

THE GRID

**P.O. Box 709
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Mattoon, Illinois 61938**

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or **Toll-Free:**
1-888-661-CMEC (2632)
Office hours:
Monday-Friday
7:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.

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**To Report an Outage
call #888-661-2632**

**Find Your Name
and Win \$50**

Find your name hidden inside this issue of The Grid and receive a **\$50 bill credit**. Credit must be claimed by the end of each month in which this newsletter is published.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

To All Members

At Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative, we work hard to control costs without affecting safety and reliability. However, much like our member-consumers, CMEC is experiencing higher costs of wholesale power, materials and services needed to deliver electricity to you. This has made it necessary to adjust our wholesale power adjustment and take a deeper look at our current rates with a cost-of-service study.

One of the responsibilities of managing an electric cooperative is to provide the best possible service at the most affordable cost. The board of directors and management team have analyzed our annual expenses and determined that to keep CMEC whole, we need to add \$.01 cent to the monthly Wholesale Power



Amy C. Borntreger
President/CEO

We recognize that a change in our rates means a change in your bill and your household budget. We want to remind you that you have access to resources that can help you manage your monthly bill. Our budget billing program gives you more predictable electric

bills by averaging the amount you pay each month. We offer information on “Ways to Save” on our website or we can mail you a hard copy. The Smarthub app is also available as a management tool to monitor usage, compare your history and plan to conserve.

Here is an example of charges for 1200 kWh:

This example does not include taxes or other applicable fees and will vary dependent upon the member’s service and energy usage.

| EXAMPLE: Member uses 1,200 kWh | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Service Availability Charge | \$50.00 | \$50.00 |
| kWh Charges | 1,200 kWh@ .104 = \$124.80 | 1,200 kWh@ .104 = \$124.80 |
| Formula Rate Plan Adder | 1,200 kWh@ .00736 = \$8.83 | 1,200 kWh@ .00736 = \$8.83 |
| Wholesale Power Adj | 1,200 kWh@ .008506 = \$10.21 | 1,200 kWh@ .018506 = \$22.21 |
| Area Light | \$10.75 | \$10.75 |
| Net Due | \$204.59 | \$216.59 |

Adjustment (WPA). In the current budget, CMEC is seeing the largest increase to its wholesale power cost. The WPA is a line item on your bill that allows CMEC to cover fluctuations in the cost of wholesale power. This will go into effect with your March 2023 usage.

CMEC works hard to keep its electric rates competitive and fair. We are committed to providing you with reliable and affordable electric service. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.



Coffee
on the Co-op

**Join us for
coffee & conversation**

**Tuesday, April 25
7-8:30 a.m.**

at Downtown Diner in Mattoon
Stay tuned for next month's location!


All members are welcome!




**SAVE
THE DATE**

2023
Member Celebration
& Annual Meeting

**Welcome Our
New Lineman
Koty West**

Reminder

CMEC scholarship applications are due April 30, 2023. Email info@cmeccoop.com, print from our website, cmeccoop.com, or pick one up in our lobby.

Got it

Advanced Meter Installation

CMEC will be continuing our new meter installations for all members in the coming months. We hope to have the upgrade completed by the end of summer. Advanced meters will replace aging infrastructure, improve outage notification, increase system efficiencies and provide more energy information for you. Please call our office if you have any questions.

**Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month**

This planting season, include energy efficiency in your landscaping plans. Adding shade trees around your home can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 6 degrees. To block heat from the sun, plant deciduous trees around the south side of your home. Deciduous trees provide excellent shade during the summer and lose their leaves in the fall and winter months, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Source: energy.gov



CONSIDERING SOLAR?

Let us be your first call for information to help get you started and work with you through the process.

CELEBRATE

the Power Behind Your Power.

Lineworker Appreciation Day | April 10, 2023



Electric lineworkers provide an essential service: They install and maintain overhead and underground power lines that keep electricity flowing. These specialized workers are on call 24/7 in case severe storms or other circumstances cause the power to go out.

Lineworkers work with high-voltage electricity, often at great heights, in all kinds of weather conditions. Maintaining the power grid is physically demanding. To become proficient, most lineworkers go through a technical training program and first learn on the job as apprentices under the careful eye of seasoned lineworkers who have earned journeyman status.

Electric power line installers and repairers held approximately 126,600 jobs in 2021, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Nearly half of these employees worked for electric power generation, transmission and distribution utilities.

Safety comes first

Lineworkers spend numerous hours in safety training each year and must understand and apply crucial safety regulations.

Protective clothing is required to shield lineworkers since they work around high voltages. Collectively, gear components can weigh up to 45 pounds.

According to the U.S. BLS, electric power line installers and repairers typically:

- ✓ Install, maintain or repair the power lines that move electricity.

- ✓ Identify defective devices, voltage regulators, transformers and switches.
- ✓ Inspect and test power lines and auxiliary equipment.
- ✓ String (install) power lines between poles, towers and buildings.
- ✓ Climb poles and transmission towers and use truck-mounted buckets to access equipment.
- ✓ Operate power equipment when installing and repairing poles, towers and lines.
- ✓ Know and implement safety standards and procedures.

When a problem is reported, lineworkers must identify the cause and fix it. This usually involves diagnostic testing using specialized equipment and repair work. To work on poles, they usually use bucket trucks to raise themselves to the top of the structure, although all lineworkers must be adept at climbing poles and towers when necessary. Workers use specialized safety equipment to keep them from falling when climbing utility poles and towers.

Storms and other natural disasters can cause extensive damage to power lines. When power is lost, line repairers must work safely and efficiently to restore service. We salute our lineworkers who work around the clock to keep the power on. Their safety, as well as yours, is our top priority.

WHAT'S THE ORANGE SIGN FOR?



It's not a suggestion. It's the law.

Life is fast paced, but speeding or multitasking in a work zone is not worth losing your life or taking someone else's.

To help save lives and reduce injuries, follow orange sign directives every time you approach a work zone.

2020 Work Zone Statistics*

Crashes and Injuries

 Estimated total crashes
102,000

 Estimated injuries
44,000

Fatalities

 **857** Total fatalities

 **244** Fatalities involving commercial motor vehicles

Pedestrian Fatalities in Work Zones

 **105** Pedestrians (non-workers)

 **51** Pedestrian workers

Do your part to help everyone return home safely. The orange sign is not meant for everyone else; **it is meant for everyone.**



*most recent data available

Sources: National Work Zone Awareness Week (nwzaw.org), National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse, American Traffic Safety Services Association

Safe
Electricity.org®



Every Family is UNIQUE

Families have different lifestyles and comfort levels. Members sometimes want to compare their bills to their neighbors, friends or family. Comparing your electric bill to someone else's is like comparing grocery bills. Everyone consumes energy differently, just like everyone eats differently. Consider the following things that can affect energy usage:

- Type, number and age of appliances
- Number of people working from home
- Direction your home faces
- Type of insulation
- Working from home
- Age and type of HVAC system
- Square footage
- Shade in summer/sun in winter
- Number of windows
- Size, age and number of water heaters
- Length of time people are in the home
- More people in the home for holidays, breaks or summertime

Your Cooperative

As your hometown utility, CMEC goes above and beyond providing safe and reliable power. Guided by the seven co-op principles, your co-op improves lives and energizes surrounding communities.



Monthly Board Meeting Minutes can be viewed on our website: cmec.coop