



Supply chain delays

Supply chain delays are impacting many businesses as well as Egyptian Electric Cooperative. Our employees, and mainly Dylan Craig our warehouseman, has been working diligently to make sure we have enough material to meet the needs of our members, immediate and into the future.

The cooperative has adjusted inventory levels to help with these extended lead times. Several common industry items have gone from a month or two lead time to a year or longer. Transformer lead times are becoming a real issue with manufacturers filling production slots into 2023. Transformer sizes used often are being purchased in greater quantities to anticipate these longer time estimates. Larger conductor is also a very long lead time. We are looking at lead times close to a year on the largest conductor used by the cooperative. **27-23-0002**

Members who are anticipating larger services or service upgrades for commercial and industrial loads, are asked to please contact us immediately, so we can do our best to ensure we meet your deadlines and not be a source of delay. Transformer prices are also continuing to significantly rise in price. So much so, they will no longer give us estimates on them until they are ready for delivery.

Not only are lead times increasing but the material prices continue to rise drastically. Many suppliers cannot guarantee firm prices due to their input costs continually rising. These increased costs put pressure on the cooperative – to keep



on-hand what we need but insulate ourselves for unforeseen situations. Wire prices are said to be over 40 percent higher than previous purchase prices. We do not anticipate price increases to fall or change in the near future. While working on our construction work plan budget for 2022, we budgeted some prices 50 percent higher than last year, due to current market prices and projections.

Meter bases are another area where we are seeing long lead times and price volatility. Due to this shortage and price increases, we will no longer be making interconnected locations install a sub-meter base/socket. We will also be more selective during this time and limit giving out our meter bases to only new service locations or locations where load will be added

to justify the larger service and cost to the cooperative.

We have also experienced these same delays with our fleet. Placing orders for trucks the beginning of 2022, and not expecting them onsite until 2024.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) recently sent President Biden a letter to keep him informed of the supply chain delays and bottlenecks negatively impacting electric cooperatives across the nation. A paragraph from the letter:

“Supply chain delays are contributing to an alarming shortage of the most basic machinery and components essential to ensuring continued reliability of the electric system. The typical lead time for three phase transformers of 10-12 weeks has ballooned to eight months. Some manufacturers for pole-mounted transformers are declining to accept orders all together as a result of historic backlogs. Additionally, the lead times for substation transformers has been extended by a full year. Orders for electrical conduit have been delayed five-fold to 20 weeks and costs are up 200 percent year over year. The shortage of microchips worldwide has made digital meter availability a challenge as well.”

The cooperative will continue to monitor the situation and do our best to protect the cooperative and our member-owners from price volatility and material shortages, while being good stewards of our expenses. Please help us meet your needs by contacting us early for your projects to help with the long lead times.



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Employee News



Chris Barton joined Egyptian Electric Cooperative on Jan. 10, 2022, as our newest engineering tech! He is a graduate of West Frankfort High School and continued his education at John A. Logan College to receive his associate degree. He later graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in electronics systems technology at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Chris was previously employed at Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), our power supplier, for six years as an assistant operator. He resides in West Frankfort with his wife Kim and two daughters, Sloane and Mikaine. **45-21-0101**



Matt McElroy began his career in Steeleville as a lineman, later becoming a line foreman in our Murphysboro office. He recently bid for a maintenance lineman position at the retirement of Bryan Diercks in December.



Jenny Nugent was hired as a member service representative in March 2019. She then was promoted to an engineering tech until she began on Jan. 2 as our new IT Engineer.

Retirements



Bryan Diercks retired on Dec. 31, 2021 after more than 32 years of service. Bryan started his career with EECA as a lineman out of our Steeleville office, eventually moving up to maintenance lineman until his retirement at the end of the year.



Kay Taylor retired on Jan. 3, 2022 after 32 years of service. She started her career here as a part-time customer service representative in the Murphysboro office and was eventually promoted to office supervisor until her retirement.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When was your cooling system last serviced? Most manufacturers recommend an annual tune up for your home's cooling system. March is a great time to schedule this service so you can beat the summer rush when the pros are busiest.

A qualified professional can check the amount of refrigerant, accuracy of the thermostat, condition of belts and motors and other factors that can impact the efficiency of your system.

Source: Dept. of Energy

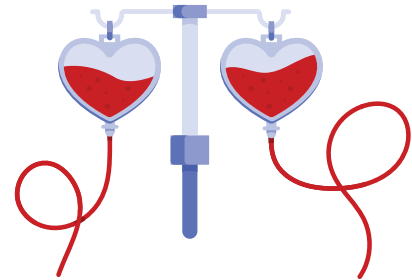


Safety Breakfast

If you are a first responder, farmer or other relevant safety personnel with an organization, sign up for our free safety breakfast on Thursday, March 17. See page 6 for more details.

Blood Drive

April 5, 2022
at EECA headquarters
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.



MEMBER PRIZES

Every month we will have three map location numbers hidden throughout our Egyptian Electric News section. If you find your location number, that corresponds to the one on your bill, call our office and identify yourself and the page that it is on and you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.



Annual Meeting Save the Date

Thursday, July 14
at EECA headquarters
Registration begins at 4 p.m.
Business Meeting begins at 6 p.m.

Metering Update

By the time you read this, we expect to have completed our new AMI system-wide metering project, where we have changed nearly 15,000 meters across our service system. We anticipate our upgraded system to improve system reliability & response times. This new system allows EECA consumer-members, who are SmartHub users, to now view energy usage in 15-minute time intervals, among other advantages! **17-15-0108**





APPLY FOR OPERATION ROUND UP FUNDS



Funds for non-profit organizations are not always easy to come by, and Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association (EECA) wants to help those organizations in need through its new Operation Round Up program.

Launched by EECA in early 2019, Operation Round Up is a 501(c)(3) charitable program designed to provide financial assistance to qualified groups and organizations that contribute to the betterment of communities within the EECA service footprint. Funds are raised by consumer-members of EECA that voluntarily enroll in the Operation Round Up program, agreeing to round their monthly electric bills up to the nearest dollar. The average individual contribution each month is 50 cents and never exceeds \$11.88 per year.

“We want to make a positive difference in the lives of people who live in our region,” said Shane Hermetz, EECA Executive Vice President/General Manager. “If we could provide funding to purchase an AED that saves a life, that would be an asset to the community. If funding is used for community service or food pantry support, that positively affects real people. Offering an Operation Round Up program to our communities goes above and beyond providing electric service in our part of rural America.”

Since inception, EECA's program has accumulated more than \$4,000 from its consumer-members and employees. These dollars will be the first to go back into the communities it serves.

Applications to receive the grant funds are now available and can be completed online or downloaded at eeca.coop/applytoroundup. Operation Round Up grant dollars are available to any group or organization recognized as exempt under Section 501(c)(3) and Section 170 of the IRS Code. Among the exceptions to the 501(c)(3) designation are public educational institutions which are defined by the IRS in Section 170 or municipalities.

Applications for this cycle are due April 4, and the first recipients of the grant dollars will be selected by April 26, 2022. Applications will be accepted online or in-person during business hours, by mail, after-hours drop box, email and fax.

“If every residential account participated in contributing to our Operation Round Up program, we could bring in more than \$90,000 per year,” Hermetz said. “It's the power of the change in your pocket that could make the difference.”

In order for the Operation Round Up program to grow, EECA is asking for all consumer-members to consider signing up to participate. The more funds collected, the more money that can be given back to our communities. To sign up to contribute to the Operation Round Up program, or to learn more, visit eeca.coop/roundup today.

SUPPORT THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE BY CHOOSING

When you sign up for Operation RoundUp, you allow Egyptian Electric Cooperative to “round up” your monthly electric bill and contribute a few extra cents each month to our 501(c)(3) charitable fund that was created to give back to our communities.

Visit eeca.coop to learn more about how your 501(c)(3) can apply for these grant dollars! Applications can be found at eeca.coop/applytoroundup and are due April 4, 2022.

CONGRATULATIONS
to our Operation Round Up
enrolled member for our
December Drawing – Randy
Ruffing of Carbondale