

The SOUTHEASTERN Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

President's Comments



Dustin Tripp
President/CEO

Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) located at the Lake of Egypt near Marion provides the generation and transmission service to your Cooperative's substations. As many of you know, the generation and transmission of electricity is a very capital intensive industry and therefore represents the majority of your Cooperative's expense. In fact, the generation and transmission of the electricity to our local substations represented approximately 74 percent of your Cooperative's total cost of operation in 2010. In this article, I would like to briefly inform you about the history of SIPC and update you on their latest acquisition of new generation facilities.

In 1963, SIPC began producing electricity for three distribution Cooperatives in Southern Illinois utilizing Southern Illinois coal as the fuel source for three generation units (Units 1, 2 and 3). In the 1970s, demand for electricity grew significantly in the Southern Illinois Cooperatives and SIPC was faced with providing additional generation capacity. SIPC made the decision to construct another coal-fired generating unit (Unit 4) which began operation in 1978. In the 1990s and early 2000s, changes in the utility industry and additional load growth provided by three more distribution Cooperatives led SIPC to modernize its generation facility by replacing the original three boilers with one circulating fluidized bed boiler and adding environmental controls on the fourth unit which allowed SIPC to operate more environmentally friendly while continuing to use Southern Illinois coal as its fuel source. In addition, SIPC added two

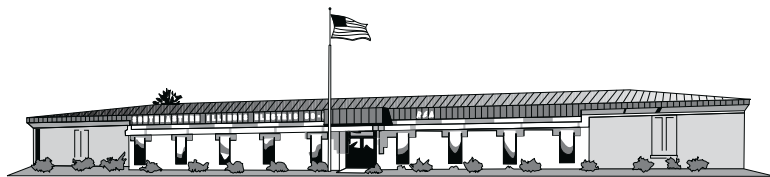
natural gas combustion turbines to provide additional generation capacity during peak power periods. Over the past decade, SIPC continues to experience more demand for electricity and in order to meet future power needs, SIPC evaluated options including construction of a new power plant, long-term contract to purchase power from another supplier and joint ownership of a power plant.

As previously reported, SIPC decided to acquire 125 megawatts of the Prairie State Energy Campus (PSEC) in 2007. Prairie State is a planned two unit, 1,600 megawatt supercritical coal-fueled power plant to be located in Washington County, Illinois near Marissa. PSEC will incorporate state-of-the-art technologies to be among the cleanest major coal-fueled generation facilities in the nation. The plant will use pulverized coal technology in a supercritical combustion system, which operates at increased temperatures and pressures to achieve maximum efficiency. In addition, the plant will include the most advanced environmental controls including nitrogen oxide controls, selective catalytic reduction, dry electrostatic precipitators, sulfur dioxide scrubbers and wet electrostatic precipitators to achieve some of the lowest emissions of any coal-fired generation facility in the nation.

PSEC will also incorporate mine mouth technology, which means the plant will be fueled by coal, which is mined just beneath the surface of the plant. This will virtually eliminate the transportation costs

► *Continued on page 16d*

READERSHIP PRIZE WINNER:
Beth Margelli, Macedonia, IL



Be Prepared for Severe Storms

The months of April through July represent the most active months for severe storms, lightning strikes, and tornadoes. Molly Hall, Safe Electricity Executive Director, wants to remind everyone of a few tips to stay safe before, during and after severe storms. “You never know when a storm may hit, creating potential electrical hazards for your family,” Hall said. “The best solution is to be prepared ahead of time. This checklist will help keep your family safe year round.”

Before the storm:

- Assemble a kit of essentials, like battery-operated flashlights and radios. Keep a list of emergency phone numbers that includes the electric utility. Be prepared for the possibility of a prolonged outage due to power line and electric equipment damage.
- Fill spare containers with water for washing, and keep a supply of bottled drinking water on hand. Maintain a supply of non-perishable food items, along with a hand opener for canned food.
- During an outage, switch off lights and appliances to prevent overloading circuits and damaging appliances when power is restored. Leave one lamp or switch on as a signal for when your power returns.
- Be sure to tune into your local weather station if you suspect severe weather is brewing. Understand the National Weather Service warning classification system. A tornado or severe storm watch means that conditions are favorable for those weather conditions forming. A warning means that dangerous weather conditions are developing and imminent.
- Consider having Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) professionally installed or pur-

chasing a portable GFCI. GFCIs can cut off power if there is a problem and are recommended for outdoor outlets and areas of the home that are prone to water exposure such as basements, bathrooms, kitchens, laundry rooms, etc.

- Lightning can travel up to 10 miles away from a storm, so seek shelter as soon as you hear thunder.

After the storm:

- When venturing outside after a severe storm, stay away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Assume that any dangling wires you encounter are electrical, and treat all downed or hanging power lines as if they are energized. Warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility.
- 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 electric utility. Also when driving, be careful at intersections where traffic lights may be out. Stop at all railroad crossings, and treat road intersections with traffic signals as a four-way stop before proceeding with caution.
- Before re-entering storm-damaged buildings or rooms, be sure all electric and gas services are turned off. 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.
- Cleaning up and using water-damaged appliances also carry safety risks. 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.
- When using a generator, follow all manufacturers' recommendations to avoid tragedy. Keep the generator dry and never plug it into a wall outlet or directly into the home's wiring. This could inadvertently energize the utility lines and injure yourself or others working to restore power.






Spring cleaning with a payback!

What's on your spring cleaning list? Be sure to include changing out your furnace filter, clearing dust from the dryer vent and hose and refrigerator grill, clearing debris away from the air conditioner or heat pump and making sure your air ducts are clean. It will be the first time spring cleaning has ever paid you back! Find out how simple things you do can add up at www.togetherwesave.com.



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM



**We will be closed Friday,
April 22 in observance of
Good Friday.**

► *Continued from page 16a*

associated with the delivering the fuel to the plant, which will lower the overall fuel costs.

Construction of PSEC began in the fall of 2007 and is nearing completion. In fact, the first unit is expected to become operational in December 2011 and the second unit in mid-2012.

For almost 50 years now, your Cooperative's ownership in generation facilities at SIPC has provided a great advantage for our membership and provided a tremendous economic advantage for Southern Illinois by providing local jobs and using Southern Illinois coal. In addition, SIPC has operated its coal-fired generation fleet in an environmentally responsible way and the addition of PSEC continues that commitment by achieving some of the lowest emissions for a coal-fired generation facility in the nation.

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

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.

585 Highway 142 South • P.O. Box 251 • Eldorado, Illinois 62930
618-273-2611 or 800-833-2611 • Office hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. M-F