

MONROE

Electric News

MONROE COUNTY
ELECTRIC
CO-OPERATIVE, INC.
WATERLOO, ILLINOIS
618-939-7171
800-757-7433

Your Touchstone Energy Partner 

Major Ice Storm Sweeps MCEC Service Area

Hardly a branch went untouched by the ice storm that ravaged the Monroe County Electric service area on Thursday night, November 30th and into Friday, December 1st. What visibly brought a magnificent ice winter wonderland, also left a massive path of destruction with trees, limbs and pieces of ice falling and snapping off overhead power lines and poles.

The weight of the ice, an inch or more in thickness, on power lines and trees, was too much for the system to handle. Virtually every household and farmstead with trees suffered extensive damage to those trees.

A lineman was heard to say, "When the sun came up on Friday morning, it looked like a county-wide war zone."

Six work crews with journeyman lineman and tree trimmers were called in from SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative out of Eldorado and Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative out of Dongola. They brought with them additional line trucks, along with equipment and work tools.

All the line crews were out working late into the night and most worked all night to try and get power back on to everyone.

The New Athens and Smithton substations were knocked out of service by transmission lines owned by AmerenIP. AmerenIP was hit hard as well in the metro east region. When those substations were restored, several feeders and numerous lines were still without power due to trees/line damage.

Estimates of between 3500 - 4000 accounts were out. By Sunday night, 90-95 percent of services had been restored. Feeder and line outages were the first restored. Priority went to the damaged locations that had



the most members to bring on at one time, and then we proceeded to the many individual outages. We realize that the members who were on taps by themselves or with a few others were frustrated in having to wait longer. Members that had service entrance damage had to call in electricians to fix their equipment before we could energize it. And also, we had members who were affected by being on a phase that was out, while their neighbors had service on the other phase(s).

David Stephens, Superintendent of Operations, stated, "We had the situation that some line outages initially restored went out again because of the ice melting on the trees and the limbs shifting to another position or "snapping back" that tripped the line again. It was a struggle to have to go back to locations that we had been to once before and clear the line again, knowing how much work we had ahead of us." In some situations, they returned the next day.

Power was restored to the last members late Monday night, December 4th.

We sincerely thank all the members who waited patiently for their service to be restored and hope never to see a storm like this again.

Nominating Committee Named

Meeting set for Monday, February 5, 2007

A committee on nominations has been appointed and will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2007, at the Monroe County Electric Cooperative meeting room in Waterloo. The committee will meet to place the names of three persons in nomination to be elected at the cooperative's annual meeting, to serve a three (3) year term as directors of Monroe County Electric Co-Operative.

The cooperative's 69th Annual Meeting of Members will be held Monday, March 26, 2007, at the Hecker Community Center, Hecker, Illinois.

Directors whose current terms expire and who are eligible for re-election are:

District 3

Joel H. Harres
2612 Harres Lane
Columbia, IL. 62236

District 7

Walter G. Amann
8585 Nike Road
Red Bud, IL. 62278

District 8

Manlee Knobloch
3321 LL Road
Fults, IL. 6224

2007 Nominating Committee

District 3 - Joel Harres

Gene K. Stumpf	1608 DD Road, Columbia, IL. 62236
Steve Degener	8081 Gall Road, Waterloo, IL. 62298
Kevin Fuhr	1942 Apple Blossom Lane, Columbia, IL. 62236
Ronnie Imm (Alternate)	983 White Oak Drive, Waterloo, IL. 62298

District 7 - Walter Amann

Dale Papenberg	7579 State Route 156, Waterloo, IL. 62298
Ralph Eckart	9153 Nike Rd., New Athens, IL. 62264
Ryan Grohmann	7777 State Route 156, Waterloo, IL. 62298
Robert L. Mueller (Alternate)	6106 Hay Lane, New Athens, IL. 62264

District 8 - Manlee Knobloch

Allyn Rohlfing	5203 Bluff Road, Valmeyer, IL. 62295
Randy Scheibe	621 KK Road, Valmeyer, IL. 62295
Glenn Voelker	3146 LL Road, Fults, IL. 62244
Randall Esker (Alternate)	3731 Fults Road, Fults, IL. 62244

As a cooperative member, you have the right as well as an obligation to participate in the election process. If you have any comments or suggestions for the election, please contact members of the 2007 Nominating Committee.

Cooperative Bylaws state:

"Any twenty five (25) or more active members, acting together, may make other Nominations by petition received at the Cooperative office not less than twenty one (21) days prior to the Annual Meeting of members and shall be posted at the same place as nominations by the committee is posted, and shall appear in the official notice of the meeting and on the official ballot. Additional nominations may also be made from the floor. Any nomination by petition or from the floor shall meet the same qualifications and eligibility as nominees by the nominating committee."

Make Your Life Easier With Our Automatic Payment Plan

With our Automatic Payment Plan, you can pay your bill each month automatically from your checking account, savings account or credit card account.

How it works:

The Automatic Payment Plan is dependable, flexible, convenient and easy. You authorize regularly scheduled payments to be made from your credit card, checking or savings account. Then, just sit back and relax. Your payments will be made automatically on the 15th of each month, and proof of payment will appear on your statement. The amount withdrawn from your account will be

the net amount due shown on your bill. The authority you give us to charge your account will remain in effect until you notify us in writing to terminate the authorization. The credit cards that are eligible are **MasterCard**, **Visa** and **Discover** cards.

Sign up Now!

To take advantage of this service, contact the cooperative office at 939-7171 or 1-800-757-7433, or fill out the application form included on page **16c** of this newsletter.

High School Juniors: Win A Trip To Washington D.c.!!!



In June of each year, the electric and telephone cooperatives in Illinois and across the United States sponsor groups of young people to Washington, D.C. on the "Youth to Washington" program. During a full week in the nation's Capital, these students get an up-close look at democracy in action and get to meet with their Congressional delegation and staff.

Past participants will tell you it is the trip of a lifetime. It's an experience they never will forget, full of fun, new friends, non-stop touring and yes, they actually learn something too. Most come back with an even deeper respect for our country, our form of government and their opportunities.

Since 1957, hundreds of future leaders have been introduced to government and the legislative process

through this program. Many alumni of the program have gone on to leadership positions in our communities and government. a current member of the Illinois General Assembly, State Representative Art Tenhouse, is a past member of the tour.

The "Youth to Washington" Tour is recognized as one of the best youth tours of Washington, D.C. The tour is well organized with good chaperones. Participants will see monuments and memorials and visit historical places.

Last year, **Malea Grimm** of Waterloo and **Jennifer Redohl** of Valmeyer attended and had a great learning experience.

For more information, contact the cooperative office at 939-7171 or 800-757-7433.

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE

APPLICATION
AUTOMATIC PAYMENT PLAN

AUTHORIZATION FOR DIRECT CREDIT DEBIT CARD PAYMENT

_____ MasterCard _____ Visa _____ Discover

Credit Card # _____

Expiration Date _____ Phone # _____

Name-Please Print _____

Co-Op Billing Acct.# _____

Address-Please Print _____

Signature _____ Date _____

AUTHORIZATION FOR DIRECT CHECKING SAVINGS PAYMENT

I authorize the financial institution named below to initiate entries to my checking/savings account. This authority will remain in effect until I notify you in writing to cancel it in such time as to afford the financial institution a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

(Name of Financial Institution) (Branch)

(City) (State) (Zip Code)

(Signature) (Date)

(Name-Please Print) (Co-Op Billing Acct. #)

(Address-Please Print)


Bank Account # _____ Checking _____ Savings _____

Financial Institution Routing Number _____

(between these symbols []: on bottom left of check)

****PLEASE STAPLE VOIDED CHECK TO THIS FORM****

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Alan W. Wattles

Across the President's desk

Electricity Theft And Vandalism Pose Safety And Financial Concerns

Theft involving electricity and related materials is a problem all electric utilities face – and it's a problem for electricity customers, too. Since Monroe County Electric Co-Operative is member-owned, electricity theft could end up costing you money. Compensating for electricity theft drives up prices for everyone involved.

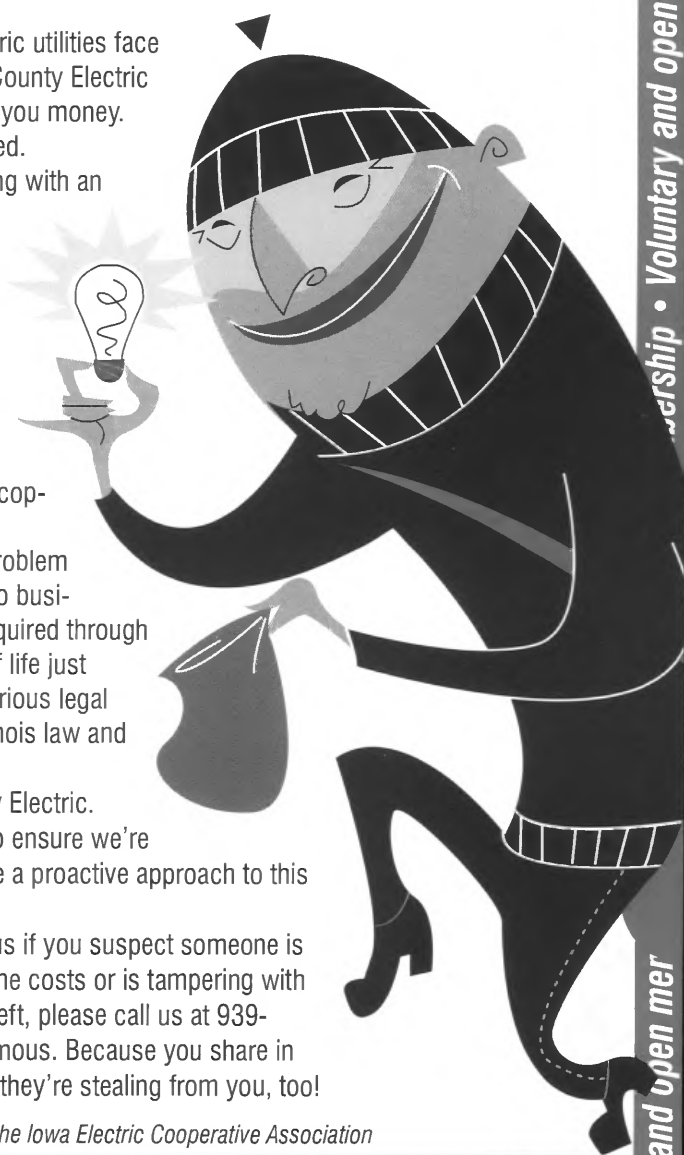
Theft of electricity also puts your personal safety at risk. Tampering with an electric meter can make it unsafe and unstable. When people steal electricity, they put themselves, their neighbors, family and pets all at risk for electric shocks, power surges, sparks and fire from exposed voltage.

Stealing electrical related materials can also pose a significant risk to the culprit, resulting in injury or even death from exposure to live electricity. This past year, two neighboring cooperatives, Southern Illinois Electric in Dongola and Tri-County Electric in Mt. Vernon, have experienced vandalism with break-ins to their facility and having copper wire and transformer material stolen.

Electricity theft isn't isolated to rural areas or to big cities. It's a problem utilities encounter from agricultural operations to housing complexes to business offices from coast to coast. Although electricity can be easily acquired through a utility, some people are still willing to risk physical damage or loss of life just for the sake of some free kilowatt hours. Others may not realize the serious legal and potential health implications. Stealing electricity is illegal under Illinois law and violates electrical codes.

Keeping power safe and affordable is a priority for Monroe County Electric. That is why we routinely inspect cooperative meters and equipment, to ensure we're doing our best to protect you from the risks of electricity theft. We take a proactive approach to this serious problem, eliminating theft and reducing related costs.

You can also play a role in this process by immediately notifying us if you suspect someone is gaining access to our power supply without paying their fair share of the costs or is tampering with equipment. If you have information related to electricity or materials theft, please call us at 939-7171 or 1-800-757-7433. Rest assured, we'll keep your name anonymous. Because you share in the ownership of your co-op, when people steal from the cooperative, they're stealing from you, too!



Source: Ann Foster of the Iowa Electric Cooperative Association

Why Do My Lights Blink?

No doubt, many of our members probably experienced their lights blinking during the severe ice storm on November 30 this past year. And some of those members probably saw their power go off altogether after the blinks. However, a large part of those members saw their lights stay on after the blinks, and only needed to update their digital clocks.

Indeed, falling tree limbs from overburdened ice covered power lines and trees took down many lines but only “bumped” many more. Those bumps were handled the way the system was designed to handle lesser obstructions on the power lines.

We know that blinking lights are annoying. The reason your lights blink is that something has happened to short circuit the power line. Special devices installed on the lines called reclosures click off and then back on again quickly if the short circuit is temporary, like if a tree branch hits the line. That short interruption of power when the reclosure shuts off is when your lights blink. If the reclosure wasn't present on the line, your power would be off until the co-op could send out linemen to restore it.



So the next time you have to reset your digital clocks, remember that it means your co-op's electric system is operating properly, and that short blink saved you from a longer outage.

Winter Flooding

More problems than just a wet basement

While attention is focused on winter storm activity, the heavy rains and continued flooding in parts of the state also pose electrical safety threats. Safe Electricity and Monroe County Electric Co-Operative remind everyone to be alert to electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water, along with other potential hazards that create a serious danger of electrocution. Cleaning up and using water-damaged appliances also carry safety risks.

Safety measures to keep in mind include:

- Never step into a flooded basement or other room if water may be in contact with electrical outlets, appliances or cords.
- Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you can't reach your breaker box safely, call your electric utility to shut off power at the meter.

- Never use electric appliances or touch electric wires, switches or fuses when you're wet or when you're standing in water.
- Keep electric tools and equipment at least 10 feet away from wet surfaces.
- If an electrical appliance has been in contact with water, have a professional check it out before it is used. It may need to be repaired or replaced.
- GFCIs are recommended for outlets near wet areas of the home such as kitchen, bath and laundry room as well as outdoor outlets. These outlets quickly cut off power when there's a problem.

For more information on electrical safety visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

Member Q & A About Capital Credits

Maybe you never realized it but at Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, we do not use the term “customers” to describe the people who buy electricity from us. We call them “members.” Have you ever wondered what the difference is and if it really matters? Members are part owners of our not-for-profit electric cooperative. The cooperative is owned by those it serves.

The other term you might hear us use is “capital credits.” Have you ever wondered what capital credits are and why they are so important? Below are common questions and answers about the cooperative’s capital credit policy.

What are capital credits?

Since Monroe County Electric is a cooperative, owned by its members, it does not technically earn profits. Instead, any revenues over and above the cost of doing business are considered “margins.” This capital allows Monroe County Electric Co-Operative to finance operations and, to a certain extent, construction, allowing the cooperative to reduce its borrowing needs.

What’s the difference between allocated and retired capital credits?

Allocated capital credits appear as an entry on the permanent financial records of the association and reflect your equity or ownership in Monroe County Electric Co-Operative. If capital credits are retired, a check is issued to you and your equity in the association is reduced. To date, the board of directors has authorized the retirement of capital credits through 1980 and currently has a policy allowing for estate retirements of deceased members. The board can, at anytime when financially feasible, retire capital credits.

How often will I receive an allocation notice?

You should receive an allocation notice annually after the finances for the previous year have been audited. This is usually done before March but can take longer, depending on the auditor’s schedule.

What do I have to do to start accumulating capital credits?

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative calculates capital credits for members who purchased electricity during a year in which the utility earned margins. No special action is required to start a capital credits account. Your membership with Monroe County Electric Co-Operative activates your capital credits account.

How are capital credits calculated?

The amount of capital credits you earn in a given year is based upon the amount of capital you contribute to the association through payment of your monthly bills. The more

electricity you buy, the greater your capital credits account — although the percentage will remain the same. The sum of your monthly bills, less taxes, for a year, is multiplied by a percentage to determine your capital credits. Since capital credits are a member’s share of the margins or profits, no credits are allocated for a year without any margins.

Do I have to be a member for an entire year to earn capital credits?

No. Capital credits are calculated based upon a member’s monthly bills. If you are billed for service for even one month, you will accumulate some capital credits, if Monroe County Electric Co-Operative earned margins in that year.

Can I use the capital credits I have allocated to pay my electric bill?

No. Allocated capital credits may not be used to pay current bills.

When are capital credits retired?

Before issuing a retirement, the board will first and foremost consider the financial stability of the cooperative. Financial goals of reducing expenses, lowering debt and increasing the cooperative’s equity level are the top priority. Retiring capital credits would create the opposite effect of the financial goals. But with that said, the board continues to review the capital credit policy to determine if and when the cooperative can financially sustain returning capital credits. Keeping rates stable is much more of a priority at this time than retiring capital credits.

What happens to the capital credits of a member who dies?

The capital credits of a deceased member may be paid without waiting for a general retirement. This is known as an estate retirement. To request such a retirement, a representative of the estate must contact the cooperative office and complete all necessary documentation. An account can be kept in a deceased member’s name for up to one year without forfeiting any capital credits. After that period, capital credits are forfeited and are no longer allocated.

What happens to my capital credits when I leave the Monroe County Electric Co-Operative service area?

Your capital credits remain on the books in your name and member number until they are retired. You should keep capital credit statements with your important papers. In addition, you should see to it that Monroe County Electric Co-Operative always has your current mailing address.

Make Sure Standby Generators Are Installed Correctly!

During power outages, many cooperative members use backup generators for emergency electrical needs. If installed properly, the use of generators to power your home, farm or business poses little danger. But, if installed incorrectly, your generator system could threaten the lives of family, friends, neighbors and cooperative crews trying to restore service.

There are specific ways to properly install generators for your home or business. Monroe County Electric Co-Operative and Safe Electricity strongly suggest you have a qualified electrician assist you.

To safely operate a standby generator that will be connected into the wiring of your home or business,

make sure it has a double-pole, double-throw transfer safety switch to isolate the load from the normal cooperative source power.

Without this safety switch, there is a chance electricity can travel back through the lines, causing "back feed." "Back feed" creates a dangerous hazard for anyone near lines, particularly utility crews working to restore power. Isolating cooperative lines from the generator by just removing the meter or putting the main breaker in the "off" position is not good enough and is extremely unsafe. The transfer



safety switch ensures that there is no possible way, even accidentally, that "back feed" can occur.

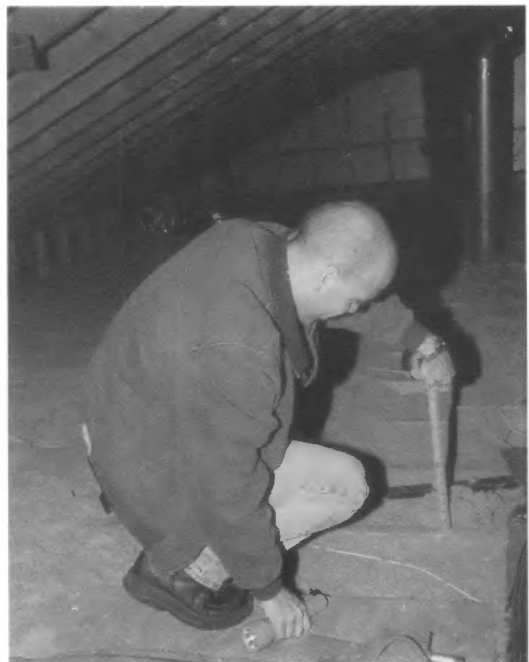
For more important details on generator safety, call Monroe County Electric Co-Operative or visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

Is Your Home Losing Its Heat?

Heating and cooling your home uses more energy than any appliance, and insulating your attic may be the most cost-effective way to stop heat loss in your house. Newer houses may have enough insulation, but you should check to make sure the insulation hasn't become compressed, reducing its R-value.

According to the U. S. Department of Energy, homes in northern Illinois should be insulated to R-49 in the attic. In the rest of Illinois, attics should be insulated to R-38.

For information on installing insulation call your local electric co-op, home center or visit www.doityourself.com/insulate/insulationinstall.htm.



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★ Please plan to attend the
69th ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Monday, March 26, 2007

to be held at the Hecker Community Center in Hecker, Illinois



★
Schedule of events:

5:00 p.m.	Registration begins Meal serving begins (fried chicken, au gratin potatoes, green beans, cookie) Health fair and business expo begins
5:30 p.m.	Entertainment provided by Duane Grapperhaus
7:00 p.m.	Official Business Meeting begins
8:00 p.m.	(or after business meeting) Speaker for the evening: Mark Klein
8:30 p.m.	(or after speaker) Attendance prize winners announced



The King of ENERGY Ideas

Doug Rye. He's more than just caulk and talk.
Coming to Southern Illinois!

You've heard him on the radio... NOW SEE HIM IN PERSON!

Residential Energy Audit Workshops

6:30 p.m. Please call to reserve seating.

March 5, 2007	Holiday Inn, Mt Vernon - 800-244-5151
March 6, 2007	Williamson County Pavilion, Marion - 800-833-2611
April 9, 2007	Hecker Community Center, Hecker - 800-757-7433
April 10, 2007	World Shooting Complex, Sparta - 800-606-1505
April 11, 2007	Shawnee Community College, Ullin - 800-762-1400

Nationally recognized energy consultant, DOUG RYE, will be visiting southern Illinois to help you lower your utility bills. Come see this home energy conservation expert and learn how residential energy improvements can make you money, not cost you money!

The electric cooperatives of southern Illinois are hosting FIVE can't miss events.



Free Admission



How Economical is Your Dishwasher?

Most of the energy used by dishwashers is actually the energy required for heating the water they consume. So the most efficient dishwashers use less water to do the job.

Most dishwashers available today use booster heaters to add heat to the water that is supplied by the water heater. This helps get your dishes cleaner, and it may kill more germs. But it also allows you to lower the temperature setting on your water heater. With this type of booster, you can lower your current water-heater water temperature to about 120° F and still have clean and sanitary dishes.

Newer dishwashers also use significantly less water than hand washing – as much as one-half less. Like clothes washers, dishwashers conserve energy and water when using their low and medium cycles. Water usage varies from a low of 7 gallons, for the light wash, to



a high of 14 gallons for the heavy-duty cycle.

Many of the most efficient dishwashers incorporate soil-sensors to adjust water use depending on how dirty the dishes are in each load washed. An improved dishwasher test procedure, used to provide the information on the EnergyGuide labels, gives a more realistic estimate of the energy consumption of soil-sensing dishwasher models. Be sure to read the EnergyGuide labels

whenever you buy a new dishwasher or other appliance.

Recent studies have shown that most new dishwashers do a great job cleaning even the dirtiest dishes without pre-rinsing. In a recent study, dishwashers were compared to doing the job by hand. The dishwasher was more efficient and got the dishes cleaner than its human counterparts.

Source: John Krigger, Saturn Resource Management

Prevent electrical injuries: Don't become a statistic

Each year, approximately 1,000 residents in the United States die as a result of electric shock. An additional 5,000 individuals seek emergency treatment for electric shocks. Approximately 20 percent of all electrical injuries occur in children, with the highest incidence occurring in toddlers and adolescents.

Do not let you or members of your family become a figure in this statistic. Prevent electrical injuries by practicing these safety measures:



Outlets: Avoid overloading with too many appliances. Wall plates that are found broken on the outlet should be replaced as soon as possible. If young children are present, make sure to have safety covers on all of the unused outlets that are accessible to them.

Plugs: Check for loose-fitting plugs that can overheat and lead to fire. You should never remove the ground pin in order to make a three-prong plug fit a two-conductor outlet, as it could lead to electrical shock. All plugs should fit securely into an outlet; a plug should never be forced into an outlet if it does not fit.

Cords: Make sure that cords are in good condition and are not frayed or cracked. They should never be nailed or stapled to the wall, baseboard or any other object.

Furniture should not rest on cords. Cords should not be placed in high-traffic areas of the house. Extension cords are to be used temporarily; they should not be considered permanent household wiring. Both cords and extension cords should not be overloaded.

Light Bulbs: Check the wattage of all bulbs in lighting fixtures to make sure they are the correct wattage for the size of the fixture. Bulbs that have a higher wattage than necessary should be replaced. If you are not sure of the correct wattage, make sure to check with the manufacturer. When inspecting light bulbs, make sure they are screwed in securely - as loose bulbs may overheat.

Appliances: If one appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker, or if it has given you a shock, unplug it and make sure to have it repaired or replaced. In addition, appliances should not be used near water.

Computer / Entertainment Equipment: Check to see that the equipment is in good condition and working properly. Make sure to look for cracks or any damage in the wiring, plugs and connectors.

It is also important to realize that electrical injuries do not always occur from things that are directly visible. Unsafe wiring in the walls of the home can also lead to electrical shocks, fire and other hazards. When having additions, renovations or upgrades done to your house that involve electrical work, it is vital to have a qualified electrician do the work. The electrician should obtain a working permit that ensures a qualified inspector checks the electrical work, making sure it complies with the proper codes.

Taking these safety precautions will help you and your family stay safe and prevent electrical injuries!

Source: North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives

Annual Meeting Speaker



Mark Klein is a native of Louisville, Kentucky, where he resides with his family. His interest in performing comedy was sparked in high school, and continued in college, where he began entertaining at local clubs and parties.

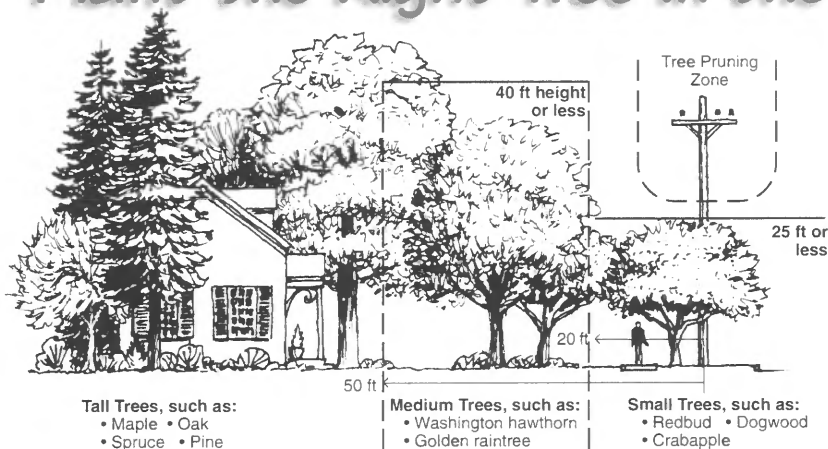
Mark spent time on the comedy club circuit, working with such performers as Kevin Meany and Lenny Clark.

As a solo performer, Mark has been headlining across the country since 1984. Career highlights include a profile in GQ Magazine, a segment on the CBS show 48 Hours plus appearances on A&E and Showtime.

Mark currently speaks at a steady mix of corporate events, nightclubs, colleges and private engagements.

Come out to your Annual Meeting and enjoy a night of fun and laughter with Mark!

Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place



■ The Low Zone –

Trees that won't grow taller than 25 feet can be planted directly below and 20 feet to either side of power lines.

■ The Medium Zone –

Trees that grow up to 40 feet can be planted 20 to 50 feet from power lines.

■ The Tall Zone –

All other trees should be planted at least 50 feet from power lines.

There is little likelihood at this distance that wind or ice would cause limbs to interfere with power lines. Visit www.arborday.org for more illustrations.

If you have overhead power lines around your home, take these three zones into consideration when planting trees. Trees that are too tall can grow into power lines, possibly causing outages and blinks. Use these tips as a rule of thumb at the time when you plant your trees. Trees are costly, and the less trimming the co-op will have to do, the happier you'll be.

Choosing the Right Tree and the Right Spot for Energy Efficiency

The U.S. Department of Energy says that trees planted in the right places can save up to 25 percent of your household energy consumption for heating and cooling. Landscaping your home correctly should provide enough energy savings to return the investment in less than eight years.

In the Summer

The air temperature under a yard's shade tree can be 25 degrees cooler than that of the nearby street. You can block a great deal of solar heat invading your home in the summer but still let the heat warm your home in the winter by planting deciduous trees. Trees with high leaves and branches should be planted to the south of your home to shade your roof from the hottest part of the day. Trees that have lower branches can be planted to the west to shade your home from the low afternoon sun.

A 6-8 foot tree planted near your home will begin shading windows its first year. It could shade your roof in as little as five years. And remember, shading your

air conditioner can increase its efficiency by up to 10 percent.

In the Winter

Blocking cold winter winds will help reduce your heating costs. Evergreen trees and shrubs planted to the north and northwest make good windbreaks. You'll want to plant trees and shrubs together to provide a consistent wind block from the ground to the treetops. For greatest savings, plant windbreaks two to five times the mature height of other trees in your yard.

Be careful not to plant evergreens close to the south side of your home. This could block winter sunlight and prevent its warmth from entering your home.

Shrubs, bushes and vines planted next to your home can also help insulate your home in winter and summer. Leave at least one foot between full-grown plants and your home's outer wall.

Source: The U.S. Department of Energy - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy at www.eere.energy.gov.


If the power goes off

After office hours: — Call 618-939-7171 or 800-757-7433
Someone is always on duty to take emergency calls after hours.

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc.

6132 State Rt. 3, P.O. Box 128, Waterloo, Illinois 62298 • 618-939-7171
Office hours: Monday through Friday 8 a.m. — 4:30 p.m. • 800-757-7433

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Global Demand for Energy Impacts U.S. Electricity Rates



Alan W. Wattles

Across the President's desk

You may ask what a building boom in China has to do with rising electric rates in the United States, and the surprising answer is: a lot.

Although it varies greatly by region and by supplier, electricity rates are beginning to climb all around the country. In some areas, consumers already have seen their electricity bills go up by as much as 40 percent or more. This comes as a surprise to many consumers who have seen relatively stable electricity rates for the last 20 years.

The reasons for these rate increases include soaring natural gas prices, escalating environmental compliance costs for power plants and structural problems in competitive markets. Factors such as these cause the wholesale price of electricity to go up, which then gets passed on to the end-use consumer. Less evident though is the fact that global competition for fuels also impacts the price of electricity for consumers in the United States.

"Simple supply and demand is why increased global competition makes the price of energy go up in the U.S. When the supply cannot keep up with the demand, prices go up," said Dave Mohre, Executive Director of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's energy and power division.

Worldwide demand for fuel is growing significantly. According to the Energy Information Administration, worldwide energy consumption is projected to increase by 57 percent from 2002 to 2025. Electricity consumption is expected to double during that period.

China is the fastest growing major economy in the world right now. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) there has consistently topped 9 percent compared with 3.5 percent in the United States. And there is a building boom in Chi-

na. According to Chinese officials, one out of every five construction cranes in the world is in use in the Shanghai industrial region alone. This means more demand not only for energy but building materials such as steel and cement, which are used to build power plants in the U.S.

The Chinese now drive more cars than ever too. Drivers in Beijing and Shanghai are buying 7400 new cars per day. This causes a great demand for oil, which rose in China by more than a million and a quarter barrels from 2003 to 2004. That's 2 1/2 times greater than the U.S. increase in demand.

India is running a close second to China in terms of its economic growth, which last year grew by more than 7 percent.

The growth in these countries and other growing economies around the world has caused them to import more coal and natural gas to run their power plants. This causes the price of both of these energy sources to go up worldwide. About 70 percent of the power produced in the U.S. comes from coal and natural gas, so this worldwide demand really affects the price of electricity here.

While many electric co-ops and their consumer-members will have to adjust to higher electricity bills in the coming years, members of co-ops do have some distinct advantages over other consumers.

Most co-op power comes from coal-based power plants. Coal is more plentiful in the U.S. and less susceptible to the sharp ups and downs of oil and natural gas prices. Also, co-ops have excellent ratings on Wall Street. Their finances are in good shape for expanding their own power generation and transmission, which will make them more insulated from the price volatility of buying electricity elsewhere.

Lastly, electric co-ops are not-for-profit and are owned by the people they serve. This ensures that co-ops are always trying to get the best price when securing electricity to supply their local member-owners rather than trying to charge the highest price to please distant stockholders.

Storm Watch

How to prepare your family and property for severe weather

Outside

1. Trim dead or weak branches from surrounding trees. Do not leave them for curbside pickup during a storm watch.
2. Moor boat securely, store it upside down against a wall or move it to a safer place. Remove canvas. Anchor a boat trailer with strong rope.
3. Protect your windows with custom-fit shutters or 3/8-inch plywood. Check with your local building inspector.
4. Keep roof drains clear.
5. If you live in a flood-prone area, elevate or move structures to higher ground.
6. Bring indoors objects that may be blown or swept away, such as lawn furniture, trash cans, children's toys, garden equipment, clotheslines and hanging plants.
7. Lower water level in pool 6 inches. Add extra chlorine. Turn off electricity to pool equipment and wrap up any exposed filter pumps with a waterproof covering.
8. Plan how to take care of your pets. Leave them with a friend. If you must evacuate, it is best to take your pets with you, but most shelters will not allow them. Large animals in barns should have plenty of food and water.

9. If a storm is pending, fuel your vehicle.
10. Keep a smaller Disaster Supplies Kit (see next page) in the trunk of each car.
11. Keep sliding glass doors wedged shut in high wind.
12. If you use a portable generator, make sure you know what loads it can handle, including start-up wattage. If you connect the generator to household circuit, you must have a double-pole, double-throw transfer switch installed between the generator and outside power, or the "back-feed" could seriously harm or kill utility line workers.
13. Take down outdoor antennas, after unplugging televisions.

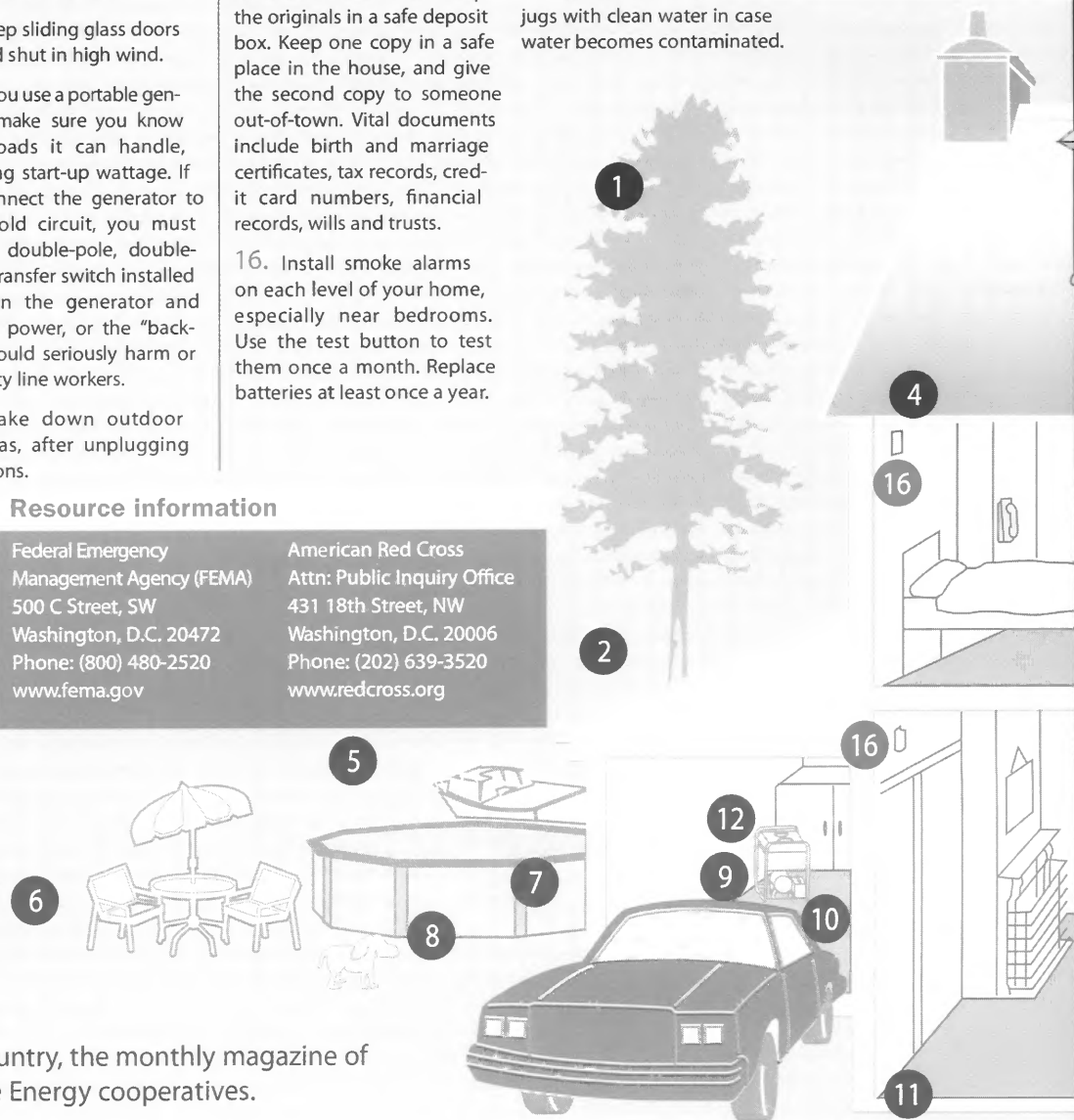
Resource information

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
500 C Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20472
Phone: (800) 480-2520
www.fema.gov

American Red Cross
Attn: Public Inquiry Office
431 18th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20006
Phone: (202) 639-3520
www.redcross.org

Inside

14. Store valuables in a waterproof container at the highest point in your home.
15. Make two photocopies of vital documents and keep the originals in a safe deposit box. Keep one copy in a safe place in the house, and give the second copy to someone out-of-town. Vital documents include birth and marriage certificates, tax records, credit card numbers, financial records, wills and trusts.
16. Install smoke alarms on each level of your home, especially near bedrooms. Use the test button to test them once a month. Replace batteries at least once a year.
17. If a family member relies on life-support equipment, make sure your electric cooperative knows ahead of time.
18. Fill bathtubs, sinks, and jugs with clean water in case water becomes contaminated.
19. Pick a "safe" room in the house, usually a first-floor interior hallway, room or closet without windows.



Reprinted from Carolina Country, the monthly magazine of North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives.

- 20. Plan home escape routes. Find two ways out of each room.
- 21. Check and protect objects that could cause harm during a bad storm: bookshelf, hanging pictures, gas appliances, chemicals.
- 22. Write and videotape an inventory of your home, garage, and surrounding property. Include information such as serial numbers, make and model numbers, physical descriptions, and price of purchases (receipts, if possible). Store a copy somewhere away from home, such as in a safe deposit box.

- 23. Keep a portable, battery-operated radio or television and extra batteries.
- 24. Post emergency telephone numbers.
- 25. Show adult family members where your fire extinguishers are and how they work.
- 26. Make a plan for family members to reunite if separated (if children are at school and adults are at work). Designate an out-of-state relative or friend as a contact person and make sure everybody in the family knows how to reach the person.

- 27. Teach all responsible family members how and when to turn off the water, gas, and electricity at the main switches or valves. Keep a wrench near gas and water shut-off valves. Turn off utilities only if you suspect a leak or damaged lines, or if you are instructed to do so by authorities.

A Disaster Supply Kit (recommended by the American Red Cross)

Have enough disaster supplies for 2 weeks ready. Keep items in airtight plastic bags. Replace stored food and water every six months. Rethink your kit and family needs at least once a year. (Replace batteries, update clothes, etc.) Ask your physician or pharmacist about storing prescription medications.

- | | |
|--|--|
| Emergency food & drinking water | Lantern with extra fuel |
| At least one change of clothes | Manual can opener |
| Baby food, diapers & formula | Matches |
| Batteries | Medicines, glasses or contact lens supplies |
| Bleach (without lemon or additives) | Mosquito repellent |
| Books, magazines, cards & games | Personal identification |
| Butane lighters | Pet food |
| Cash & credit cards | Phone numbers of places you could go. |
| Camera & film | Plastic trash bags |
| Car keys | Radio (battery-operated) or TV |
| Charcoal & lighter fluid | Rope (100 ft.) |
| Clock (non-electric) | Sleeping bags, pillows & blankets |
| Cooler (with ice) | Soap & shampoo |
| Duct & masking tape | Sturdy shoes |
| Extension cords | Toilet paper & towelettes |
| Fire extinguisher | Tool kit including hammer, crowbar, nails, saw, gloves, etc. |
| First Aid kit | Water purification tablets |
| Flashlight | |
| Grill or camp stove | |
| Heavy plastic
(for roof if damaged) | |



If you must evacuate leave as quickly as possible. Unplug your appliances, but leave on your refrigerator. Turn off the main water valve. If time allows, move furniture to a higher place. Take sleeping bags, blankets, warm protective clothing, emergency supplies, eating utensils and identification showing proof of residency. Tell somebody where you are going.

The King of ENERGY Ideas

Doug Rye. He's more than just caulk and talk.
Coming to Southern Illinois!

You've heard him on the radio...
NOW SEE HIM IN PERSON!

Nationally recognized energy consultant, DOUG RYE, will be visiting southern Illinois to help you lower your utility bills. Come see this home energy conservation expert and learn how residential energy improvements can make you money, not cost you money!

The electric cooperatives of southern Illinois are hosting THREE can't miss events. Two of these events were held in March and had good turnouts. The three remaining workshops are:

Residential Energy Audit Workshops 6:30 p.m. Please call to reserve seating.

April 9, 2007	Hecker Community Center, Hecker - 800-757-7433
April 10, 2007	World Shooting Complex, Sparta - 800-606-1505
April 11, 2007	Shawnee Community College, Ullin - 800-762-1400

Free Admission



Southern Illinois
Electric Cooperative



Monroe County
Electric Co-Operative



SouthEastern Illinois
Electric Cooperative



Egyptian Electric
Cooperative Association




Tri-County Electric
Cooperative, Inc.

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc.

6132 State Rt. 3, P.O. Box 128, Waterloo, Illinois 62298
618-939-7171

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

A * N * N * U * A * L M * E * E * T * I * N * G HIGHLIGHTS

Members of Monroe County Electric Co-Operative (MCEC) learned about changes to the co-op during the organization's 69th annual meeting on Monday, March 26, in Hecker.

Board President Terry Grommet told members that the co-op had a tough year. "We had deficit margins for 2006 and unfortunately the 4 percent increase in rates last year was not enough to offset the rise in wholesale power costs." Grommet also said that sales were down and distribution costs were up. "I believe we will have to have another 4-5 percent increase in rates this year to meet our financial obligations. As you are all aware, the only way to generate sufficient revenue is through our rates."

Grommet then told members of the co-op's plan to provide public water service through their wholly-owned, not for profit subsidiary, Monroe County Environmental Management. "Potable water in this area is hard to come by. Many people haul water, others pull out of mine lakes and treat it, while some have wells with higher sulfur content. Illinois American, like many large corporations, doesn't want to fool with a few hundred consumers. But when it comes to improving your quality of life, we will."

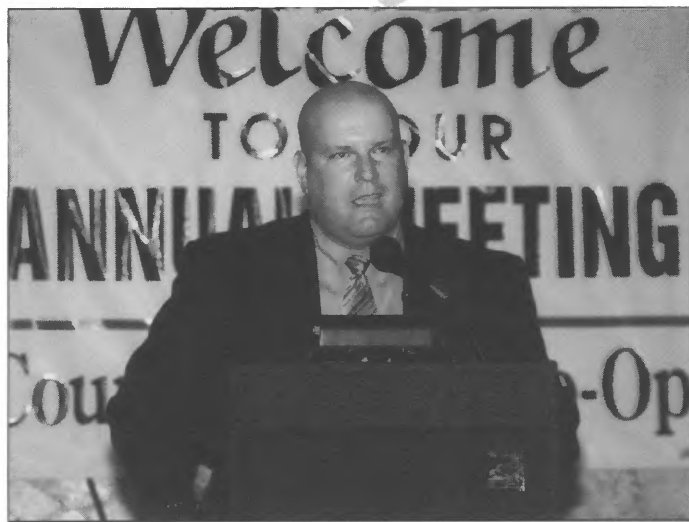
Finally Grommet updated the members on the plans for the cooperatives impending sewer treatment facility. "The permitting process is about complete and the design of the system is in progress. We are very close to purchasing 40 acres east of the headquarters that will give us better access to Rock House Creek," Grommet said.

President/CEO Alan Wattles told members that 2006 was a financially challenging year for the co-op. "Three separate storms hit the cooperative during the year and this contributed to negative margins. Storms cause problems for

■ (Continued on 16b)



During the meeting members re-elected Joel Harres of Columbia and Manlee Knoblock of Fufts to the co-op's board of directors, and elected Gary Gregson to replace the retiring director Walter Amann of Red Bud. They are pictured with Alan Wattles, President/CEO. From left are Wattles, Harres, Knoblock and Gregson.



■ (Continued from 16a)

operations and increased expenses in areas that are hard to accurately budget for," he said. The total amount the cooperative spent for distribution expenses and maintenance was \$1,019,364, which was \$424,838 more than their projected budget for last year. "We were fortunate that Monroe and St. Clair counties were added to the Federal Disaster declaration for the November/December ice storm and we will hopefully recover 75 percent of our expenses from that ice storm," Wattles said.

Wattles also updated members on the system maintenance the cooperative did in 2006. "Nearly 104 miles of line were cleared by trimming trees, 25 percent of the system was spot sprayed, 2,300 poles were inspected, 25 Oil Circuit Reclosers were changed and repaired, and oil tests were made to our substation transformers."

Wattles said, "Power sales and purchases were lower in 2006 than in 2005, with a somewhat milder year for weather overall. Monroe Electric sold 103,493,847 kwhs for a decrease of .5 percent from 2005." MCEC purchased 110,861,402 kwhs from Southern Illinois Power Cooperative, the co-ops power supplier, which was 1.2 percent less than they purchased in 2005. "We are projecting an increase in kwh sales for 2007 due to continued load growth and favorable weather."

★ Storms cause problems for operations and increase expenses in areas that are hard to accurately budget for. ★



OFFICE CLOSING



Our office will be closed Monday, May 28th in observance of Memorial Day.



Remember Mother's Day on May 13



Air Conditioners are More Efficient than Ever

By: Chris Dorsi

Air conditioners consume a lot of electricity, and are the largest summer utility expense for many families. Fortunately, recent design improvements have reduced the consumption of this hungry appliance. Two of the most important improvements are the two-stage compressor and multi-speed condenser fan.

During the hottest weather, you may need the full capacity of your air conditioner to keep your home comfortable. During this full-time operation, standard air conditioners run at their maximum efficiency. But during moderate weather, old-fashioned air conditioners will cycle on and off to keep from over-cooling your home. This stop-and-go operation is inherently inefficient, since a lot of energy is wasted during the start-up and shut-down part of each cycle.

Air-conditioning units with a two-stage compressor and a multi-speed outdoor condenser fan operate at lower capacity during moderate weather. This results in longer cycles and improved efficiency. It also allows

your system to remove more humidity from the air. When the weather is truly hot, they step up to full-speed operation to assure your comfort.

Variable-capacity air conditioners are all more efficient than older units, but they work in different ways:

- Some two-stage systems have two small compressors side-by-side. The first compressor operates alone during moderate weather. The second compressor kicks in only when needed during hot weather.
- The two-piston compressors run in one-piston mode during moderate weather and two-piston mode during hot weather.
- The multi-speed compressors actually turn at two different speeds to match the cooling load.

You can't avoid the heat of summer, but with a variable-capacity air conditioner, you can reduce the cost of cooling your home. You can learn more about air conditioners at the Energy Star® Web site: <http://www.energystar.gov>.

Remodel Projects that Improve your Home's Efficiency

By Chris Dorsi

Improvements to the outside of your home offer excellent opportunities to incorporate energy-saving measures with little additional effort. New siding, windows, and doors, for example, can improve the efficiency of your home if they are installed carefully. They add beauty and value, too.

If you plan to repaint or replace the exterior siding on your home, don't miss the chance to add wall insulation. Many older homes have wall cavities that are un-insulated or only partially insulated, allowing rapid heat loss in winter and heat gain in summer.

Wall insulation is one of the most cost-effective energy savers available. Loose-fill insulation can be installed in these wall cavities through holes that are drilled through the siding or sheathing underneath the siding. This requires specialized tools, so you should have a professional insulator do the job. Your new siding will cover the installation holes, saving the price of repair.



Some types of siding can be installed over a layer of insulation that's added between the old and new siding. This layer can be added with or without the new cavity insulation described above.

New high-efficiency windows and doors can save a lot of energy if installed properly. One key to maintaining their efficiency is sealing the edges where they meet the wall, so cold air and moisture can't enter the home. Pay close attention to the hidden joints where the window or door meets the wall framing, as well as the visible seams at the siding. Fill large, hidden gaps with liquid urethane foam in a can, or with tightly packed fiberglass. Install a bead of good quality caulk at the surface of each joint, and paint it to match. Now your new window or door will perform at its best.

Chris Dorsi is a nationally recognized expert on energy-efficiency. For more free energy-saving tips, visit the Saturn Resource Management Web site at www.srmi.biz.

May is National Electrical Safety Month

Make safe connections: Plug into electrical safety

We take certain things for granted, like air, water, food, and the electricity we use for entertainment, home maintenance, and work. But electricity in our home poses both a blessing and a hazard. Electricity needs to be respected.

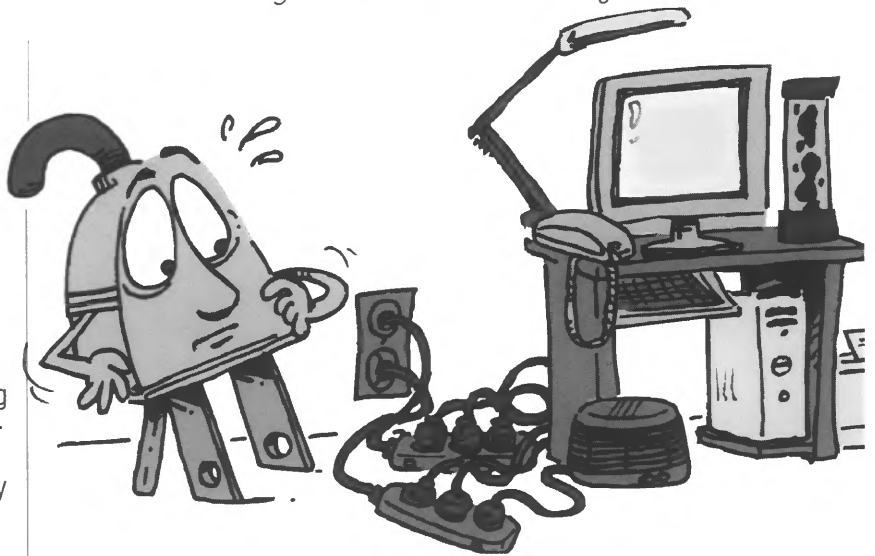
For that reason, education and awareness about electrical safety is crucial. Electric cooperatives like Monroe County Electric participate in a number of safety efforts all year long but also recognize the National Electrical Safety Month each May as a cornerstone of that effort. Electrical safety is a 24-7 issue, 365 days a year.

According to a recent estimate, approximately three people die each day in residential electrical-related incidences in the home. A great many of those are related to problems at the outlets, power cords and extension cords. To help reduce those numbers, the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) encourages consumers to "Plug Into Electrical Safety?"

Following are just some of the safety tips offered by ESFI:

Outlets

- Have a qualified electrician inspect your outlets and electrical system.
- Plugs should fit fully and securely into outlets but should not be forced.
- Make sure there are safety covers on all unused outlets to protect children.
- If an outlet or a switch wall plate is hot or discolored by heat, shut off the circuit and have it professionally checked.
- Have additional outlets installed where you need them instead of relying on extension cords and power strips.



According to a recent estimate, approximately three people die each day in residential electrical-related incidences in the home.

Power and extension cords

- Check that all electrical items, including extension cords, are certified by a nationally recognizes independent testing lab, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), CSA Group, ETL and MET Labs.
- Extension cords should only be used on a temporary basis; unplug and safely store them after every use.
- Do not place power cords and extension cords in high traffic areas or under carpets, rugs or furniture, and never nail or staple them to the wall or baseboard.
- Never remove the ground pin (the third prong) to make a three-prong plug fit into a two-prong outlet.
- Make sure extension cords are properly rated for their intended

use, indoor or outdoor, and meet or exceed the power needs of the appliance or tool being used.

- All electrical items and extension cords should be kept in good condition. If damage is discovered, take the item to an authorized repair center or cut the cord and dispose of it safely.

GFCI's and AFCIs

- Make sure your home includes ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), which prevent accidental electrocution by shutting off the circuit when they sense a "leak" of current off the circuit, and arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs), which help prevent fires by shutting off the circuit when they sense arcing. Consider installing GFCIs and AFCIs on all circuits except those serving major appliances, which may cause nuisance tripping.
- Test your GFCIs monthly and after every major electrical storm.

These and other electrical safety tips are available at ESFI's Web site, www.electrical-safety.org.

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc.

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Local Students Attend Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day



Representative Dan Reitz and Senator David Luechtefeld met with 13 students representing Monroe County Electric Co-Operative during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day on Wednesday, March 28, in Springfield. Students had an opportunity to view state government in action, meet with Secretary of State Jesse White and tour the State Capitol, Illinois Supreme Court, Old State Capitol and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.

Front row from left are Alex Scharf of Millstadt, David Idoux of Waterloo, Sarah Redohl of Valmeyer, Abby Brooks of Waterloo, Corrina Logston of Red Bud, Caitlin Holland of New Athens, Brooke Vernier of Freeburg and Kathleen Easlich of Freeburg. Back row from left are Rep. Reitz, chaperone Allan Masterson, Ryan Mueller of Valmeyer, Anna Osterhage of Waterloo, Bryan Schreder of Waterloo, Jennifer Kramper of New Athens, Sen. Luechtefeld, Brooke Toenjes of Red Bud, and chaperone Cindy Myrick. The day was sponsored by the Illinois electric and telephone co-ops and is designed to introduce young rural leaders to state government.

Verizon Day set for June 15th

A Verizon Wireless representative will be at your cooperative office on Friday, June 15th from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. The representative will be here to answer your questions and will have several models of phones on hand that the members can look at. If you're not able to be here at that time and would like to talk to the representative, you can call our office either before or during those hours and the representative will call you back.

Through Verizon Wireless, your cooperative is able to offer several very competitive rate plans for cell phones to the membership and a discount for being under the cooperative's group business plan.

All-Electric Heat Rate Available to Residential Service

As a reminder, your cooperative offers a special all-electric heat rate to residential members whose homes use electric as their primary heating and water heating source.

The account must have some type of electric heat as their main heating source and also have an electric hot water heater.

The all-electric heat rate 16 offers a reduced electric rate from usage starting October 1 and ending May 31. Between this time the first 1200 kilowatt hours consumed are billed at 8.83 cents/kilowatt hour. From 1201-5000 kilowatt hours, the rate drops to 5 cents/kilowatt hour. After 5000 kwhs the rate goes to 6.75 cents/kwh.

Between June 1st and September 30th, the rate converts back to rate 1. The first 2000 kwhs are billed at 8.83 cents/kwh and over 2000 kwhs the rate drops to 6.75 cents/kwh.

Again, this rate is available to residential homes that are occupied 12 months out of the year. If your home

is all-electric and you're not sure which rate you are on, you can check your bill at the top under the heading "Rate/Reference."

If you are currently on the rate that uses a sub-meter (second meter for heating), contact our office for a free energy history analysis to see if you could save money going to rate 16.

If you have questions, please call the cooperative office at 939-7171 or 800-757-7433.

TO REPORT A POWER OUTAGE

After office hours: Call 618-939-7171 or
800-757-7433

**Someone is always on duty to take
emergency calls after hours.**

Reminder: Sub-Metered Accounts Need to Leave Breakers On

As a reminder to all the members who are all-electric and on a sub-metered rate, (rate 14), the power going to their sub-meter is coming off one of your circuit breakers inside the home. If that breaker or fuse is disconnected and power is cut to the sub-meter, we cannot read your sub-meter from the cooperative office with our AMR (Automatic Meter Reading) system and you may not get credit for electric heat kilowatts used at the lower kilowatt hour rate.

If you are having electrical work done to your breaker box or inside your home, please make sure to call the cooperative office at 939-7171 or 800-757-7433, and let us check that communications with your sub-meter have not been affected.

Safe Electricity Plants Seeds of Caution Around Power Lines

The risk of electrocution remains one of the greatest hazards on today's farms. Before heading back into the fields, Safe Electricity reminds farm workers to be particularly alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines, and urges a review of farm activities and work practices that take place around all electric lines. "Make sure everyone knows the location of overhead power lines and to keep farm equipment at least 10 feet away from them," says Molly Hall, Executive Director of Safe Electricity. "The minimum 10 foot distance is a 360-degree rule – below, to the side and above lines."

Simply coming too close to a power line while working is dangerous as electricity can arc or "jump" to conducting material or objects, such as a ladder, pole or truck. "Many farm electrical accidents that involve power lines happen when loading or preparing to transport equipment to fields, or while working on farm machinery near power lines," notes Hall. "Sometimes a line is closer than it looks. When moving large equipment or high loads near a power line, always use a spotter to help ensure contact is not made with a line."

Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds. Many tractors are now equipped with radios and communications systems that have very tall antennas extending from the cab that could make contact with power lines. Avoid raising the arms of planters, cultivators or truck beds near power lines. "Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path," warns Hall.

When performing other farm chores, as in any outdoor work, take care not to raise equipment such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust and dirt contamination.

Do not try to clear storm-damage debris and limbs near or touching power lines or near fallen lines. Overhead electric wires aren't the only electrical contact that can result in a serious incident. Pole guy wires are grounded to the neutral; but, when one of the guy wires is broken, it can cause an electric current disruption. This can make those neutral wires anything but harmless.

If you hit a guy wire and break it, call the utility to fix it. Don't do it yourself. When dealing with electrical poles and wires, call the electric utility. "Operators of farm machinery or moving equipment also should know



what to do if the vehicle comes in contact with a power line," Hall says. "It's almost always best to stay in the cab and call for help. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the electric utility arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off."

"If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path to the ground and electrocution is the result," Hall says. "Even if a line has landed on the ground, there is still potential for the area to be energized. Stay in the vehicle unless there's fire or imminent risk of fire."

In that case, the proper action is to jump – not step – with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Hop or shuffle to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area. Once you get away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment. Many electrocutions occur when the operator dismounts and, realizing nothing has happened, tries to get back on the equipment.

Farmers may want to consider moving or burying power lines around buildings or busy pathways where many farm activities take place. If planning a new out building or farm structure, contact your power supplier for information on minimum safe clearances from overhead and underground power lines. And if you plan to dig beyond normal tilling, activities such as deep-ripping or sub-soiling, call JULIE at 811 to mark underground utilities first.

For more electrical safety information, visit www.SafeElectricity.org. Safe Electricity is a safety public awareness program created and supported by a coalition of several dozen organizations, including electric cooperatives, educators and others committed to promoting electrical safety.

Source: *SafeElectricity.org*.

MONROE COUNTY ELECTRIC Co-OPERATIVE

APPLICATION AUTOMATIC PAYMENT PLAN

AUTHORIZATION FOR DIRECT CREDIT DEBIT CARD PAYMENT

_____ MasterCard _____ Visa _____ Discover

Credit Card # _____

Expiration Date _____ Phone # _____

Name-Please Print _____

Co-Op Billing Acct.# _____

Address-Please Print _____

Signature _____ Date _____

AUTHORIZATION FOR DIRECT CHECKING SAVINGS PAYMENT

I authorize the financial institution named below to initiate entries to my check-
ing/savings account. This authority will remain in effect until I notify you in writing
to cancel it in such time as to afford the financial institution a reasonable oppor-
tunity to act on it.

(Name of Financial Institution) (Branch)

(City) (State) (Zip Code)

(Signature) (Date)

(Name-Please Print) (Co-Op Billing Acct. #)

(Address-Please Print)

Bank Account # _____ Checking _____ Savings _____

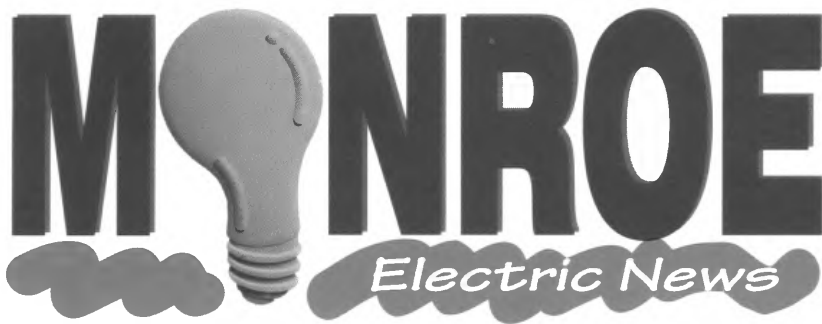
Financial Institution Routing Number _____
(between these symbols []: on bottom left of check)

****PLEASE STAPLE VOIDED CHECK TO THIS FORM****

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



Alan W. Wattles

Across the President's desk

Why We Reach Out to You

If you're reading this message, you're likely to be a member of an electric cooperative. If you're a member of an electric cooperative, you own your cooperative along with the other members.

Perhaps the most important question is: Are you aware of the special benefits and advantages you have as a member of a cooperative?

Recent research by Touchstone Energy®, the national network of more than 600 local electric cooperatives, shows that when you realize you're more than just a customer, that's meaningful to you. The research also indicates that when you identify with cooperative membership so well that you refer to yourself as a member, you report the greatest level of consumer satisfaction.

The principles that guide electric cooperatives call for us to educate, train and inform our members about the cooperative way of doing business so that you can contribute effectively to your cooperative's development. Cooperatives use a variety of ways to educate, train and inform members about the cooperative difference.

The cooperative difference includes having member-elected directors who are members themselves and serve as the trustees of the members' business.

The cooperative difference also is a commitment to provide highly reliable electric service. That means we invest in the latest technology to ensure reliability and provide you with the highest level of customer service.

As local, private businesses, owned by those we serve, cooperatives have a higher degree of care and concern for our local communities. Supporting educa-

tion, health care, economic development and other areas that contribute to quality of life is an important mission of every cooperative.

Newsletters are one way we reach out to consumers and the research shows most of you read them. Whether your member newsletter comes with your monthly power bill or is delivered as part of a statewide magazine or other periodical, the objective is the same: to keep you informed of the business of your cooperative.

Cooperatives also use Web sites. For example, many cooperatives offer the ability to sign up for services, give feedback and ask questions online.

Cooperatives also are reaching younger consumers through programs such as school safety demonstrations or scholarships. The national Rural Electric Youth Tour also provides students the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C., where they learn about how government works and also about the cooperative form of business. Some people ask why cooperatives make such efforts to communicate with consumers when we "don't have to." They reason that electric utilities operate in a regulated industry where our consumers are assigned to us. The answer is quite simple. Cooperatives are different from other businesses because we are owned by the consumers we serve. Instead of answering to stockholders in some faraway city, cooperatives are accountable to our "stakeholders." These are our members: the individuals, businesses and industries living in the communities served by the cooperative.

More Power: Rapid growth prompts cooperative to upgrade the Smithton substation

Over the past 10-15 years, the city of Smithton has seen a substantial increase in growth in its surrounding areas. Subdivisions have formed and expanded as others continue to form and add new additions.

We serve the continually growing subdivisions of Wildwood Lake Estates, Wildwood Lake Estates North Addition and Sunset Meadows along with the newly developed Autumn Ridge, Sand Rock Creek, Ledgestone Estates, Tall Timbers and the Villas of Stonegate.

To help assure that we have the resources to handle this growing area, the cooperative upgraded the

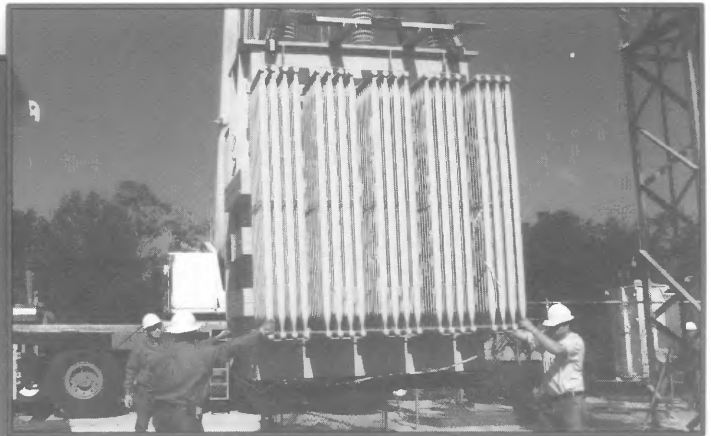
electric transformers at our Smithton substation on Thursday, May 17.

The substation had three 1,250 kva transformers for a total of 3,750 kva of capacity. These transformers were replaced with one 5,000 kva transformer, or a 30 percent capacity increase.

This increase in capacity should accommodate the existing load now as well as future growth for several years to come.



▲ Lifting out the old transformers was a big job. Here is one of the three smaller transformers replaced by the new, 33 percent larger, transformer.



▲ Linemen Ron Rusteberg, Jay Krump and Steve Drennan guide a new 5,000 kva transformer as it is lowered.



▲ Mission accomplished!!!

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc.

6132 State Rt. 3, P.O. Box 128, Waterloo, Illinois 62298 • 618-939-7171
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Summer Storm Safety

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) encourages consumers to practice caution and safety during summer storms, which at times can be severe. Beware of flooded areas cause by heavy rains -- water and electricity do not mix! Below is safety advice to use following a summer storm:

Flooded areas — Be careful when attempting to walk in flooded areas and remember that submerged outlets or electrical cords could energize the water.

Wet electrical equipment — Do not use electrical appliances that have been wet. Water can damage the motors in electrical appliances, such as furnaces, freezers, refrigerators, washing machines and dryers. Electrical parts can pose a shock hazard or overheat and cause a fire.

A qualified service repair dealer should recondition electrical equipment that has been wet. Certain equipment will require complete replacement, while a trained professional can recondition other devices.

Portable generators — Take special care with portable electric generators, which can provide a good source

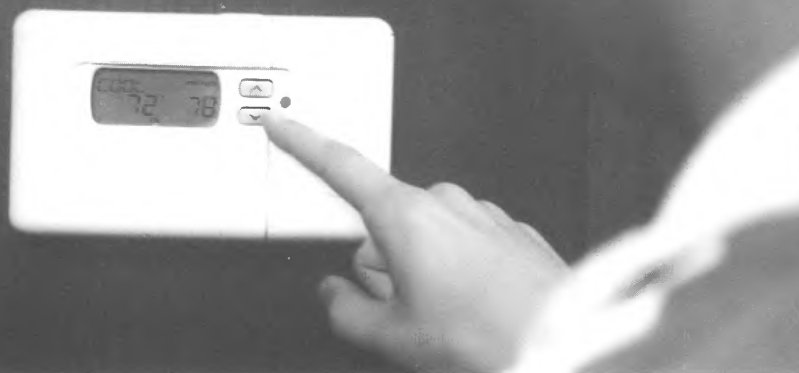
of power, but if improperly installed or operated, can become deadly. Do not connect generators directly to household wiring. Power from generators can back-feed along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including line workers making repairs. A qualified, licensed electrician should install your generator to ensure that it meets local electrical codes.

Other tips include:

- ◆ Make sure your generator is properly grounded.
- ◆ Keep the generator dry.
- ◆ Make sure extension cords used with generators are rated for the load, and are free of cuts, worn insulation and have three-pronged plugs.
- ◆ Do not overload the generator.
- ◆ Do not operate the generator in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces. Generators can produce high levels of carbon monoxide very quickly, which can be deadly.
- ◆ Use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to help prevent electrocutions and electrical shock injuries. Portable GFCIs require no tools to install and are available at prices ranging from \$12 to \$30.

Source: ESFI and NRECA

Costs Are Rising Everywhere...



... but your local electric cooperative is doing something about it. We are investing in new technologies to improve operations and boost reliability.

As part of your electric cooperative, you're also part of the solution. You can help by adding your own technology. Install a programmable thermostat to control your home's temperature both night and day. And while you're at it, increase your temperature by a degree or two for even more savings this summer.

To learn more about saving money with programmable thermostats, contact your local electric cooperative.

JULIE - Call Before You Dig

Digging Responsibly is the Only Way to Dig

Most electrical equipment is above ground, practically everywhere. But, how often do you think about the electrical lines hidden beneath the surface? They're out of sight, out of mind. That's the beauty of it. However, you must consider that underground electrical lines can be anywhere at any depth. In fact, if you could see beneath the surface, you'd find a vast network of facilities including gas, oil and petroleum, telephone lines, cable TV, water and sewer. Underground facilities are everywhere. Often, the path of these lines is unpredictable.

What is JULIE?

Every time you dig, you are required by Illinois law to call JULIE (Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators) at 1-800-892-0123. JULIE is the "Illinois One-Call System" for locating and marking of all underground facilities.

JULIE acts as a communication link, taking information about planned digging projects and distributing the information to utilities. You might say, "But I'm only using a shovel. I'm not digging that deep." Whether you're using a shovel or a backhoe, it doesn't matter. You could be locating a garden, planting trees, moving a mailbox, or putting in a new clothesline. Facilities can be located anywhere under the surface.

Necessary information for each call

The person placing the call to JULIE should be the same person who will be doing the digging. Excavators must place their own calls. The locate request should be made at least 48 hours (two working days, excludes weekends and holidays) in advance of the start of excavation.

The project must be started within 14 days from your call. If possible, mark the area where you will be digging with white paint or flags. This will help the utility locator properly identify your project area. If the markings become unclear at any time before or during your project, call JULIE to have the markings refreshed and be prepared to wait an additional 48 hours. Do not call JULIE on Saturday or Sunday for a project to be marked on the same weekend. Member companies only respond to emergencies on these days--not routine projects.

When you call, be prepared to give the JULIE operator the following information:

- Your name, address and a phone number at which you can be reached. Delays may occur if the utility locator is unable to contact you;
- The county and city OR county and unincorporated township name where you will be digging;
- The location at which the excavation will take place, which may include but not be limited to, address, cross street (within 1/4 mile) and subdivision name (if it applies);
- The start date and time of the planned excavation;
- The type and extent (size of excavation area) of the work involved, including if white paint, flags and/or


stakes were used to outline the proposed excavation area; and,

- Section and quarter-section numbers from your plat of survey if available.

Digging into an underground line could cause serious injuries or death. If someone neglects to call JULIE and digs into a line, he/she is responsible for the costs to make repairs. If underground facilities run beneath a new building or under that new swimming pool, it's your responsibility to pay for repairs. Don't take chances. The call to JULIE is free, the program is funded by member utilities.

Note – The location of Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc. underground cables will be marked with either red flags or red spray paint. Co-op cables will only be marked to the location of the cooperative electric meter. This location is typically the point where the service (cables) transfer ownership to the member (landowner). When requesting a JULIE locate, only the cables owned by the existing utilities will be located. Privately owned facilities are NOT located through the JULIE process. It is the landowner's responsibility to locate any cables not owned by utilities.

For safety guidelines and other information about JULIE, visit www.illinois1call.com.




**Call
Before
You Dig**

JULIE

**ILLINOIS
ONE-CALL SYSTEM**

Gas, oil or petroleum		High visibility yellow
Electric		Fire protection red
Communication telephone, tv		Alert Orange
Potable water		Precaution blue
Sewer		Safety green
Proposed area of excavation		Safety white

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Your Touchstone Energy Partner 



Alan W. Wattles

Across the President's desk

Rate Increase To Go Into Effect

At MCEC's Annual Meeting in March 2007 we told you we would need to put a small rate increase into effect at some point in 2007. Unfortunately, the time has come to initiate that increase. Each rate will see a 4 percent increase across the board. All of the increase will be in the kWh blocks, with no increase in the facility charge.

MCEC has seen substantial power supply cost increases the last 4 years from SIPC and only passed on a small portion of this last year with an increase in the facility charges. Residential charges increased from \$19 to \$23 per month and three-phase accounts went from \$33 to \$42. With MCEC needing to maintain financial ratios that allow us to obtain the best possible interest rates to keep up with our continuing growth, a rate increase is now necessary.

The increase is approximately \$4 per month per average bill. Some will see larger increases due to more kWh consumption, some less. As stated previously, MCEC has been absorbing most of the recent power cost increases rather than passing them on through to you, the member. Our power costs have risen from 4.44 cents per kWh in January 2003 to 5.81 cents per kWh on our latest bill in June 2007.

The increase is approximately \$4 per month per average bill.

As you can see, that has been a significant increase of nearly 30 percent. MCEC is now passing on a 4 percent increase, which along with the

4 percent increase in 2006, still shows that MCEC has not passed on the majority of the increase.

This increase will be in effect on the September 1, 2007, billing that you will receive.

Global Demand for Energy Impacts U.S.

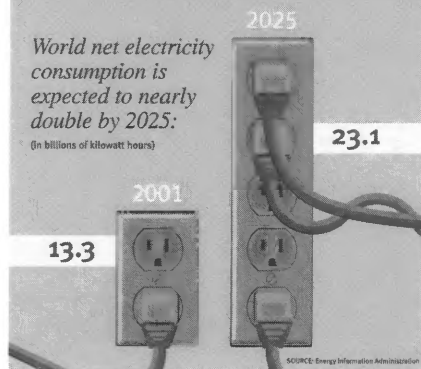
Electricity rates are beginning to climb all around the country. In some areas, consumers already have seen their electricity bills go up by as much as 40 percent or more.

The reasons for these rate increases include soaring natural gas prices, escalating environmental compliance costs for power plants and structural problems in competitive markets. Global competition for fuels also impacts the price of electricity.

Electricity Consumption

World net electricity consumption is expected to nearly double by 2025:

(In billions of kilowatt hours)



Weather Radios are back!

(Pre-Programmed) – \$65 plus tax



After waiting on a back order, we are happy to announce that we have weather radios again.

Monroe County Electric Cooperative and the **Monroe County Farm Bureau** are teaming up to offer this radio to its membership at a discounted rate.

Something as simple as a weather/alert radio can be a life-saving device for you and your loved ones.

As an added service, we are handling this high-quality weather radio for sale to members. These are the most up-to-date technology weather/alert radios available. The radios are pre programmed for the Mon-

roe County Electric service territory, thus eliminating the need to program this life-saving device. When you receive the radio, all you have to do is plug it in. They are also programmed for Jefferson County, just west, across the Mississippi river.

If you want to expand the alert area, the radio can be reprogrammed for the area you want included in any alerts. Just call the number listed on the back of the radio.

The radios are available at the Monroe County Electric Cooperative office at 6132 State Route 3, just south of Waterloo, and at the Monroe County Farm Bureau office at 513 Park St. in Waterloo.

If You Depend On Life-Support Equipment We Need To Know

While Monroe County Electric Co-Operative strives to maintain the best possible service with a minimum of outage time, occasional outages, either planned or uncontrolled, do occur. Your Cooperative needs to know the names and location of Cooperative members who depend on life-support equipment. We keep a registry of members who are on life-support equipment, and it is important that this information be current and accurate. We will make every effort to give priority to restore service to members on life-support systems.

If you or a family member depend on life-support equipment, please fill out the form below and mail it to us at: Monroe County Electric Co-Operative • P. O. Box 128 • Waterloo, Illinois 62298

NAME: _____

PHONE NO. (_____) _____ - _____ ACCOUNT NUMBER: _____

TYPE OF SUPPORT EQUIPMENT: _____

DAY(S) OF USE: _____

TIME(S) OF USE: _____

DO YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY STAND-BY GENERATOR TO OPERATE THIS EQUIPMENT?

YES

NO

Mail this form to: Monroe County Electric Coop. • P. O. Box 128 • Waterloo, Illinois 62298

Sheriff's Dept. K-9 Unit gives demonstration

On Tuesday, May 15, Monroe County Electric employees were given a demonstration on the county's K-9 Unit. Sarie, the German Shepherd used for the K-9 Unit, showed how well she could track down and uncover up to seven different types of drugs by scent only.

Monroe County Sheriff Deputy Jim Lansing is the Canine Unit Officer and explained to the employees that he is with Sarie 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

Sarie, a female, was raised and trained in the country of Hungary. All the commands that Deputy Lansing gives her are in the Hungarian language.

He showed the group not only the sniffing capabilities of Sarie but also the highly trained capabilities of obeying commands to sit, lie down, speak or attack. Sarie responds to around 23 different Hungarian commands.

There was also a demonstration of Sarie's ability of apprehending a criminal who was on the run. With a simple command, Sarie took off and caught another deputy who was simulating an escaped criminal. For his own safety, the officer had a protective covering on his arm during the demonstration.

Sarie is the second K-9 unit dog that the county sheriff's department has used.

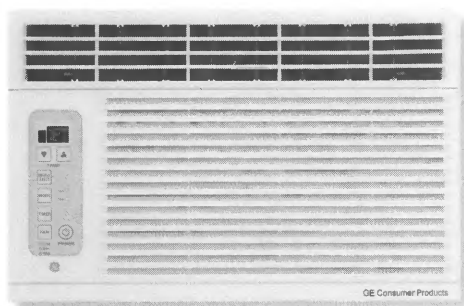


Journeyman Tree Trimmer Matt Kish portrays a criminal being subdued by Sarie.

Deputy Lansing stated that when arriving at situations that require law enforcement, just the intimidation factor of a trained dog like Sarie can replace up to a dozen police officers that may have been required to quiet a public disturbance.

We thank Deputy Lansing and the Monroe County Sheriff's department for giving the demonstration to the cooperative employees.

Is Your Room Air Conditioner the Right Size?



Many people buy an air conditioner that is too large, thinking it will provide better cooling. However, an oversized air conditioner is actually less effective – and wastes energy at the same time. Air conditioners remove both heat and humidity from the air. If the unit is too large, it will cool the room quickly, but only remove some of the humidity. This leaves the room with a damp, clammy feeling. A properly sized unit will remove humidity effectively as it cools.

To figure out which size unit is best for your cooling needs visit www.energystar.gov and click on products, then Room AC for a link to an easy to use chart. And when purchasing, look for an Energy Star model; it will use at least 10 percent less energy than a conventional model and could save you money.

For more information see www.energystar.gov.

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Protect Your Home From **POWER SURGES**

A flash of light, a crack of thunder. You wake up with a start, realize that your family and house are safe, then go back to sleep, thinking everything's okay.

But is it? You really won't know until the next day, when you check to see if a power surge turned your computer, home theatre or sound system into a pile of fried microchips.

An Inside Job

As dangerous as lightning is, 80 percent of temporary power surges actually originate from inside the home. They're caused by motor-driven appliances like an air conditioner, dishwasher or refrigerator; or even something as small as a laser printer or coffee maker.

According to the Leviton Institute, three types of power surges can occur both inside and outside your home: destructive surges that "fry" your sensitive electronics; disruptive surges that cause you to have to reset or reprogram devices; and dissipative surges that degrade your sensitive electronic components over time.

The good news is that you can be more sensitive to your home's sensitive electronics. There are a wide variety of surge protection devices (SPDs) on the market to protect your valuable home electronics from these potentially destructive power surges.

First Line of Defense

Power strip SPDs are the simplest and cheapest form of protection. They are widely available, reasonably priced (typically between \$10 and \$50), and provide good protection from temporary power spikes. Most come with six to eight outlets, enough for the average home office or den.

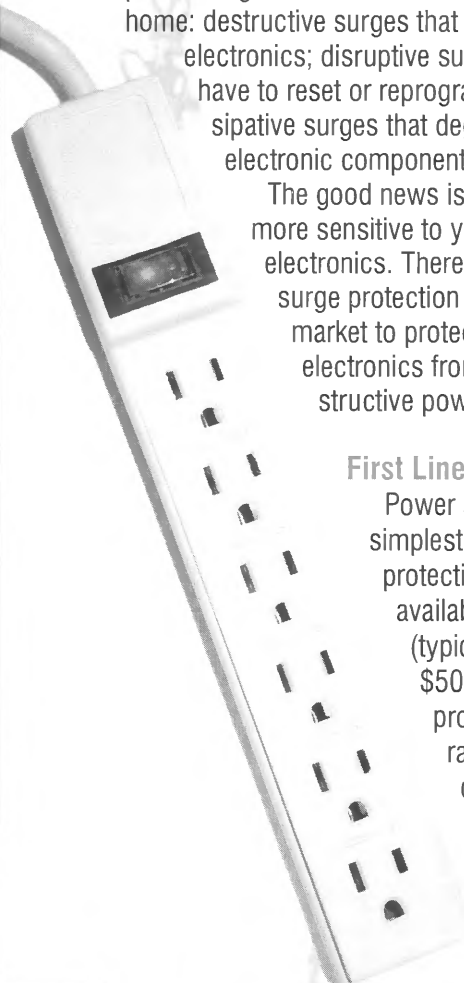
Keep in mind that they protect not just expensive electronics but computers as well. Since even a minor power fluctuation can freeze up a program or corrupt a file, be sure your surge protector is up to the job – look for one with the UL 1449 label, which guarantees it meets tested and approved standards.

By the way, don't forget your phone, data and cable TV lines; they can carry a voltage spike into your home just as easily as a power line, with the same destructive results. Make sure your surge protector can also accommodate them.

A Network of Protection

Power strip SPDs, while effective at stopping most in-house spikes, can be overwhelmed by spikes caused by nearby lightning strikes that enter your home through the power line. For unparalleled protection, the Leviton Institute recommends whole-house network protection.

The network protection begins outside the house with a meter socket surge arrester, which your co-op can install. Inside, a panel-mounted device installed near the circuit breaker box forms the second layer of defense. A final gauntlet of SPD outlets and power strip SPDs in each room protect at the point-of-use. With a whole-house network in place, you can rest easier knowing that, even if lightning strikes somewhere nearby, your home's electronics and appliances will be protected.



Source: The Leviton Institute.

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Electric News

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Your Touchstone Energy Partner 

MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

Saturday, October 6

The membership of Monroe County Electric Co-Operative is invited out to our **Member Appreciation Day** at the cooperative office on **Saturday, October 6, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.**

The **Member Appreciation Day** will offer the membership a chance to tour the cooperative office and meet the employees and directors of the co-op.

Refreshments available will include **hot dogs, chips, cookies, homemade kettle corn, soda and bottled water.**

There will be a **Verizon Wireless** representative here to talk to members about **cell phone service.**

We will again have **free bucket truck rides** with photos taken. This has been a very popular attraction the last two years.

Members who have young children are encouraged to come out as well. We will have several items for the younger generation, which will include:

- Moonwalker setup for bouncing fun for the children
- Helium balloons will be given out
- Child Identification Kits will be distributed and prints taken if desired
- Face and miniature pumpkin painting
- Delicious kettle corn, cooked on-site, for all to enjoy.

We will have attendance gifts for each membership that visits and a Grand Prize Drawing for an LCD Color Television.

So come on out on the 6th of October, have a hot dog, and say "HI" at our "Membership Appreciation Day."



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Voluntary and open membership • Voluntary and open membership • Voluntary and open membership

Harvest Safety

National Farm Safety and Health Week Sept. 16 – 22

The rush to harvest can yield higher numbers of electrocution, shock and burn injuries. Nationwide, an average of 64 agricultural workers are electrocuted and hundreds more injured in farm electrical accidents each year. Safe Electricity and Monroe County Electric Co-Operative urge farm workers to avoid tragic accidents by taking note of farm activities that take place around power lines.

“Equipment contacting overhead power lines is the leading cause of farm electrocution accidents in the Midwest,” says Bob Aherin, University of Illinois Agricultural Safety Specialist.

Many types of farm equipment can come in contact with overhead power lines, creating a direct path for electricity. Tractors with front-end loaders, portable grain augers, fold-up cultivators, and equipment with antennas can easily become electrical hazards and must be operated with care.

“Everyone who works on the farm should know the location of power lines and keep farm equipment at least 10 feet away from them – below, to the side and above power lines,” says Molly Hall, Director of Safe Electricity. “Ensuring proper clearance can save lives.”

Here are some safety considerations for farm workers:

- Always lower portable augers or elevators to their lowest possible level - under 14 feet - before moving or transporting; use care when raising them.
- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting larger modern tractors with higher antennas.
- Always use a spotter or someone to help make certain that contact is not made with a line when moving large equipment or high loads.
- Do not use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around bins.
- As in any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes, and hay may also conduct electricity under certain conditions.



- Use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.
- Apply decals to all equipment that may pose electrical hazards and explain decals to workers who use the equipment.
- Inspect farm equipment for transport height and determine clearance with any power lines under which the equipment must pass.
- If you have a standby power system, review its location, operation and importance with all workers.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.

“It’s also important for operators of farm equipment or vehicles to know what to do if the vehicle comes in contact with a power line,” Hallsays. “It’s almost always best to stay in the cab and call for help. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the electric utility arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off.”

If you must leave the vehicle due to fire danger, the proper action is to jump – not step – with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Continue to hop or shuffle to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

Once you get away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment. Many electrocutions happen when the operator dismounts and, realizing nothing has happened, tries to get back on the equipment.

For more information on farm and other electrical safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

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Walter Amann, Longtime Board Director, Passes

We are very sad to announce that longtime board director, Walter Amann, passed away on July 24. Walter retired off the board this year after serving for 27 years as one of your directors. He was a retired farmer.

Walter "Wally" became a dear friend to the cooperative employees and fellow directors. He possessed a keen sense of humor and personal warmth that will be sadly missed.

Wally was a dear husband to his wife, Janet, for 53 years, a father to nine children, and was a grandfather and great-grandfather.

His funeral was on Friday, July 27 at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Hecker.

The cooperative management, staff, employees and directors offer his wife, Janet, and the entire Amann family our deepest sympathies.



Why is My Cost per Kwh Higher Than it Should Be?

If you have used a calculator to figure your "per kilowatt hour cost" and it comes out higher than what your rate states it should be, it is because the "Meter Facility Charge" is added to your energy charge on your electric bill. If you divide the number of kilowatts you used into the dollar amount, it will come out to be higher than what your rate shows.

Example: For the members who are on Rate 1, their meter facility charge is \$23/month. When figuring your

cost per kilowatt hour charge, you must first deduct that \$23 from the "Energy Charge" amount on your bill. Then divide the remaining dollar amount by the kilowatts used and you should come out with the correct rate per kilowatt hour. (Please note that most rates change with the number of kilowatt hours used.)



Office Closing

The cooperative office will be closed on Monday, September 3 in observance of Labor Day.

Q&A

Why Do My Lights Blink?



We know that blinking lights are annoying. The reason your lights blink is that something has happened to short circuit the power line. Special devices installed on the lines called reclosers, click off and then back on again quickly if the short circuit is temporary, like if a tree branch hits the line. That short interruption of power when the recloser shuts off is when your lights blink. If the recloser wasn't present on the line, your power would be off until the co-op could send out linemen to restore it.

So the next time you have to reset your digital clocks, remember that it means your co-op's electric system is operating properly, and that short blink saved you from a longer outage.

How To Weather A Prolonged Outage

A number of circumstances can cause power interruptions, and damage from severe summer storms can cause outages that last days. When a power outage occurs during hot weather, take steps to maintain safety and comfort until power is restored.

"Many summer power outages are due to severe storms with high winds that topple utility poles and power lines," says Molly Hall, Director of Safe Electricity. "It's important to stay clear of downed power lines, and during cleanup efforts, be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard."

Assume that any dangling wires you encounter are electrical and treat all downed or hanging lines as if they are energized. If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel or electric utility.

Also when driving, be careful at intersections where traffic lights may be out. Stop at all railroad crossings, and treat road intersections with traffic signals as a four-way stop before proceeding with caution.

If power to your home is out for a prolonged period, know and understand important safety precautions and steps to cope with heat until power is restored:

- * Remember to call your electric utility immediately to report the outage.
- * Dress in loose, lightweight clothing, and stay on the coolest, lowest level of your home.
- * Use natural ventilation to cool homes, and consider purchasing battery-powered fans.
- * Drink plenty of water. Avoid heavy meals, caffeinated and alcoholic drinks.
- * Keep fridge or freezer doors closed. A freezer that is half full or full can keep foods frozen 24 to 48 hours. Foods should stay safe in an unopened refrigerator up to four hours. If an outage lasts longer than four hours, remove and pack meat, milk and dairy products in a cooler with ice.
- * Use safe, alternative food preparations. A barbecue grill is an excellent way to prepare food, but a charcoal grill should never be used indoors. Always grill outside.
- * Check on friends and relatives—especially children, seniors, and those with medical conditions or disabilities. These people may need to seek emergency cooling shelters.

- * Keep a first-aid kit in your home and one in your car. Make sure that it includes scissors, tweezers, safety pins, aspirin, eyewash and rubbing alcohol or hydrogen peroxide.

- * Close all drapes and blinds on the sunny side of your residence.

- * Take your family and pets

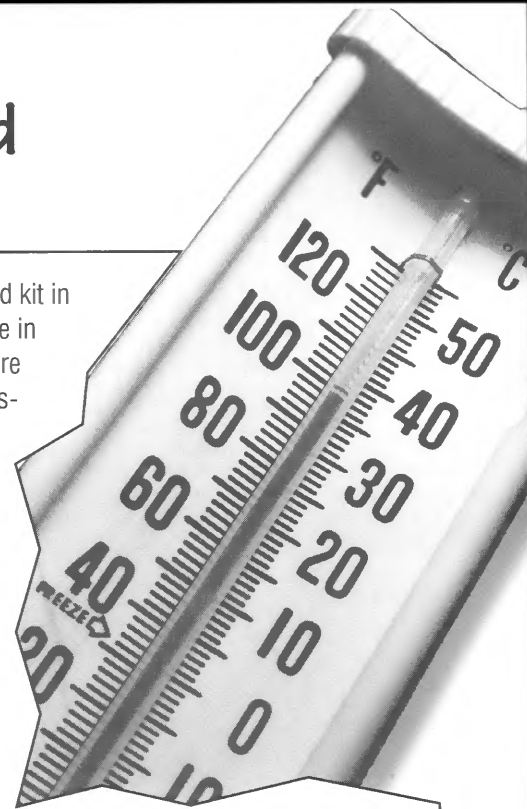
to a cool basement location if you have one. Or consider going to an air-conditioned public place during warmer daytime hours.

During an outage, Safe Electricity also recommends turning off electrical appliances and unplugging major equipment, including air conditioning, computers and televisions. This will help protect equipment that could be damaged by electrical surges, and prevent circuit overloads when power is restored. Leave one light on to indicate that power has been restored. Wait a few minutes then turn on other appliances and equipment one at a time.


If you use a standby generator, make sure a transfer safety switch is used or connect the appliance(s) directly to the generator output through an isolated circuit before you operate it. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the power lines, what's known as "back feed."

"Back feed creates danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power," warns Hall.

For more information on electrical safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.



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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



Alan W. Wattles

Across the President's desk

October is Cooperative Month

There is a place where buyers and sellers meet and it is usually called a market. There is another place where people meet for business, and that place is called a cooperative.

Through the cooperative form of business, people become something more than buyers or sellers. They become full participants in the free enterprise system. Co-op members not only buy goods and services from the cooperative, they also own the business. They use their combined power to invest their capital, operate their own business, provide themselves and others with goods and services and share the benefits.

Each year, cooperative businesses generate more than \$100 million in economic activity and enhance the lives of more than 100 million Americans. During the month of October, people from every type of cooperative business celebrate their achievements. Cooperatives contribute so great a value to our nation that we should join the celebration.

Through the cooperative form of business, people become something more than buyers or sellers. They become full participants in the free enterprise system.

Consider that cooperative businesses bring into the American free enterprise system people from every walk of life and every economic condition. Cooperatives bring people together for housing, health care, groceries, electricity, hardware, telephone, telecommunications and financial services. Cooperatives are inseparable from our nation's agricultural production, processing and distribution industries.

Earlier in this century, the U.S. Congress, by law, confirmed cooperatives' role in the mainstream of American business. That wisdom has been tested and proven correct year after year, and today cooperative businesses are an irreplaceable part of our economy. As we look around, we can see many examples of how cooperatives have enriched our communities and contributed to our shared prosperity.

Business trends go up and down, and fads and fashions spring up and fade away; but cooperative businesses produce an enduring economic liberty for all people. That liberty is worthy of celebrating and preserving.

Reminder:

Join us for our Member Appreciation Day on Saturday, October 6 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the cooperative office.
Food, fun, games and door prizes!

Ron Solich Wins Drawing for Fair Prize

The cooperative had an informational display at the Monroe County Fair, which was held July 22-29.

Longtime cooperative member Ron Solich won the fair drawing for a DVD/VCR Player.

Soda can lids were given out as attendance gifts as well as helium balloons and candy for the kids who visited the booth. The youngsters also enjoyed a "Color Ball Game" with prizes.

Pat Shippers, a District Manager for WaterFurnace International, was on hand two of the evenings to talk to the public about ground source or geothermal heat pump systems. These are the most energy efficient systems on the market today.

We want to thank everyone who stopped by to visit our booth and hope everyone enjoyed the fair!



Protect Your Child From Dangerous Home Electrical Hazards

Bringing a baby home from the hospital is the perfect time to think about childproofing your house. Don't wait. Before you know it, your child will be crawling around, exploring your home, investigating everything with insatiable curiosity. The sooner you move harmful household chemicals and other potential dangers out of the way, the better. Unintentional injury is the leading cause of death for children, claiming more lives even than disease, according to Safe Kids Worldwide, a global organization whose mission is to prevent accidental childhood injury.

When childproofing your home, don't forget about electricity.

- **Tamper-Proof Outlets:**

Install tamper-proof outlets. Designed to keep young fingers out of unused outlets, they feature an internal barrier that only allows insertion of a properly rated plug, while keeping out fingers and foreign objects.

- **Child-Resistant Wallplates:**

Add a child-resistant wallplate to unprotected outlets. These fit over a standard receptacle and protect unused outlets with a spring-loaded wallplate that is easy for adults to open, but difficult for children to access.



- **Outlets Caps:**

Insert plastic outlet caps into empty receptacles. A snap to install, they greatly reduce the risk of electrical shock by blocking toddlers' fingers from contact with unused outlets.

- **Switch Locks:**

Install switch locks. These fit over most standard wall switches, and use handy locking snaps to prevent children from turning lights or appliances on or off.

- **Extender Wallplates:**

Create access to switches kids need to reach but can't with extender wallplates, which fit over standard toggle switches.

- **Nightlights:**

Use a nightlight to provide a reassuring guide in the dark for your child. Perfect for the nursery, bathroom or bedroom, they come in a wide variety of kid-friendly styles. Some models offer a convenient au-

tomatic On/Off feature that turns on at dusk, off at dawn. Another practical design fits over both outlets of a standard duplex receptacle, blocking the unused outlet from prying fingers while casting a warm glow at night. And they are economical, running on just pennies a day.

- **GFCIs:**

Install Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) in any room with a water source within six feet of an outlet, such as bathrooms, kitchens, etc. They protect you and your children against shock or electrocution by shutting off the power at the receptacle when they detect current leaking from the circuit to ground. Always be sure your children understand that water and electricity don't mix; appliances like radios and hair-dryers should never be used near a sink or bath.

- **Light Bulbs:**

Make sure that every light socket within a child's reach has a bulb in it.

- **Extension Cords:**

Avoid using extension cords in a child's room whenever possible. Kids are liable to chew on them, particularly when nothing is plugged into them or pull on them, knocking over a lamp or appliance.

Keep Fido Safe From Electricity

Safety checklist for pet owners

A frisky dog or curious cat can cause an electrical hazard or fire in ways you may not have thought about. Safe Electricity and Monroe County Electric Co-Operative offers this safety checklist:



- ❑ Keep electrical cords away from animals so they don't chew on them and receive a severe shock. If you have difficulty getting your pet to stop chewing on the cord, you can paint it with a bitter tasting polish or wrap the cord in a thick plastic sleeve.

- ❑ Make sure nightlights and appliances are completely plugged into wall outlets. Partially exposed prongs are a hazard for curious animals.

- ❑ Keep halogen lamps away

from play areas for pets and children. Some halogen bulbs can reach very high temperatures, and if knocked over during play, could easily start a fire.

- ❑ Keep appliances near sinks and bathtubs a safe distance away from the water source. Playful pets can knock radios, curling irons and other items into the water, creating a dangerous situation.

- ❑ Discourage pets from curling up for a nap behind warm computer equipment.

For more electrical safety information visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

Efficiency Tips: Inspecting Your Furnace

Three easy steps to help keep it working all winter long

Your furnace works hard to keep you warm all winter. Now is the time to be sure it's ready to do the same again this year. A little attention to your heating equipment can produce big savings in the long run.

The following tasks are the most important.

- ✓ Clean or replace your furnace filter. All furnaces should have a filter installed in the return air duct to clean air as it is drawn in from the home. A dirty filter will reduce the airflow through your equipment, and lower its efficiency. It's hard to say how

often to replace your furnace filter, since it varies a lot from home to home, but two to three times per year is typical for most families.

- ✓ Inspect your duct system for leaks by looking for gaps or feeling for escaping air. Your furnace uses a lot of energy to heat and cool your home's air, and duct leaks can waste up to 30 percent of this energy before it ever reaches your living space. If you find disconnected ducts or loose joints seal them up with metal duct tape or with duct mastic. Avoid common gray fabric "duct

tape" since it tends to come loose.

- ✓ Clean your supply grilles or registers. If your registers have adjustable shutters, it's best to leave them in the full-open position. Clean inside your ducts, too, for as far as you can reach from the register opening. When more air can flow through your furnace, it will operate more efficiently and it won't need to run as long. This will save both energy and money.

Source: Chris Dorsi, Saturn Resource Management (www.srmi.biz)

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc.

6132 State Rt. 3, P.O. Box 128, Waterloo, Illinois 62298 • 618-939-7171
Office hours: Monday through Friday 8 a.m. — 4:30 p.m. • 800-757-7433

Coop Offers Web Based Energy Audit Tool

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc., through its affiliation with Touchstone Energy, now offers a Web-based energy auditing tool that members can use to perform their own energy audit. The Home Energy Saver audit tool is a product of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL).

The Home Energy Saver audit tool can be accessed through the Internet by going to Monroe Electric's Web site www.mcec.org and clicking links and home energy saver.

The Home Energy Saver is designed to help members identify the best ways to save energy in their homes and find the resources to make the savings happen. The Home Energy Saver was the first Internet-based tool for calculating energy use in residential buildings. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) sponsors the project, as part of the national ENERGY STAR Program for improving energy efficiency in homes, with previous support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's PATH program, and the California Energy Commission's Public Interest Energy Research (PIER) program.

The Home Energy Saver's Energy Advisor calculates energy use and savings opportunities, based on a detailed description of the home provided by the user. Users can begin the process by simply entering their zip code and in turn receive instant initial estimates. By providing more information about the home, the user will receive increasingly customized results along with energy-saving upgrade recommendations.

The Energy Advisor performs a full annual simulation for a typical weather year in about 10-20 seconds, after the user assembles the necessary information describing their home. Users can choose from 239 weather locations around the United States. Default energy prices for each fuel and state are also available, or users can enter a specific price of their choosing.

The Energy Advisor calculates domestic water heating energy consumption using a detailed model developed by LBNL researchers. Users can see how household size, age of occupants, equipment efficiencies, and water inlet temperatures affect bottom-line energy costs.

By simply entering the number and approximate age of their major appliances, users can estimate their energy consumption, based on historic sales-weighted efficiency data. A very detailed module is also included to estimate energy consumption for lighting and dozens of miscel-

aneous gas and electric appliances, with default values based on data compiled over the years by LBNL researchers.

The results pages provide a list of recommendations –ranked by payback time–tailored to the particular home being evaluated. The user can vary the energy efficiency assumptions in many cases, as well as the retrofit costs and then recalculate the table. The results can be viewed on line and via a detailed printable report, which includes retrofit description and other details as well as links to additional information.

In addition to calculating energy use on-line, the Home Energy Saver's Making it Happen and Energy Librarian modules connect users to an expanding array of "how-to" information resources throughout the Internet. These modules help users successfully capitalize on the energy savings opportunities identified by the Energy Advisor module and offer a host of links to practical information, ranging from lists of specific efficient products ... to tips about selecting a good contractor. The site also features an extensive glossary and frequently asked questions module.

Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc., in conjunction with Touchstone Energy, is proud to be able to offer this invaluable tool at no charge to our members. If you have any questions regarding the information or recommendations received from the Home Energy Savings audit tool, feel free to contact our Member Services department. They will be glad to discuss the data with you and to provide additional assistance.

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

You're Invited to Area Meetings

A set of local member meetings has been scheduled for two locations in the cooperative service territory during November. These meetings will give you an opportunity to learn about your cooperative, visit with cooperative personnel, friends and neighbors.

At the area meetings we will bring you up to date on cooperative activities and operations. We will also set aside a few minutes to answer questions you may have

concerning your cooperative.

Each member or family member attending these meetings will receive a year 2008 Saturday Evening Post Calendar.

Ten \$10 credits on electric bills will be awarded as attendance prizes in a drawing at the conclusion of each meeting. Refreshments and a fellowship period will close the event.

A postcard will be mailed with your bill to each member announc-

ing the meeting locations. We hope that you can attend one of the two meetings listed below:

**2007 Area Meetings
Dates and Locations**
(Both meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.)

Tuesday, November 27
Millstadt VFW

Wednesday, November 28
Eschy's in Maeystown

Office Closings

Our office will be closed for the following holidays:

Monday, November 12
Veterans Day

Thursday, November 22 and 23
Thanksgiving



New Generators Now Available at Your Cooperative

Monroe County Electric is now offering the Briggs & Stratton Home Generator System line of standby and emergency generators. Briggs & Stratton is one of the leading and most well known names in small engines.

Residential generators are available from 7 kW to 20 kW and can be operated on natural gas or propane. Smaller and larger units can be shipped in within a week of order.

These units are available with transfer switches that automatically start the unit and transfer to standby power in the event of a power outage. When utility service is restored, the transfer switch changes back to utility power and shuts down the generator.

We recommend the use of Briggs & Stratton's transfer switches with an Air-Conditioning Control Module (ACCM). This innovative technology allows the use of a smaller generator even when it is desired to run air-conditioners or heat pumps. The ACCM monitors the load on the generator and will not allow the air-conditioner or heat pump to come on until there is sufficient capacity available.

Many homes and small business's have pumps, fans, computers and other equipment that require them to have a continuous supply of electric power. With a Briggs & Stratton Home Generator System, you never have to worry about another power outage. With the automatic transfer features, you know your processes and equipment are always operating, even when you are gone.

The Briggs & Stratton product line was chosen for its long

history in the small engine business and its commitment to a quality line of products at reasonable prices. By choosing Briggs & Stratton, we have a product that has proven reliability and a manufacturer that will be around for a long time to come.

If you are looking for a quality generator from a quality manufacturer, installed by a quality firm, contact us for a price estimate. We offer extended warranties and maintenance packages to suit your needs.



BRIGGS & STRATTON Home Generator Systems

**Take Charge BEFORE
The Power Goes Out!**

www.powernow.com

We can't control when Mother Nature will strike, but we can help you be prepared.

Permanent protection from
a proven performer.

Call us at 939-7171 or 800-757-7433
for more information.

 Monroe County
Electric Co-Operative
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Seven 2008 IEC Memorial Scholarships Available

Monroe County Electric Cooperative Manager Alan Wattles has announced that for the thirteenth consecutive year the Illinois electric cooperatives will award academic scholarships to high school seniors.

Seven scholarships of \$1,250 each will be awarded in 2008 to eligible high school seniors through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Four scholarships will be awarded to students who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A fifth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee. The sixth and seventh scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

"We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with this scholar-

ship," says Wattles.

"Monroe County Electric and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth through programs like this one."

Candidates are judged on the basis of grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay that demonstrates their knowledge of electric cooperatives.

For more information contact Allan Masterson at Monroe County Electric at 939-7171 or 800-757-7433 or ask your high school guidance counselor.



Heating Value Comparison

	Unit Cost	Efficiency	Heatng Cost per 1,000,000 Btu
Geothermal	\$.05 Kwh*	300%	\$3.05
Air-to-Air Heat Pump	\$.05 Kwh*	200%	\$6.92
Electric Baseboard/Electric Furnace	\$.05 Kwh*	100%	\$15.24
Propane (High Efficient)	\$1.75 Gal	90%	\$21.00
Propane (Standard)	\$1.75	80%	\$24.50

*MCEC cost per Kwh over 1200 Kwh base
 Values from www.warmair.net fuel cost comparison page

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Change A Light Program

The ENERGY STAR Change a Light Campaign is a national challenge to encourage every American to help change the world, one light — one energy-saving step — at a time. You can show your commitment by pledging to replace at least one light in your home with one that has earned the ENERGY STAR rating.

The government's ENERGY STAR label on lighting means you're getting a product that is superior in energy efficiency. ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs use 75 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs and last six to 10 times longer. You'll save energy and money, and reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change. Protect the environment of today and tomorrow — start by changing a light!

You can now purchase energy-efficient compact fluorescent lights (60W) at your cooperative. The lights sell for \$2.50/each and use 1/4 the electricity of a comparable incandescent bulb.

Come by our office and visit the CFL Education Display. Along with information for the bulbs, there is a Meter Comparator that shows the difference in kilowatt usage between a regular 60W bulb and a CFL.

There is also a bulb display that has six different types of CFLs that are used around the home, including a bug light.

Fact: CFLs use far less electricity, helping increase home security so you can leave the lights on and still save on your electric bill!

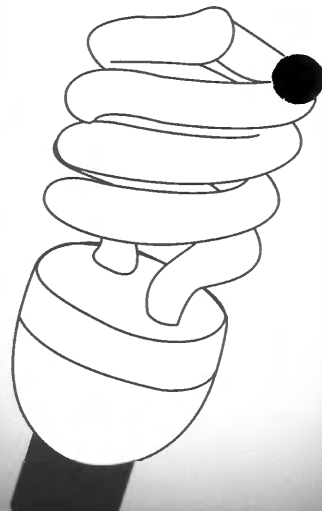
Fact: CFLs last far longer than ordinary bulbs... no replacing for up to nine years!

Fact: CFLs produce low heat, so it takes less energy to cool your home. You save on air conditioning too!

CFL Recycling Center for members
Bring your spent residential CFL's to the office
and we will see that they are completely recycled
- the mercury, glass, metals in the ballast - by Veolia,
a leader in recycling technology.



Meter Comparator.



Six-Bulb CFL demo display.



CFL Education Center.

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Season's Greetings

*from the directors and
employees of Monroe
County Electric*

DIRECTORS

Gary Gregson	Larry Kraft
Terry Grommet	Richard Liefer
Larry Haas	Ross Mueller
Joel Harres	George Obernagel
Manlee Knobloch	

EMPLOYEES

Alan Wattles, <i>President/CEO</i>	Jay Krump
Craig Bayer	Allan Masterson
Debra Bergman	Cindy Myrick
Ronald Birkner	Shirley Reinhold
Stephen Candler	Ronald Rusteberg
Chris Deterding	Linda Schmidt
Steven Drennan	Ronald Schultheis
Randy Ellner	Judith Scowden
Gary Gilbert	Shawn Segobiano
Robert Gross	Arlin Stechmesser
Keith Jones	David Stephens
Matthew Kish	Alisa Wood
Maurice Kleyer	

Good, Better, Best And Ultimate Heating Choices

Many years ago, Sears, Roebuck & Company (just Sears for the younger folks) used to rate their catalogue items as "Good," "Better" and "Best." Those same descriptive terms might still be used today to compare heating fuels and heating systems.

For example, propane might be considered as a **GOOD** heating choice. The real question though, is good really "good enough?" Ken Blanchard, a well known author of management books, wrote a book entitled "Raving Fans." His belief was that if customers weren't raving and bragging about the service they received, it really wasn't good enough. As an example, he uses the scenario of a waitress asking how was your meal. Even though you may have not been totally satisfied, the common response is, "it was okay." With propane approaching \$1.75 per gallon, the only really good thing that can be said about propane is that it has fast recovery (those times you've turned the thermostat down and then set it back up). The disadvantages of propane include price volatility, and locating and refilling of the storage tank.

Natural gas might be considered as a **BETTER** heating choice. Gas furnace operating costs are similar to baseboard, ceiling cable or electric furnaces. The disadvantages of natural gas include its limited availability, especially in rural areas, the increased maintenance requirements of newer high efficiency units, and price volatility due to the ever-increasing worldwide demand for natural gas and susceptibility to interruptions by terrorism and natural disasters.

The **BEST** choice of heating systems is electricity, especially electric heat pumps. It's clean, safe and reliable. Heat pumps, for example, have a back-up system, which is acti-

vated automatically in the event of compressor failure. With technology improvements in recent years, heat pumps have become warmer, and even more efficient and more reliable. Electricity is a flameless heat, and unlike gas systems, no combustion occurs in or near your home; consequently, there is no need to vent toxic fumes. When electric space heating is combined with cooking and water heating, there is only one utility bill to pay, an advantage for today's busy families. Even though electric rates have been increasing in recent years, the increases have been predictable and within modest ranges.

Sears never had an **ULTIMATE** classification, but the electric heat industry does. It's known as the "Ground Source Heat Pump," or geothermal. These units are 350-400 percent efficient and have annual operating costs that are less than any other option available. They offer reliability, long life and low maintenance, and have exceptionally quiet operation as there are no outside units. A bonus with these units is the fact that they can supply up to 50 percent of your water heating needs as a free byproduct. The only disadvantage to geothermal heat pumps is the higher initial cost. If the new home has a mortgage, the additional mortgage cost to finance the geothermal heat pump is typically considerably less than the savings on the utility bill, resulting in a positive cash flow situation for the homeowner. The initial installation costs are often recouped in energy savings in as little as three to five years.

If you would like additional information on heating systems, please phone your cooperative's energy advisor. They are here to serve you and are a wealth of knowledge that can be used to your benefit.

Heating Value Comparison

	Unit Cost	Efficiency	Heating Cost per 100,000 Btu
Electric Baseboard or Furnace	\$.052 kWh*	100%	\$1.37
Air-Air Heat Pump	\$.052 kWh*	190%	\$0.80
Geothermal Heat Pump	\$.052 kWh*	300%	\$0.51
Propane	\$1.75 Gal	90%	\$2.13
	\$1.75 Gal	80%	\$2.39
	\$1.75 Gal	65%	\$2.94
Natural Gas	\$1.32 Therm	90%	\$1.42
	\$1.32 Therm	80%	\$1.60
	\$1.32 Therm	65%	\$1.97

*MCEC cost per kWh over 1200 kWh base on rate 16 (Oct.-May)

Values from www.warmair.net fuel cost comparison page

Reminder: Deadline for 2008 IEC Scholarship Applications Approaching

Seven scholarships of \$1,250 each will be awarded in 2008 to eligible high school seniors through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Four scholarships will be awarded to students who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A fifth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of



an Illinois electric cooperative employee. The sixth and seventh scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors. Individuals wanting to apply or needing further information should call the cooperative at 800-757-7433 or 939-7171 ext. 15 or contact your local guidance counselor. The deadline for applications is January 1, 2008.

Christmas Trees for Sale

The Waterloo Optimist Club will again be selling Christmas trees next to Diehl's Florist in Waterloo starting on Saturday, November 24. The Waterloo Optimist Club is an organization committed to raising money for the benefit of the youth of our community.

Please show your support by purchasing your Christmas tree from the Optimist Club tree lot and helping our area youth.

Verizon Day Set for Friday, December 7th

A Verizon Wireless representative will be at your cooperative office on Friday, December 7 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. The representative will be here to answer your questions and will have several models of phones on hand that the members can look at. If you're not able to be here at that time and would like to talk to the representative, you can call our office either before or during those hours and the representative will call you back. Through Verizon Wireless, your cooperative is able to offer several very competitive rate plans for cell phones to the membership.

Holiday Greetings from Employees and Directors



Office will be closed
December 25 for
Christmas
and **January 1** for New
Years.



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New Generators Now Available at Your Cooperative

Monroe County Electric is now offering the Briggs & Stratton Home Generator System line of standby and emergency generators. Briggs & Stratton is one of the leading and most well known names in small engines.

Residential generators are available from 7 kW to 20 kW and can be operated on natural gas or propane. Smaller and larger units can be shipped in within a week of order.

These units are available with transfer switches that automatically start the unit and transfer to standby power in the event of a power outage. When utility service is restored, the transfer switch changes back to utility power and shuts down the generator.

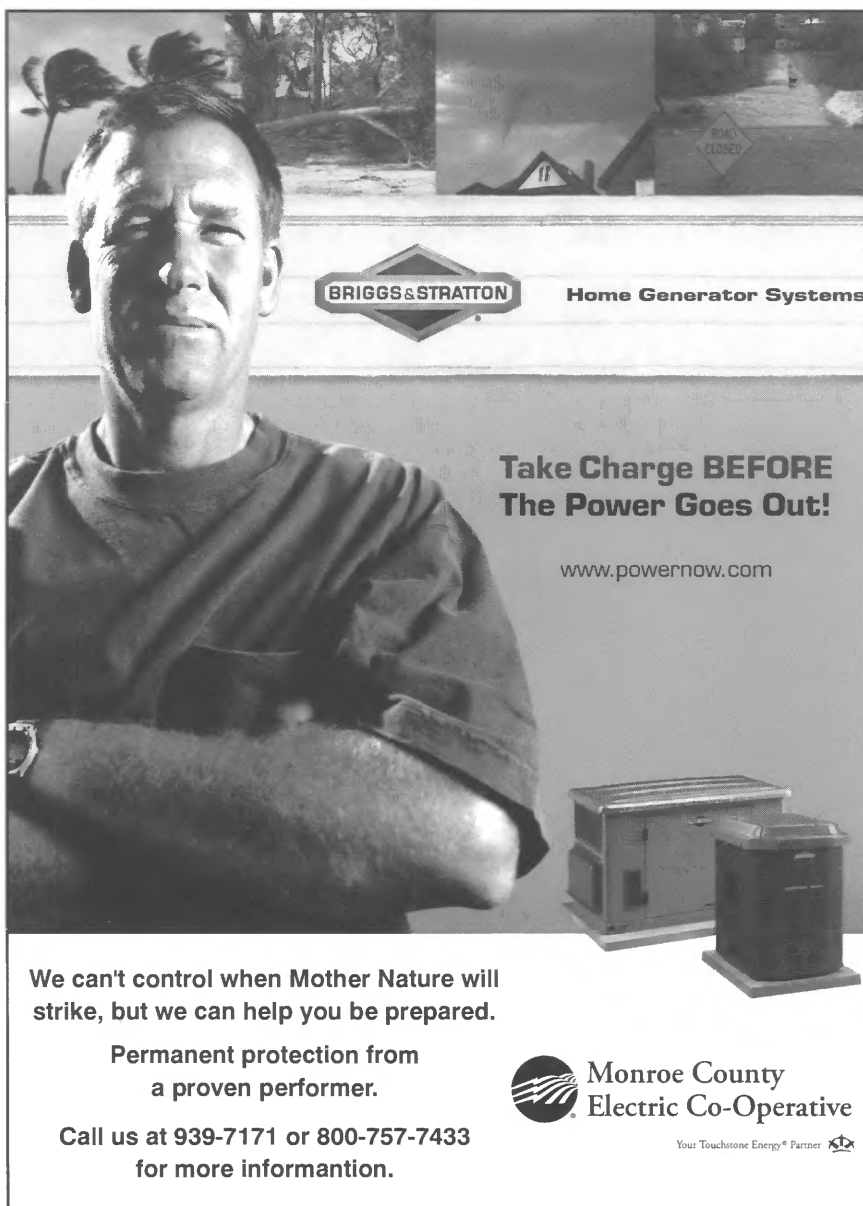
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If you are looking for a quality generator from a quality manufacturer, installed by a quality firm, contact us for a price estimate. We offer extended warranties and maintenance packages to suit your needs.



BRIGGS & STRATTON Home Generator Systems


Take Charge BEFORE The Power Goes Out!

www.powernow.com

We can't control when Mother Nature will strike, but we can help you be prepared.

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