

Mission Statement:

Improving the quality of life of our member-owners.

James B. Riddle

*Executive Vice President/
General Manager*

Board of Directors

Gilbert Kroening, *President*

Paul Pyatt, *Vice President*

Raymond Mulholland, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Larry Ebers

Allen Haake

Paul Hicks

Kevin Liefer

Randall Campbell

Office Closings

January 18
Martin Luther King Day

What to do if the power goes off

1. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers.
2. Check your meter pole or pedestal. If you have breakers, make sure they are "on" by first pushing to the 'off' position and then pushing them to the 'on' position. If you live in a mobile home, codes require a main disconnect near the meter. If you have a dusk-dawn light and it is working, you have a breaker or fuse out.
3. Check with your neighbors. If they are out of power also, the main line is most likely out.
4. During office hours: Steeleville 965-3434 or Murphysboro 684-2143 or (800) 606-1505 for either office. After office hours call (800) 606-1505.
5. Make sure you have the name on the account and if possible, the account number.

Time To Reflect

As the New Year arrives, it is a time many of us use to reflect on the past year, our accomplishments and our failures, the good and the bad; a time to be thankful for the blessings that have been provided us. It is also a time to reflect on the coming year, to make resolutions to accomplish something, to change a bad habit, to adopt new ones. To make a resolution indicates we believe we have the ability to change, to make something happen. If we didn't believe we had this ability, this power, we wouldn't waste our time making the resolution. We'd move on to something more productive. But my guess is that nearly each and every one of us will ponder some type of resolution for the New Year. January 1, 2010, is a special New Year's Day for me. There was much that happened in 2009 that gives cause for me to reflect on.

As your new manager, that in and of itself, is cause for deep reflection. Having spent 21 years at Clinton County Electric Cooperative in Breese as the President and Chief Operating Officer, I had no idea this time last year that I would be moving to Egyptian. That might sound easy enough to do, but when you've become an integral part of a community as my wife Debbie and our family had become in Breese, the community becomes a part of you. Coming to Egyptian was exciting, invigorating, but yet leaving a community with its friends and companions behind tugs at your heart strings. We are making new friends and are becoming part

of the Steeleville community and we look forward to Steeleville becoming a part of us as we make plans for the future here.

I also look back to May 8. After being on the job for a full 5 weeks, our electric system was basically flattened by high winds. I recall driving the system south of Murphysboro late that afternoon with some of my staff as we assessed the damage. Initially, the damage we found was minimal considering the winds. But the further we got into the system, the more devastating the damage became. As the next day or two passed, realization of just how bad this was became evident. I saw my nucleus of linemen in Murphysboro grow from eight to over 140 in a matter of days. You can only imagine the questions and concerns I had in my mind.

What a blessing it is to have the group of employees and directors that Egyptian has. Your employees stepped up to the task at hand. The operations folks supervised a restoration crew 18 times larger than their normal workforce, and efficiently I might add. The member service folks took your phone calls and answered your questions, sometimes delivering a message not quite what you might

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Jim B. Riddle

*Executive
Vice President/
General Manager*



have wanted to hear, but doing their best under trying times to give you an answer; directors that baked desserts and served food to restoration crews working 17 hour days. And in the end, the best part of all, everyone went home to family and friends. Yes, the storm was devastating, but we can be thankful for the dedication and professionalism of those who worked to restore in days what had taken years to build.

As I consider the future in light of May 8, I know there is still room for improvement. Our new metering system provides a platform of information for us, but we also have to have access to the information or the data the metering provides. Getting daily meter readings over

copper telephone wires has been inexpensive but lacks the capacity when we need to know “now” – which meters have power and which don’t. The coming New Year will find us evaluating and deploying infrastructure to allow us to determine quickly which circuits are out and which are on.

As I contemplate the past year and all of the talk and concern with the proposed cap and trade legislation, I also ponder what it will bring in the coming year. We definitely had a successful grass roots effort of letting our congressional delegation know our concerns through the cards, letters and emails you sent to Washington. But I wonder, ‘Will it be enough? Can we influence the

legislation to minimize the impact on our members?’ I wish I had a crystal ball to answer that question. Not only would it make me a wealthy person, but it sure would resolve a lot of anxiety for many, including me.

Yes, there are several resolutions I have made for your Cooperative in the coming year because I know that we can achieve them. Egyptian Electric Cooperative is blessed in many ways – employees, directors, staff, but most importantly, you, our members. Our mission is “to improve our member’s quality of life.” Why? Because we know we can do it, because we have the ability and the power to do so. Happy New Year to each and every one of you!

Debunking Home Energy

Energy costs are on the rise and everybody wants to save. Problem is, there is a lot of confusion about what works and doesn’t work to reduce energy use. Each month from now until we run out of myths, we will feature a misconception about energy savings. So, each month look for the myth, clip it and save it for future reference.



Myth: More energy is used for showers than baths.

Truth: It depends on whether the shower head has a flow restrictor and how long of a shower you take.

Shower heads prior to 1992 let about five gallons per minute (gpm) pass through. If you take a five minute shower, you use 25 gallons of water. If you take a 10-minute shower, it’s 50 gallons. Change out the showerhead to a newer one with a flow restrictor and the usage drops to 12.5 gallons for the five- minute shower and 25 gallons for the 10-minute shower. By comparison, the average bath uses 30-50 gallons of water.

To test your showerhead, time how long it takes to fill a quart milk container. Multiply that number by four (to get how long it would take to fill a gallon), then divide that number into 60. This is the number of gallons per minute. Next time you shower, ask someone to time you. If you cheat and shorten the time from normal, you are only being dishonest with yourself, so try to be consistent with your normal habits.

If you use less than 30 gallons per shower, a shower is saving you. If not, decide if the issue is the water flow or the length of shower. You have the power to change one or both.

Myths

Accountability : We act in accordance with our core purpose and values.

Back-up Generators

The high winds of May 8 and the resulting extended electric outages were enough to convince some members of Egyptian Electric Cooperative to purchase portable or permanently installed back-up generators. The cooperative encourages those members with medical needs, home offices or businesses to seriously consider installing back-up generation to minimize the inconvenience storm and other related outages can have.

We do wish to remind all members that proper installation is imperative to safe operation of back-up generators. If the home's electric system is not isolated from the Cooperative's distribution system, generators become small back-feed power plants,

stepping the 120/240 volts they generate up to 7,200 volts through the Cooperative's transformer. This can lead to dangerous situations for linemen and the general public. This is one reason we ask that no one move downed power lines during storms. Even though the power may be "out", should someone start up a generator without ensuring it is isolated from the system, 7,200 volts could come back through the lines.

Proper installation of generators should include a double throw switch. A double throw switch ensures the home electric system is separated from the Cooperative's distribution system. Many permanently installed generators have automatic switches that are controlled

by the generator. Others may be manual with some type of temporary connection or plug for the generator to be connected to. Either way, the generator and the electric system are isolated from each other and neither can cause back flow to the other.

To assist our engineering staff and our linemen in the field, we ask that all members with back-up generators to please register them with the Cooperative. You can fill out the form below and return to our offices with your next bill payment. The information will be added to our outage mapping system so that all cooperative personnel are aware of where back-up generators are installed.

Clip and return with next bill payment



Member Name _____

Service Address _____

City, State, Zip _____
Where generator is used

Account Number _____ *(On top right of bill statement)*

Portable generator _____ watts

Permanent generator _____ watts

Tractor auxiliary power units _____ watts

Connection: *Please check all that apply*

Double-throw switch installed

Temporary connection to main electric panel

Connect directly to appliances (refrigerator, freezer, etc)

Building for optimal efficiency

Many products today (oxboard, engineered floor joists, etc) are designed to reduce our use of natural resources by using material that may have been previously considered as waste. But when we shift from production to use, most homes are built (framed) the same today as they were 50 years ago. Most have corner posts, partition posts, headers above all doors and windows, cripples, 16" spacing on wall studs and many other construction techniques similar to those used in the 50s and 60s. While these techniques built sturdy homes, they didn't necessarily lead to energy efficient homes. As energy prices increase and we move to other, more expensive forms of energy (renewable), it may be time to rethink how we build homes.

The first place to look is at the framing layout pattern. Typically, floor joists and wall studs are on 16" centers while roof trusses are on 24" centers. While floor joists and wall studs typically use the same spacing, it doesn't necessarily mean they line up with each other. Lining up framing members on 24" centers, called

stack framing, ensures building loads are directly transferred to building members below with the use of less building material. Unfortunately, stack framing requires planning and therein lays the problem.

If homes and rooms are designed on a 24" center layout, doors and windows can be slid to the nearest stud, reducing the use of jack and other supporting studs. Wall board and exterior sheathing (four foot widths) would have less waste material. Using 2 x 6 studs ensure walls have sufficient structural stability and provide additional room for wall insulation.

Traditional corner and partition post construction was designed to provide wood corners so that wall board has a surface to be fastened to at all corners. The problem is that all wood shrinks and all wood shrinks at different rates. This can lead to drywall cracks. Using drywall clips reduces the amount of wood used, ensures corners are fully insulated and reduces cracking. Full height partition posts can be replaced with horizontal ladders

between adjoining studs to stabilize the wall while allowing for full wall insulation.

To achieve properly insulated walls and to prevent the growth of mold and mildew, cold spots in walls need to be eliminated. The use of structural load bearing headers over doors and windows in non-load bearing walls can be eliminated, allowing for increased insulation levels. When possible, header hangers should be used to support headers, eliminating "jack" studs; additional 2 x 4's inserted into the wall to support headers. Eliminate cripples (similar to jack studs) under windows that are used to support the horizontal windowsill as no structural loads are transmitted to these 2 x 4's.

Finally, 1" extruded foam with an R-5 insulation level should be used for exterior wall sheathing instead of OSB or plywood. This does cause a need for alternative methods of providing shear strength, or the force to keep the home from twisting in high winds. Using 1/2" OSB or plywood at the corners with 1/2" extruded foam, installing diagonal metal bracing nailed to the face of the studs or inserting engineered sheer panels into the wall can accomplish the need for sheer strength.

As energy efficiency becomes the driving force behind the development of new construction products rather than ease of construction, new materials and building techniques will appear on the market. But even with better materials, planning ahead is the only way to ensure the efficiencies these new products offer are maximized. As Joseph Lstiburek, Ph.D. says, "What we have is an inefficient framing system that we are all doing incredibly efficiently. We need to refocus on a more efficient system." To achieve that will require change and planning ahead.

Commitment to Community shown in November

Integrity, accountability, commitment to community, teamwork. These are the four core values Egyptian Electric's board of directors and employees have adopted to lead us in our daily endeavors of *improving our member's quality of life.*

During November, the employees of the Murphysboro office took commitment to community to heart, bringing food and other non-perishable items from home



Ron Gill and Brooke Guthman load food for delivery to the local food pantry.

each Friday. During the week of Thanksgiving, the donations were taken to a local food bank to improve the quality of life of those less fortunate during the holidays.

Teamwork: We work together to provide excellent service.