



Shane L. Larson,  
Chief Executive Officer

More Power to You

## RESCHEDULED ANNUAL MEETING ON OCT. 5 WILL BE BUSINESS ONLY

**R**ock Energy Cooperative has always taken great pride in its annual meetings. Hundreds of members gather every year to elect directors to serve on the board, learn about the co-op's finances, and hear reports from officers.

But it's usually more than just taking care of business. It's an event where neighbors can catch up with old acquaintances, make new friends, and enjoy a delicious dinner to celebrate the bond they share—being a member of the Rock Energy family.

Unfortunately, the annual meeting on Monday, Oct. 5—like many events throughout the nation and world—will be different this year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

**While the meeting will be scaled back, we invite you come out and participate in the meeting to help do important business of the cooperative.**

The 84th annual meeting was originally scheduled for March 30 but was postponed to protect the health and safety of our members, our employees, and the community. At its May meeting, the board of directors made the difficult decision to scale back this

year's annual meeting because it's difficult to predict what the coming months will bring.

The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 5, at the Eclipse Center in Beloit. It will be a business meeting only and is expected to last about 30 minutes. There will be no dinner served, no scholarships presented, no guest speakers, and no kids' entertainment.

We know this will be a disappointment to many members who look forward to our "normal" annual event. But we believe this is the best route to take. While the meeting will be scaled back, we invite you come out and participate in the meeting to help do important business of the cooperative.

### Member Appreciation Day Canceled

At its May meeting, the board also decided to cancel

this year's Member Appreciation Day, which usually takes place in September. This year would have been the 20th annual celebration.

The idea for Member Appreciation Day took shape shortly after I arrived at the co-op back in 2000. We had our annual meeting every spring, but that's always a more formal event with speeches, elections, and other important business that needs to be conducted.

On Oct. 13, 2001, we had our first Member Appreciation Day, or MAD as we affectionally refer to it. The annual event focused on members—young and old—having fun and allowed the co-op's directors and employees to express their gratitude to all our great members.

Even though we won't have an official Member Appreciation Day celebration in 2020, I want you to know that we appreciate our members every single day.

### West Riverside Energy Center Operating

Electricity is now flowing from the West Riverside Energy Center in Beloit Township. (See story on page 20D.) Rock Energy partnered with Alliant Energy in construction of the highly efficient natural gas facility and has 3.4 percent ownership of it. This partnership will help us control our electric power costs and represents an opportunity for our members to benefit financially for many years.

The new power plant is part of Alliant Energy's long-term transition to a cleaner energy mix. It will emit less than half the carbon dioxide, about two-thirds less nitrogen, and 99 percent less sulfur and mercury than traditional coal-fired facilities. An integrated solar field will allow clean energy from the sun to be delivered to the natural gas facility and offset its auxiliary power needs.

As we continue living a new reality in light of the coronavirus pandemic, please remember that everyone here at Rock Energy values you as a member. Let us know if there's anything we can do to improve our service to you.



# PIPELINES DELIVER NATURAL GAS SAFELY

## Learn how to prevent damage, recognize potential problems

Rock Energy Cooperative operates about 175 miles of natural gas main in northern Illinois with nearly 9,000 natural gas services.

Pipelines are the safest and most economical method of transporting natural gas, according to the National Transportation Safety Board. Federal pipeline safety code mandates that Rock Energy and other distribution systems comply with tough requirements for design, construction, testing, inspection, operation, and maintenance from the point of connection to the meter on your house.

Natural gas is completely safe when used properly. The following information will help you and your families stay safe around natural gas.

### How can I recognize a natural gas leak?

- By smell: Natural gas is colorless and odorless, but gas providers add a chemical that makes it smell like rotten eggs so any leaks can be easily detected. It is extremely important that you call us as soon as you smell the gas and not wait several hours or days before calling.
- By sound: A hissing or roaring sound coming from a natural gas line might be a sign of a leak.
- By sight: If you see unexplained dead grass, natural gas might be leaking. Dirt or debris blowing in the air and water bubbling in a puddle, pond, or creek are other signs.

### What should I do if I smell a natural gas odor?

- Leave the area immediately!
- Do not use a telephone or cell phone, light a match, turn on or off any electrical switches, flashlights, garage door openers, or other appliances because an electric arc might ignite the gas.
- Call Rock Energy at 866-752-4550 and press option 1 from a safe place to report the leak's location.

### What should I do if I accidentally break a gas line or dig into a pipeline?

- Immediately evacuate the area and alert everyone nearby to do the same!
- Do not use a telephone or cell phone near the leak because that could ignite the gas.
- When you reach a safe location, call 911 and Rock Energy at 866-752-4550 and press option 1.

### How can I recognize a natural gas leak?



SMELL

Natural gas is colorless and odorless, but gas providers add a chemical that makes it smell like rotten eggs so any leaks can be easily detected. It is extremely important that you call us as soon as you smell the gas and not wait several hours or days before calling.



SOUND

A hissing or roaring sound coming from a natural gas line might be a sign of a leak.



SIGHT

If you see unexplained dead grass, natural gas might be leaking. Dirt or debris blowing in the air and water bubbling in a puddle, pond, or creek are other signs.



### How can I prevent pipeline damage?

- Call 811 before you dig or excavate to avoid hitting a natural gas pipeline or other buried utility line. State law requires people to call at least two days before any digging project. Utilities then will send a representative to the site so all underground lines can be marked. The call and service are free.
- Remember that Rock Energy maintains buried gas pipes up to your meter. All pipes beyond that are the member's responsibility and should be periodically inspected for corrosion and leaks.

### How can I get additional information?

- If you have any questions about natural gas safety, we would be happy to provide you with further information. Just call us at 866-752-4550. You also can visit [www.rock.coop/naturalgas](http://www.rock.coop/naturalgas), [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com), or [www.illinois1call.com](http://www.illinois1call.com).

### You can also visit:

[rock.coop/naturalgas](http://rock.coop/naturalgas)

[call811.com](http://call811.com)

[illinois1call.com](http://illinois1call.com)



# EVEN RUSTY SHOULD CALL 811 BEFORE DIGGING!

For details, go to  
[www.rock.coop/call811](http://www.rock.coop/call811)



Know what's below.  
**Call** before you dig.

MY CO-OP





# WEST RIVERSIDE ENERGY CENTER NOW IN SERVICE

A new 730-megawatt combined-cycle, natural gas generating station in Beloit Township is officially in service. Rock Energy Cooperative, Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative, and Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative are joint owners of the West Riverside Energy Center with Alliant Energy.

In 2016, when Alliant was in the development stages of the project, the cooperatives, which purchase power from Alliant, were evaluating purchase options, and the idea was born for the co-ops to buy in to the project. As joint owners of the plant, the co-ops will participate financially with Alliant in the energy market. Rock Energy's ownership is 3.4 percent.

During construction, more than 1,000 jobs were created and millions of dollars spent to support Wisconsin businesses. The generating station serves as a 24/7 resource, complementing Alliant's growing number of solar and wind facilities. Because it leverages combined-cycle technology, its power output can adjust up and down quickly to fit with the intermittent nature of renewable resources.

"We are proud to put our West Riverside Energy Center into service to provide reliable and affordable energy to



our customers and communities," said David de Leon, president of Alliant's Wisconsin energy company. "Community support, strong partnerships, and hard work by countless employees, contractors, and suppliers made this a successful project."

Alliant Energy started construction on the generating station in spring 2017 after receiving approval from the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. Originally priced at \$700 million, the under-budget, completed \$660 million facility can produce enough power for more than 550,000 homes.

"Through a great team effort, the project came in under budget and online

in time for increased summer demand," said Bob Newell, West Riverside Energy Center's project manager. "Customers will benefit from the reduced costs as a result of the budget savings and very low natural gas prices."

The next step for the project includes constructing a new, integrated solar facility adjacent to the natural gas generating station. The West Riverside solar garden is expected to break ground soon with a planned completion by the end of this year. The 6-megawatt DC solar field will offset auxiliary power at the natural gas plant and increase the sustainability and efficiency of the West Riverside Energy Center.

## Have a Safe and Happy Independence Day!

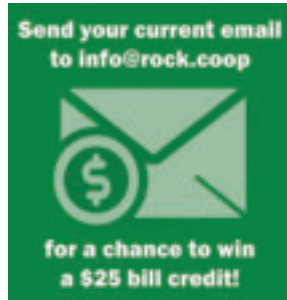
Rock Energy Cooperative offices will be closed on Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day. Members can make payments in the drop boxes at both offices and at our payment kiosk outside the South Beloit office, 15229 Willowbrook Road, during the holiday weekend. Standby crews are always available 24 hours a day. If you need to report a power outage, please call 866-752-4550.

## STAY CONNECTED WITH ROCK ENERGY TO WIN \$25

Would you like a chance to win a \$25 credit on your Rock Energy Cooperative statement? Of course, you would!

It's easy to enter the drawing that will help you stay informed about Rock Energy. All you have to do is send us your email. Each month, we'll randomly select a member's email address to receive the bill credit. The winner will be notified by email.

We won't load your inbox with unnecessary spam or provide your information to anyone for any reason. We just want to communicate information like energy-saving advice, safety tips, co-op events, and other details to you in a timely manner.



**Shane Larson, CEO**

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**Barbara Uebelacker, Editor**



**ROCK ENERGY COOPERATIVE**  
Empowering Members Since 1936