial condition of the cooperative permits.

Keep your address current. If you cease to purchase energy from Corn Belt Energy, please keep us informed of your address. This will enable us to forward payment when capital credits are refunded for past years' earnings. In the event of a member's death, the estate can continue to receive an annual check or cash out the capital credits at a discounted retirement.

Were capital credits allocated to natural gas accounts?

No. The cooperative did not experience profit margins for natural gas during 2002. Therefore, no capital credits were allocated to natural gas accounts.

Are allocated Capital Credits taxable?

Under the current laws, no part of the capital credits allocated to you by Corn Belt Energy Corporation is taxable.

For additional information about capital credits or to request a copy of the cooperative bylaws, call us at 1-800-879-0339, or visit our Web site at www.cornbeltenergy.com and e-mail your request.

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

NOVEMBER 2003

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

Fall fire safety

Before you get too busy preparing for the holidays, make sure your home is ready. Planning ahead now can prevent potential fire hazards and ensure a safe holiday for your family!

Eliminate clutter and hazardous materials. Removing piles of newspapers, magazines, boxes or other combustible materials will reduce the risk of fire.

Have a professional chimney sweep clean and inspect your fireplace and chimney. This should be done annually before you light the first log. Fires are less likely to occur in chimneys that are clean, intact, and properly installed.

Get your furnace inspected annually by a professional HVAC contractor. A faulty fuel-burning furnace can cause carbon monoxide to leak into your home. Have your furnace and vents checked and test your carbon monoxide detector regularly.

Store flammable liquids in a garage or unattached shed. Keep minimal amounts of flammable liquids on hand, and always store them away from all heat sources.

Watch out for flammable decorations. Be extremely careful when decorating with tinder-dry cornstalks and other harvest season decorations. Guard against placing them near fireplaces or other sources of heat.

Turn off portable space heaters before you leave the room or go to sleep. Used improperly, a space heater can be the most dangerous appliance in your house. Keep heaters three feet away from anything that can burn, like walls, bedding, drapes, furniture and clothes.

Don't leave burning candles unattended or place them near curtains or decorations that may tip over. Be sure candleholders are large enough to catch dripping wax, and can keep the candles from tipping over.

Install smoke alarms on every level, including the basement, and keep them working properly. Test alarms at least once a month, following the manufacturer's instructions. Replace batteries in your smoke alarms once a year, or as soon as the alarm "chirps," warning that the battery is low.

Keep matches and lighters out of sight and reach of kids. If you don't have children living in your home, have you become careless about leaving matches and lighters where visiting children might reach them?

Inspect cords and plugs and replace worn ones. To prevent damage, pull by the plug, not by the cord, when unplugging an appliance or tool. Overloaded outlets and extension cords can overheat, increasing the risk for fire. Limit the number of appliances plugged into each outlet.

Plan ahead now and keep your holiday season safe.

Sources: www.feltonfire.com and www.stayingalive.com.



Electric safety display set for Home Builders Meeting

Corn Belt Energy is co-sponsoring a Live Line Demo at the Bloomington/Normal Home Builders Association meeting on November 19. Association members will have an opportunity to observe Kyle Finley, of Live Line Demo, Inc., as he demonstrates live contact with 7,200 volts. This is the same electric voltage used in Corn Belt Energy's distribution lines. Finley gives an energetic, high-intensity demonstration, showing what can happen when people get into lines.

The Live Line Demo is built with the same poles, transformers and line hardware used by the cooperative. Kyle Finley, a former lineman, provides his program at employee safety meetings, fire department training, school assemblies and fairs, helping to spread the electric safety message. If you would like more information about scheduling a live line demonstration, visit www.LineLineDemo.com or call (217) 759-7916.



Dan Beard is named Laborer of the Year

Dan Beard, Underground Foreman at Corn Belt Energy, was recently named Laborer of the Year by WJBC, a Bloomington-based radio station. WJBC invited the public to call in nominations and tell why the nominated laborer should receive the award.

This program was a joint effort of WJBC and area-wide organized labor groups. Labor groups established rules and guidelines that were used to make the selection. Dan was selected based on his outstanding commitment to serve cooperative members, his IBEW membership and contributions to many charitable organizations and programs throughout the

community. Dan has devoted countless hours to area organizations including the VFW, Elks, Moose, Eagles, Knights of Columbus, American Legion, as well as others. Throughout the past 30 years, Dan's hard work, dedication and cooking skills have assisted in raising funds for many charitable organizations in the community.

Dan has worked for Corn Belt Energy for more than 26 years, where he has demonstrated the same level of dedication and commitment. Our cooperative family extends

congratulations to Dan for receiving this prestigious honor.



Honor our nation's veterans on November 11th

"Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty."

----- President John F. Kennedy

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

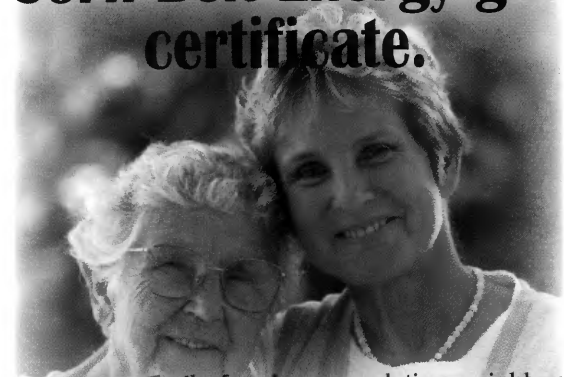
Help with energy bills

If you anticipate difficulty paying your CBEC electric bill, contact our Member Services Department, ext.253, or ext.228, to set up a payment arrangement.

If you would like to apply for assistance, contact the agency in the following list that serves your county. Ask about the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Carver Community Action Agency 235 E Main Street Galesburg, IL 61402-0028 309-342-0158	Knox
Central Illinois Economic Development Corporation 1800 5 th Street Lincoln, IL 62656-9117 217-732-2159	DeWitt Menard Logan Piatt Mason
Decatur-Macon County Opportunities Corporation 1122 E Marietta Street Decatur, IL 62521-1324 217-428-2193	Macon
East Central Illinois Community Action Agency, Inc 56 N Vermilion Street Danville, IL 61834-1335 217-443-2705	Ford Iroquois Vermilion
Kendall-Grundy Community Action 500A Countryside Center Yorkville, IL 60560-1063 630-553-9100 (Kendall) 815-941-3262 (Grundy)	Kendall Grundy
Mid Central Community Action, Inc 923 E Grove Street Bloomington, IL 61701-4201 309-829-0691 (McLean) 815-844-3201 (Livingston)	McLean Livingston
Project NOW Inc. 418 19 th Street Rock Island, IL 61204-3970 309-793-6391	Henry Mercer Rock Island
Tazwood Community Services, Inc Field Shopping Center 2005 S Main Street Morton, IL 61550-2915 309-266-9941 309-694-4391	Tazewell Woodford
Tri-County Opportunities Council 405 Emmons Avenue Rock Falls, IL 61071-0610 815-625-7830 800-323-5434	Bureau Carroll Putnam Lee LaSalle Ogle Stark Whiteside Marshall

This year, show you care by giving a Corn Belt Energy gift certificate.



All of us know a relative, neighbor or family in the community who could use help paying their utility bills. Corn Belt Energy gift certificates (in increments of \$25, \$50 or \$100) are a great way to share with others throughout the year. When you order by phone, you can pay by check or credit card. We'll send the certificates to you or, if you wish, we'll send them anonymously for you. Simply call us at (800) 879-0339, and press Extension 701. This is one gift they'll remember!

CHRISTMAS TREE ALARM ORNAMENTS

\$9.95 EACH (price includes tax)

The tree ornament that helps you have a safe holiday!

- Emits a piercing sound when the temperature exceeds 120 degrees
- Low-battery indicator
- Self-testing system
- Requires a 9-volt battery

**Available at the Corn Belt Energy office
Located in Downs at the intersection of
US 150 and Towanda-Barnes Road.**

Office hours 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

CENTRAL REGION
DAY OR NIGHT • Phone (800) 879-0339

NORTHERN REGION
DAY OR NIGHT • Phone (800) 654-1088

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Mailing address: P.O. Box 816, Bloomington, IL 61702-0816
E-mail address: cbec@cornbeltenergy.com
Web address: www.cornbeltenergy.com

PHONE NUMBERS

DAY OR NIGHT
Northern (800) 654-1088
Central (800) 879-0339
FAX: (309) 663-4516
Office Hours: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm –
Monday thru Friday

DECEMBER 2003

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

*Merry Christmas
Happy New Year!*

The Corn Belt Energy Corporation employees wish all of our members a Merry Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year. The following pages include pictures of the people who work for your cooperative.



Administration - From left to right: Ron Stack, Vice President of Utility Services, Patrick Griggs, Vice President of Electric Distribution, Diana Thomlinson, Administrative Assistant and Jeffrey Reeves, President and CEO.



Marketing – Pictured on the left is Barb Casper, Marketing and Member Relations Coordinator, and on the right is Dave Hawkinson, Marketing and Public Affairs Director.



Accounting & Finance - From left to right: Nicki Gwin, Payroll Accountant; Lynn Lauer, Accounting Supervisor; Bob Fischbach, Manager of Accounting and Office Services; Susan Bohm, Payable Accountant; Susie Wingett, Plant Accountant; and Teri Pate, Part-time Payable Accountant



Office Services – Back row from left to right: Lisa Gaddis, Angie Haws and Chantel Eddins, Member Account Representatives; Jane Stegall, Billing Systems Specialist and Greg Collins, Member Accounts Supervisor. Front row from left to right: Pam Carr, Senior Representative; Sandy Craig and Carrie Eichholz, Member Account Representatives.



Steve Wheeler – Central Region Field Engineer



Central Engineering – Back row from left to right: Jason Carter, Jill Durr and Todd Sovich, Engineering Clerks and Keith Erickson, Manager of Engineering Services. Front row: Terri Fowler, Sandi Carlson and Jason Cotner, Field Engineers.



Member Services – Pictured on the left is Mark Shoemaker, Energy & Collections Coordinator, and on the right is Jerry Durlinger, Manager of Member Services. Not pictured are Ron McGuire and Ed Ruhrup, Meter and Servicemen; and Amy Lane, Member Service Representative.



Vegetation Management and Building Maintenance - From left to right: Randy Walters, Forestry Apprentice; Steve Toliver, Custodian Repairman; Frank Kinnison, Forestry Foreman and Cal Williams, Manager of Vegetation and Safety.



Electric Distribution – From left to right: Ron Hopkins, Director of Distribution Automation & Regulatory Affairs; Kimberly Shopland, Purchasing Assistant; Tammy Woosley, Operations Assistant and Larry Young, Central Region Manager of Construction & Maintenance.



Warehouse – Pictured on the left is Jeannie Wilson, Senior Storehouse Person, and on the right, Vanessa Johnson, Storehouse Person.



Northern Region Engineering – From left to right: Alan Meissner, Manager of Engineering and Power Use; Barry Burkman, Engineering Technician and Ian Cardosi, Field Engineer.



Jack Best, Northern Region Manager



Mike Nelson, Manager of Construction & Maintenance



Linda Lorenzen – Northern Region Clerk



Information Services – Steve Coppenbarger, Director.

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS



Central Region Mechanics – Pictured on the left is Wayne Williams, and on the right is Tim Merrill.



Northern Region Mechanics – Pictured on the left is Tom Neahrng, Mechanic Foreman, and on the right is Gary Forristall, Mechanic.



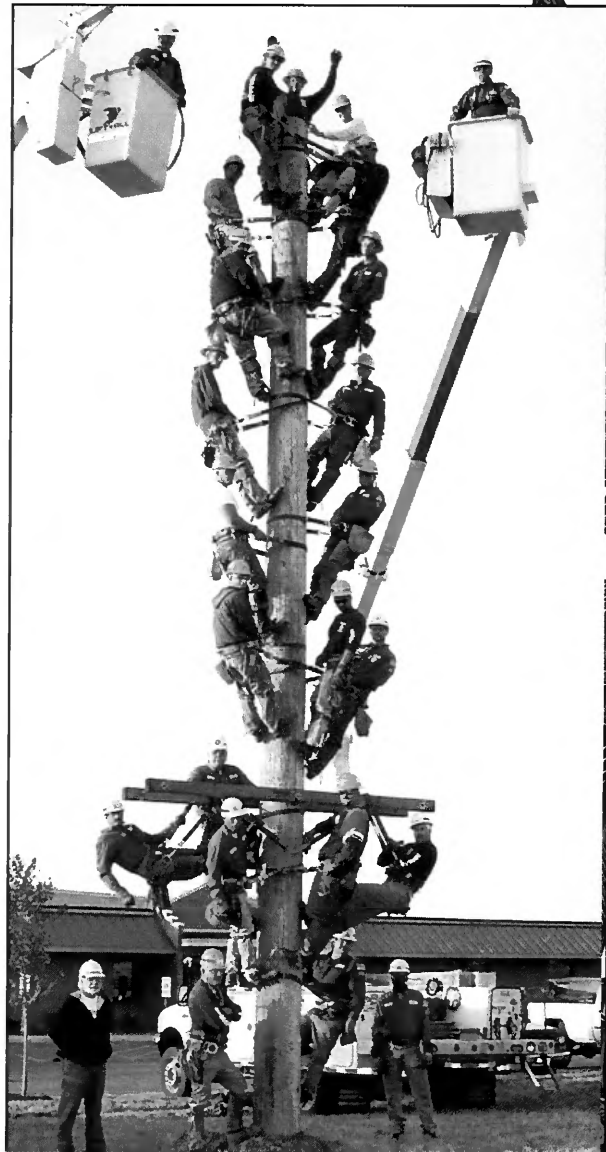
Galva Area Crew – Pictured on the left is Steve Sanders, Journeyman Lineman, and the right is Rodney White, Construction Foreman.



Ottawa Area Crew – Pictured on the left is Steve Cimei, Journeyman Lineman, and on the right is Rich Lingemann, Construction Foreman.



Construction & Maintenance of the Princeton Area – From left to right: Gerald Henning and Bob Ellena, Journeymen Linemen; Brad Travis, Apprentice Lineman; Stephen Purl, Maintenance Foreman; Randy Skaggs, Warehouseman; Rodney Rolando, Construction Foreman and Tom Dixon, Maintenance Foreman.



Central Region Construction and Maintenance

Top to bottom from left to right: Jim Dustin, Maintenance Foreman; Tim Baker, Journeyman Lineman, Aaron Stacey, Apprentice Lineman; Steve Streitmatter, Underground Foreman; Mark Peterson, Maintenance Foreman; Chris Clark, Journeyman Lineman; Ryan Campbell, Underground Foreman; Brian Felker, Underground Foreman; Steve Bradford, Apprentice Lineman; Russ Camp, Apprentice Lineman; Shawn Owens, Apprentice Lineman; Matt Houser, Apprentice Lineman; Norman Dunlop, Journeyman Lineman; Kolby Batterton, Apprentice Lineman; Steve Rosenthal, Construction Foreman; Mark Schaley, Maintenance Foreman; Patrick Hall Jr., Maintenance Foreman; Mike Butler, Substation Foreman; Jim Buggar, Underground Foreman; Shane Bollhorst, Apprentice Lineman; Scott Farmer, Substation Foreman; Dick Albert, Construction Foreman; Dan Beard, Underground Foreman; Jerry Daugherty, Maintenance Foreman; and Robert Fisher Jr., Construction Foreman. Not pictured are Delbert Dawdy, Journeyman Lineman, Melinda Rosenthal, Winch Truck Operator and Clark Buhlig, Journeyman Lineman.



Nominations being accepted for five director positions



The terms of the following Corn Belt Energy directors will expire at the March 20, 2004 annual meeting: Robert Angus from Ottawa (District 9), Laverne Malone from Maroa (District 5), Stephen Schertz from El Paso (District 3) and Ralph Steiger of Delavan (District 2). At the time of this writing, the director position of Gary Frankeberger is vacant due to his resignation. This District 1 position will also expire at the next annual meeting.

In accordance with the bylaws, the board of directors confirmed a Nominating Committee at the October board meeting. Listed on the right are the active members who were appointed to serve on the committee:

- **Ralph Freebairn, 1575 E. US Hwy 52, Ottawa, 61350**
- **Arlis Springer, 25349 Litwiller Rd., Delavan, 61734**
- **Terry Longman, R.R. 2, Box 185, El Paso, 61738**
- **Marvin Polte, R.R. 2, Box 215, Sheffield, 61361**
- **Scott Baum, R.R. 1, Box 251, Clinton, 61727**
- **Kenneth Siegrist, 8590 Locust Rd., Delavan, 61734**
- **Gene Hoffman, R.R. 4, Box 271S, Clinton, 61727**
- **Kenneth West, 2244 Knox Rd., 2250 E., Victoria, 61485**
- **Jerrolyn Golden, R.R. 2, Box 89, LeRoy, 61752**
- **Gary Moncelle, R.R. 2, Box 96, Lexington, 61753**
- **Larry Priest, R.R. 1, Box 80B, Hennepin, 61327**
- **Peter Borowski, 3017 Thornwood Ln., Bloomington, 61704**
- **Jerry Starkey, 6005 N. 2700 East Rd., LeRoy, 61752**
- **Owen Arvin, RR 1, Box 152, Carlock, 61725**

The Nominating Committee will meet at the Corn Belt Energy office in Downs at 11 a.m. on December 12, 2003. Any cooperative member who is interested in being nominated to the board of directors should contact a Nominating Committee member prior to their meeting. The committee can nominate no more than two individuals for each expiring directorship.

Any active cooperative member may also be nominated for election by petition. Any 50 active members of the cooperative, by their petition,

may propose the name of any qualified member as an additional nominee. The nominated person must have active service in the board district of the vacancy, and no other directors can live in the same township. Petitions to nominate directors must be filed at Corn Belt Energy's office no later than February 19, 2004.

The election to fill the director seats will take place at the annual meeting, which will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 20, 2004, at Normal Community West High

School in Normal, Illinois.

The board of directors is composed of 15 active members, who represent the membership in the operation of the cooperative. The detailed procedure for choosing a director is stated in the bylaws of the corporation. Active members interested in more information pertaining to the nominating and petitioning processes can contact the cooperative office to obtain a copy of the current bylaws. Call (800) 879-0339, Ext. 232. ★

Need college tuition money? Deadline is Wednesday, December 31, 2003.



If you are a high school senior, and Corn Belt Energy is your parent's energy provider, you are eligible to participate in the Illinois Electric Cooperative Memorial (IEC) Scholarship Program. There will be three scholarships awarded based on grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities and a short essay. Entry rules and forms are available online at www.cornbeltenergy.com, or call our office at (800) 879-0339, Ext. 250 or Ext. 235. Let Corn Belt Energy lend a hand in your education.

OFFICE CLOSED

Corn Belt Energy will be closed Thursday, December 25 and Friday, December 26 for the Christmas Holiday and Thursday, January 1 for New Year's Day. In the event of an electrical emergency, please phone:

Central Region (800) 879-0339

Northern Region - (800) 654-1088

Have a safe and happy holiday!

CORN BELT ENERGY CORPORATION, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS