



*Mike Smith*  
President and CEO

## New transmission line to serve McDonough Power members

For the first time in several years, McDonough Power will be the beneficiary of a new transmission line being planned by Prairie Power, Inc., a generation and transmission cooperative in Springfield, Ill. The 18-mile high-voltage line will connect the McDonough Power Kington substation located just west of Swan Lake to the Ellisville substation located in Ellisville, Ill. and operated by Spoon River Electric Cooperative. The new 69,000-volt line will provide greater reliability to both cooperatives by providing an extra source of power in the event of transmission line related outages.

Mike Smith, president of McDonough Power explained, "During the last several years, we have had multiple substations out of power for several hours due to our loss of a section of transmission line. This

second source of power will allow us to minimize the outage time by isolating the problem sections and providing a source from another direction." **545D3A-274B**

Property owners are currently being contacted by representatives of Prairie Power, who hope to acquire the necessary easements to begin construction in mid to late 2021 and finishing in 2022. McDonough Power Cooperative is one of 10 member owners that make up Prairie Power and, according to Smith, the mission of Prairie Power is very similar to McDonough Power.

"Both McDonough Power and Prairie Power want to continue to invest in West Central Illinois and the reliability of our service just like we have for the last 80 years," Smith said.





1210 West Jackson Street  
P.O. Box 352  
Macomb, Illinois  
61455-0352

309-833-2101

mcdonoughpower.com

Office hours:  
7 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Weekdays

Find us on

### DIRECTORS

Jeff Moore, Chairman

Walt Lewis, Vice Chairman

Steve Hall, Secretary

David Lueck, Treasurer

Mike Cox

Bob Dwyer

Steve Lynn

Jerry Riggins

John D. McMillan, Attorney

## Billing system upgrade

The path to implementing change is rarely easy, but the final destination is usually worth the trip.

Your co-op started out on a path to upgrade our billing system with our current software provider at the beginning of this year. We've been working to make sure the transition for employees and for members is as smooth and easy as possible. Our conversion team has left no stone unturned in the process.

We went live Oct. 5. You will receive your first bill from the new system in November. **9233D6-804A** While some things might look slightly different, it is our hope that the change will have minimal impact on you. The new system will create more efficiencies in our office and we hope that you will bear with us while our employees are learning all of the new features available.

A couple of changes that you will notice is that we have a new "Pay by Phone" number available. While this change is part of the new software system, it is also fulfilling a payment card industry security standard. In simple terms, your credit/debit card information will be more secure because physical access to that data will be limited. Now, if you would like to pay by phone simply call our toll-free number at 844-405-1145 and follow the prompts.

It's free and best of all, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. (PROTIP: Save the phone number in your contacts so you don't have to look up the number each month to make a payment!)

We also have a new credit/debit card device at our front counter when you stop by the office to make a payment. You will no longer hand off your card for processing – simply insert it in the device just like you do at many retailers.

Additionally, you will notice that our online account portal has changed. It has the same functionality as before, just looks a little different and requires a registra-



tion process upon initial login into the new system. From here you can pay your bill, set up an automatic draft, view billing and consumption history, and enroll in e-billing. Check it out at [mcdonoughpower.com](http://mcdonoughpower.com) – click on the Online Bill Payment button. (For those of you who previously used the Online Bill Payment portal and had it bookmarked, you'll probably need to create a new bookmark.)

We appreciate your cooperation during this transition and encourage you to contact us if you need any assistance.

All Co-op Electric  
Outages 837-1400

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  
The power of human connections



Election Day  
November 3

**\$2,000 scholarships available**  
to students in the "IL electric cooperative family"  
to assist with educational costs



**Apply Today!**



Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperative Memorial Scholarship Program

## Twelve 2021 IEC Memorial Scholarships available

Illinois electric cooperatives will award 12 scholarships in 2021 to financially assist deserving students in the electric cooperative family. The 12 scholarships, \$2,000 each, will be awarded through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Six scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric co-op member. A seventh 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 or director. Four additional scholarships are reserved for high school seniors enrolling full time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

The 12th scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship, will help pay for costs to attend lineworker school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, Ill. Sons and daughters of co-op members, relatives of co-op employees or directors, and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible for this scholarship.

"We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these scholarships," says

Mike Smith McDonough Power Cooperative President and CEO. **7229A7A-718B** "McDonough Power 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 and investing in them through programs like this one."

Considering a career as a lineworker?

**\$2,000**

LaVern and Nola McEntire  
Lineworker's Scholarship

**Apply Today!**

Deadline to apply is Dec. 31, 2020. The lineworker scholarship deadline is April 30, 2021.

For more information, go to [mcdonoughpower.com/community/scholarships](http://mcdonoughpower.com/community/scholarships).

# Operate your generator safely

When electricity goes out, generators can help get you through until power is restored. However, before ever starting a generator, it is vital to be educated on how to use one safely.

There are two types of generators for homeowners to choose: standby and portable. Standby generators are installed directly to the house and are typically powered by natural gas or propane. These generators start automatically when the power goes out.

A portable generator is usually gas powered and is movable. You can power appliances by plugging them into it. Your generator should have more output than the wattage of the electronics you will plug into it. This way, the generator will be able to create the extra electricity it takes for the initial power surge. Make sure there is nothing plugged into the generator when turning it on.

When you refuel a generator, make sure the engine is cool to prevent a fire, should the tank overflow. Be sure to keep children and pets away from the generator, which could burn them.

Generators pose electrical risks especially when operated in wet conditions. Use a generator only when necessary during moist conditions. Protect the generator by operating it under an open, canopy-like structure and on a dry surface where water



cannot form puddles or drain under it.

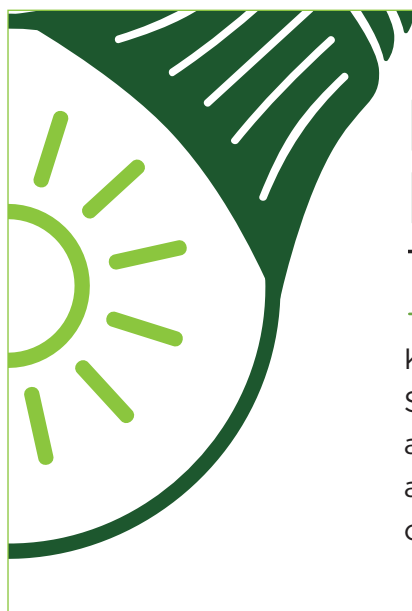
Carbon monoxide fumes emitted by the gasoline engine on the generator can be deadly. Always operate your portable generator outdoors at least 10 feet from your home. **10115C5-404C**

If you are not careful with the installation of a portable or standby generator, you can put the lives of others in danger away from your home because of backfeed—a situation where a generator is feeding electricity back through your electrical system and meter into the power lines. To prevent backfeed, standby generators should have a transfer

safety switch installed by a professional. Portable generators should never be plugged directly into a home outlet or electrical system; use an extension cord to plug appliances into an outlet on the generator for power.

It is recommended that a generator be operated once a month for 10 minutes to ensure it is running properly. Store a standby generator in an easily accessible, weatherproof area. Have enough fuel for at least 24 hours in case of a power outage.

For more electrical safety information, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Keep cold air out to save energy. Seal air leaks around pipes and any gaps around chimneys and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

## Member Prizes

Every month we will have four map location numbers hidden throughout *The Wire*. If you find the map location number that corresponds to the one on your bill (found above the usage graph), call our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.