

The SOUTHEASTERN Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

President's Comments



Dustin Tripp
President/CEO

Your electric cooperative operates and maintains a comprehensive distribution system that consists of a network of 35 transmission to distribution substations, over 3,500 miles of distribution line that stretches across all or parts of 10 counties in southeastern Illinois to bring electricity to over 24,000 accounts in the rural areas.

As you can imagine, your cooperative must make significant investments in the distribution system every year to replace aging infrastructure and perform a variety of maintenance activities to ensure that members receive a reliable electric supply. One important maintenance activity that your cooperative performs annually is the pole inspection, pole testing and pole replacement program.

Your cooperative's distribution system consists of approximately 78,000 poles that must be maintained for the benefit of our membership. Historically, pole testing consisted of a technician that would visually inspect the pole above ground and then sound the pole using a hammer in various locations around the base of the pole. If the pole sounded questionable, the technician would follow up by drilling holes near the base of the pole to inspect the integrity of the wood internal to the pole. At this point, the pole would either be deemed satisfactory or scheduled for replacement.

Over the past few years, your cooperative has deployed a new method for pole inspection, pole testing and pole treatment. The new method consists of partial excavating

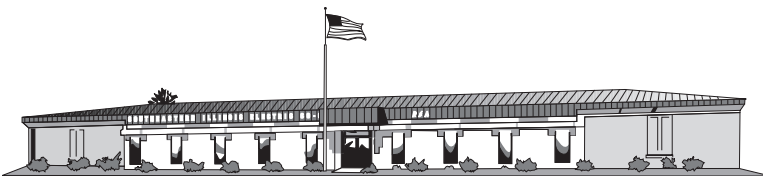
on two sides of each pole tangent to the distribution line. This allows a technician the ability to visually inspect the integrity of the wood just below ground level to determine if the decay process has started. If the decay process is visible, the excavation process continues to a depth of 18 inches below grade around the entire pole for inspection of decay and termite infestation below the surface.

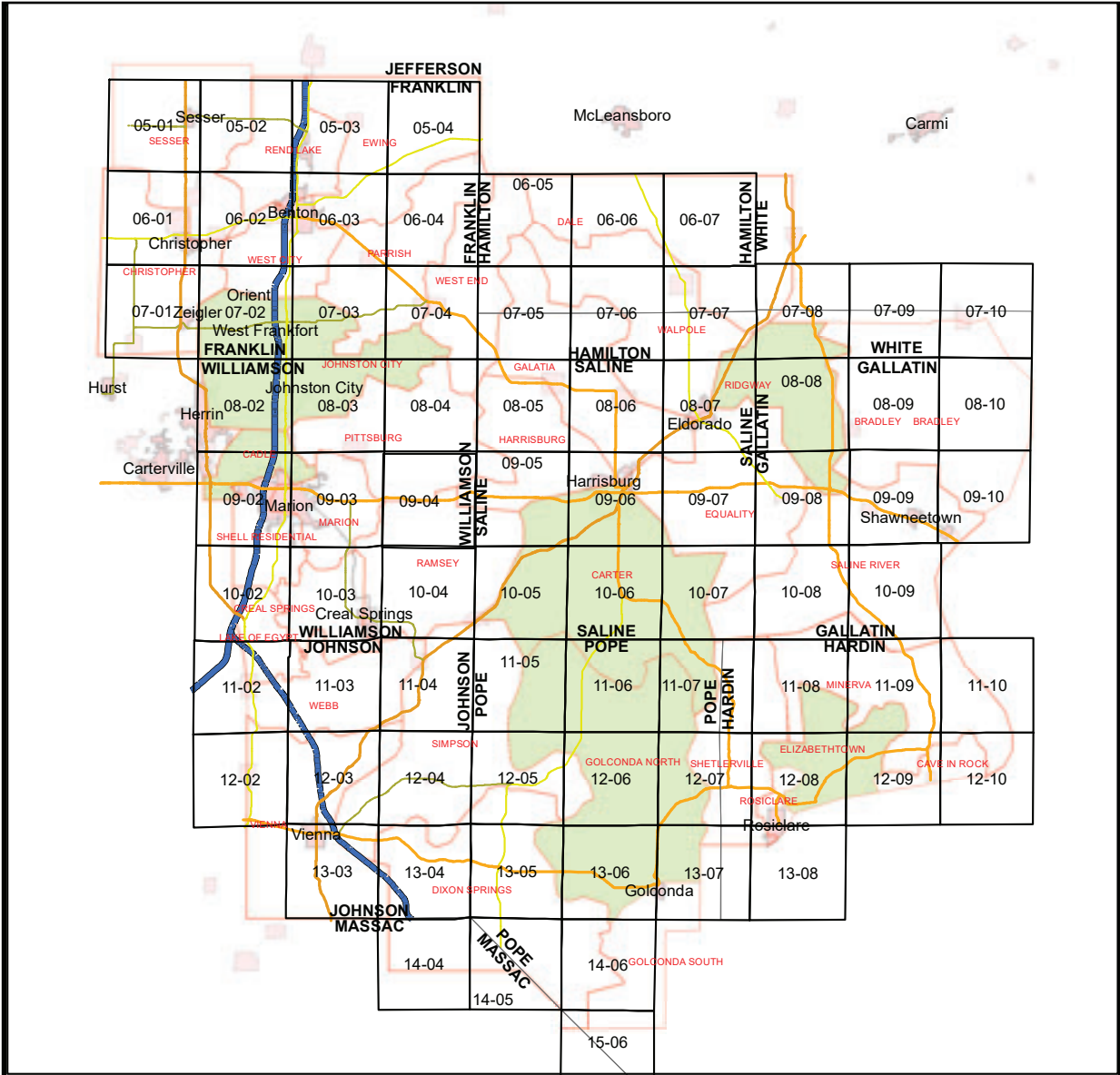
This new method allows us to inspect the most critical part of a pole in which decay occurs most frequently. If decay is present, the decay is literally scraped off the exterior of the pole down to good wood. Measurements are then taken to determine the remaining strength of the pole. If the pole has decayed to a point that the pole strength does not meet the required standards, the pole will be replaced. If the pole strength is still sufficient, a treatment is then applied to the pole below the surface and then wrapped before backfilling.

This pole treatment process will prolong the life of our poles by stopping the decay that occurs at or just below grade where decay happens more frequently and leads to pole failure. Management has estimated that prolonging the life of these poles will save the cooperative approximately a half million dol-

Continued on page 20d ▶

READERSHIP PRIZE WINNER:
Mary McKinney, Rosiclare, IL





DURING 2020
 SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
 WILL BE TESTING POLES IN THE POWER LINE
 RIGHT-OF-WAY OF THE ABOVE SHADED AREAS



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
 The power of human connections



HELP KEEP LINEWORKERS SAFE

Lineworkers take great pride in providing safe and reliable service, but their job involves working around high-voltage power lines in all kinds of weather conditions.



Never plug a generator into an indoor or outdoor wall outlet, which can cause voltage to back feed.



Workers need to efficiently and safely restore power when it goes out; please be patient.



Do not post signs on a utility pole, especially with staples and nails, which can puncture protective gear.



Slow down and move over in utility work zones. Crowding workers can cause accidents.

Learn more:  Safe Electricity.org

Do your part to keep lineworkers safe

It's nearing 5 p.m. on a workday. Your boss wanted that last-minute report and your kids need to be picked up from soccer or play practice. You jump in your car and on the way, you approach a work zone. You don't have time to slow down, so you rush through it and ignore the orange work zone signs.

You're having a garage sale and you think posting a sign on a utility pole won't hurt. Everyone does it, right?

Either of these scenarios could injure or kill one of our lineworkers.

The job of an electric lineworker is not easy. Lineworkers take great pride in providing safe and reliable

service, but their job involves working on and around live power out in the elements. We ask you to do your part to keep them safe:

1. Slow down and move over in work zones. Cars or trucks that go too fast not only endanger workers on the ground. Driving too fast or not moving over can also put a lineworker who is working high up in a bucket in danger by causing it to move or sway.
2. Do not post anything on a utility pole, especially with staples, nails or tacks. These can puncture insulated gloves or other protec

tive clothing and expose workers to high voltages.

3. Never plug a generator into an indoor or outdoor wall outlet. The power that back feeds into the electric line could electrocute a utility worker.
4. Please be patient when the power goes out. Workers need to efficiently *and* safely restore power.

We appreciate your help in keeping our employees safe. For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



South Eastern Illinois
Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



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▶ Continued from page 20a

lars per year.

The 2020 pole inspection, pole testing and pole treatment process began in mid-January. The map on page 20B shows the areas that will be inspected during the year 2020. If you see technicians working around the base of the distribution poles near your home, farm or business – please know that they are working to ensure that your cooperative’s distribution poles are reliable and will remain that way for many years to come.

See you next month and as always, “We’ll keep the lights on for you.”

POWER OUTAGE

If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions

1. Check the fuses or circuit breakers in your service panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the “ON” position.
2. If you have a meter pole, check the main breaker panel just below the meter socket. If the breaker is in the “OFF” position, check all of your wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears to be okay, reset the breaker to the “ON” position.
3. If you still do not have power, check with neighbors to see if they have power.
4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 1-877-399-8405. This phone number is monitored around the clock, 365 days per year to accept your outage and emergency calls.
5. Your phone call will be handled by SouthEastern’s automated outage reporting system and will be identified automatically through ANI (Automatic Number Identification). An outage record will then be generated

for your location. Please note that the phone number from which you place the call will be the number used to generate the record. If the system fails to recognize your phone number, members having touch-tone phones may simply enter their seven-digit phone number (without area code) in order to report the outage. Members not having touch-tone phones will be asked to leave a message. It is important you leave your name, phone number and location of the outage. Retrieving messages and entering them into the system is time consuming; therefore, please leave only a message that will help in restoration of electric service. Do not remain on the line for an operator because a live operator is not there to respond. In order to keep a current listing of all numbers, it is important that you notify the Cooperative of any changes in your telephone number.

6. Handling outage calls electronically allows you to report power failures very quickly. Once your outage has been reported, it will be dispatched to repair personnel who will restore your outage as soon as possible. Calling back repeatedly will not shorten the length of the outage, but may hinder the efforts of other members who are trying to report outages.

OUTAGE CALLS ONLY 1-877-399-8405

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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