

The SOUTHEASTERN Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

President's Comments



Dustin Tripp
President/CEO

Over the past few years, your Cooperative has been informing you of pending legislation and new environmental regulations that if enacted would significantly increase the cost of generating electricity and therefore increase your electric rates.

Last summer, the EPA released the final version of a new regulation titled the "Cross-State Air Pollution Rule" (CSAPR) which was scheduled to be implemented in January 2012. CSAPR requires coal-fired generation facilities to reduce their emissions levels to such a low level that many coal-fired generation facilities cannot comply with the new regulations and will be forced to either purchase emissions credits, install more emissions controls equipment or shut the generation units down.

After the EPA released the final version of CSAPR last year, some 45 petitioners in 27 states, including companies, industry groups and states, filed motions asking the court to stay the rule pending review. In their motions, petitioners listed unrealistic compliance deadlines, generation plant shutdowns, higher energy prices and reliability concerns. On December 30, 2011, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia issued an order staying CSAPR pending the resolution of an appeal of the rule. The court ordered the EPA to continue administering the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) of 2005 during the appeal process of CSAPR. The court also ordered all involved parties to submit briefing schedules that would allow the appeals to be heard by April 2012.

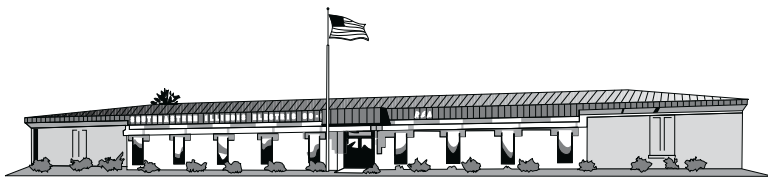
There is no way to predict exactly when the court will issue a final decision regarding CSAPR. Many believe that the court may issue a final decision as early as this summer however, some predict the court's decision could likely lead to required modifications to CSAPR that could take up to a few years to complete.

Another new EPA regulation titled "Mercury and Air Toxics Standard" (MATS) was signed on December 16, 2011. This new rule also targets coal and oil-fired electric generation facilities. The new MATS rule is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on February 16, 2012. All generation plants must comply with this new rule within three years of the final regulation date. At this time, it is premature to predict what impact this new rule will have on your Cooperative and your electric rates.

Your Cooperative is concerned about the costs associated with these new regulations and is currently evaluating the impact these regulations will have on you, as Cooperative members, and determining new ways to keep your electric rates as reasonable as possible. Your Cooperative will continue to update you regarding the status of these new regulations as they develop in the near future. Your Cooperative strives to provide you, as Cooperative members, with a reliable, cost-effective and environmentally responsible energy supply.

See you next month and as always, "We'll keep the lights on for you."

READERSHIP PRIZE WINNER:
Roy Xanders, Golconda IL



How to stay safe after a storm

Severe thunderstorms, tornadoes and flooding can leave more than damage in their wake – they can leave hidden dangers as well. Safe Electricity advises everyone to be mindful of the electrical hazards that storms and flooding can leave behind.

“The danger does not end when the storm does,” says Molly Hall, Executive Director of Safe Electricity. “People can be hurt or killed by hazards left behind. Be cautious in any clean-up effort.”

Stay away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Treat all downed or hanging power lines as if they are energized. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live. Warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility.

As part of the “Teach Learn Care” TLC campaign, the program urges parents and other caregivers to make sure children are aware of these hazards as well.

“Before re-entering storm-damaged buildings or rooms, be sure all electric and gas services are turned off,” said Jay Solomon, University of Illinois Extension Engineering Educator. “Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you can’t reach your breaker box safely, call your electric utility to shut off power at the meter.”

Never step into a flooded basement or other area if water is covering electrical outlets, appliances or cords. Be alert to any electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water. Never touch electrical appliances, cords or wires while you are wet or standing in water.

If using electric yard tools in clean-up efforts, do not operate



them if it’s raining or the ground is wet, or while you are wet or standing in water. Keep all electric tools and equipment at least 10 feet away from wet surfaces.

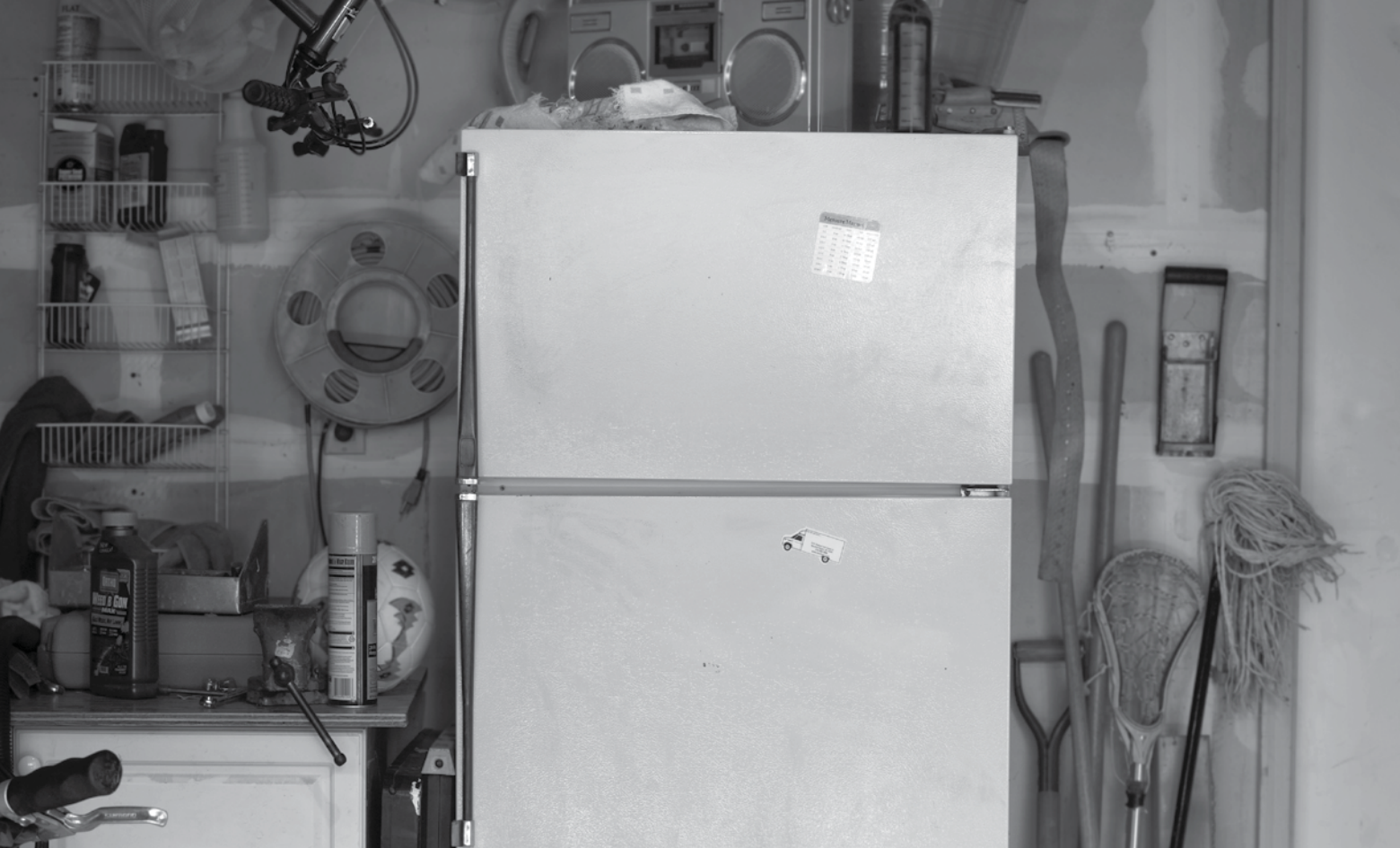
Cleaning up and using water-damaged appliances also carry safety risks,” said Solomon. “Electric motors in appliances that have been drenched or submerged should be thoroughly cleaned and reconditioned before they are put back into service. It may be necessary to repair or replace electrical appliances or tools that have been in contact with water. Do not use any water-damaged appliance until a professional has checked it out.”

If after a storm or disaster, the power to your home is out for a prolonged period, know important safety rules, such as never using a charcoal or gas grill to cook inside! And if you use a portable generator, be sure a transfer safety switch has been installed or connect the appliance(s) directly to the genera-

tor. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the power lines, what’s known as “back feed.” Back feed creates danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power.

If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel or the electric utility. Never drive over a downed line. A downed line causes other things around it to become potentially hazardous.

If you are in a car which has come in contact with a downed power line, stay in your vehicle. If you must leave your car jump free keeping both feet together and either shuffle or hop to safety. A live wire touching the ground causes electricity to fan out in a pool and the action of running or striding allows one foot to move from one voltage zone to another. Your body then becomes the path for the electricity and electrocution is the tragic result.




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Association of Illinois
Electric Cooperatives

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Deadline nears for nominating your dad

Each year the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives sponsors a contest to recognize a deserving mother or father for his outstanding service to his family and community. Many have overcome obstacles in their lives that stand as true testaments to their fortitude and integrity. If you have such a father or know a man in the community deserving of this year's Father of the Year title, please write a letter to the Association of Illinois

Electric Cooperatives by March 15. It's not difficult. Fill out the form on page 15 of this month's Illinois Country Living and either mail your letter or e-mail it according to the instructions. A story on the winning father will be featured as an upcoming cover feature in the ICL. The father will also receive prizes and recognition at a community event held in his honor. Be sure to enter.



POWER OUTAGE

If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions

1. Check the fuses or circuit breakers in your service panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "ON" position.
2. If you have a meter pole, check the main breaker panel just below the meter socket. If the breaker is in the "OFF" position, check all of your wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears to be okay, reset the breaker to the "ON" position.
3. If you still do not have power, check with neighbors to see if they have power.
4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 1-877-399-8405. This phone number is monitored around the clock, 365 days per year to accept your outage and emergency calls.
5. Your phone call will be handled by SouthEastern's automated outage reporting system and will be identified automatically through ANI (Automatic Number Identification). An outage record will then be generated

for your location. Please note that the phone number from which you place the call will be the number used to generate the record. If the system fails to recognize your phone number, members having touch-tone phones may simply enter their seven-digit phone number (without area code) in order to report the outage. Members not having touch-tone phones will be asked to leave a message. It is important you leave your name, phone number and location of the outage. Retrieving messages and entering them into the system is time consuming; therefore, please leave only a message that will help in restoration of electric service. Do not remain on the line for an operator because a live operator is not there to respond. In order to keep a current listing of all numbers, it is important that you notify the Cooperative of any changes in your telephone number.

6. Handling outage calls electronically allows you to report power failures very quickly. Once your outage has been reported, it will be dispatched to repair personnel who will restore your outage as soon as possible. Calling back repeatedly will not shorten the length of the outage, but may hinder the efforts of other members who are trying to report outages.

OUTAGE CALLS ONLY 1-877-399-8405

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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618-273-2611 or 800-833-2611 • Office hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. M-F