

The SOUTHEASTERN Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

President's Comments



Dustin Tripp
President/CEO

In 2010, approximately 74 percent of your Cooperative's total expenses were spent on generation and transmission services. This means that for every \$1 in total expenses, 74 cents went to purchase the wholesale power and transmission service from SIPC and the remaining 26 cents was used to distribute the electricity throughout our service territory to your homes, farms and businesses. As you can see, the whole-sale generation and transmission service comprises the largest portion of cost in providing your electric supply.

Since 1963, Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) located at the Lake of Egypt has provided the generation and transmission service to your Cooperative. In fact, your Cooperative was one of the three original distribution cooperatives that formed SIPC. Today, SIPC is owned and controlled by seven distribution cooperatives located in Southern Illinois.

SIPC has experienced significant load growth over the past decade and it became apparent that additional generation capacity was needed to supply future power needs. SIPC evaluated several options including construction of a new plant, long-term contracts to purchase power from another supplier and joint ownership of a power plant. In 2007, SIPC signed contracts to acquire 125 megawatts of the new Prairie State Generation Campus (PSGC) located in Washington County to provide the needed, additional generation capacity. PSGC is a planned two unit,

1,600 megawatt supercritical coal-fueled power plant featuring advanced technology resulting in high efficiencies while achieving emissions that are far superior to America's current coal-fired generating fleet. Prairie State will be fueled by an adjacent coal mine, thereby minimizing fuel and related transportation costs. In addition, joint ownership in this facility provided an opportunity for economies of scale that are unavailable in a smaller unit.

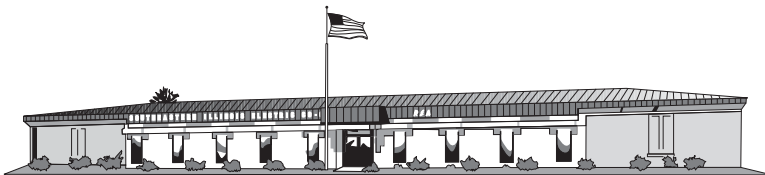


Although this new facility will be constructed using the latest technology allowing it to achieve higher efficiencies and experiencing low fuel costs, the cost to construct this facility is much greater than the costs to construct the existing generation units at SIPC that were built years ago.

This new facility has been under development since the Fall of 2007 and unit one is expected to come on-line later this year and unit 2 is scheduled to come on-line in June 2012. When the units

► *Continued on page 16d*

READERSHIP PRIZE WINNER:
Justin Quartana, Galatia, IL



Lightning & Sporting Events

If you can see it, flee it; if you can hear it, clear it.

Summer activities can take us outdoors for things like organized athletic events. Maybe it's watching your favorite team, watching your child play, or taking the field yourself. If you are participating in an outdoor sport, the game is at the mercy of Mother Nature. One of Mother Nature's most frequent weather hazards is lightning. Baseball, football, lacrosse, skiing, swimming, soccer, tennis, track and field events...all of these and other outdoor sports have been visited by lightning.

The National Lightning Safety Institute (NLSI) says education is the single most important means to achieve lightning safety. A lightning safety program should be implemented at every facility and the NLSI suggests the following steps:

- A responsible person should be designated to monitor weather conditions. Local weather forecasts - from The Weather Channel, NOAA Weather Radio, or local TV stations - should be observed 24 hours prior to athletic events. An inexpensive portable weather radio is recommended for obtaining timely storm data.
- A plan for the suspension and resumption of athletic activities should be in place before games begin. The availability of SAFE shelters is essential. SAFE evacuation sites include: fully enclosed metal vehicles with windows up, substantial buildings and areas of low ground.
- UNSAFE shelter areas include open pavilions, and all outdoor metal objects like flag poles, fences and gates, light poles, metal bleachers, golf carts, machinery, etc. You should also avoid trees, water, open fields and areas of high ground.

- Lightning's distance from you is easy to calculate: if you hear thunder, the associated lightning is within striking distance. The rule of thumb: when thunder roars, go indoors. Another good lightning safety motto is: "If you can see it (lightning) flee it; if you can hear it (thunder), clear it."
- If you feel your hair standing on end, and/or hear "crackling noises" - you are in lightning's electric field. Immediately drop to a crouching position. Remove metal objects (including baseball cap) and with feet together, duck your head, and crouch down low in baseball catcher's stance with your hands on your knees.

- Wait a minimum of 30 minutes from the last observed lightning or thunder before resuming activities.
- If someone is struck by lightning, apply first aid immediately if you are qualified to do so and get emergency help promptly. People who have been struck by lightning do not carry an electrical charge and are safe to handle.
- Remember, "If you can see it, flee it; if you can hear it, clear it" and have a safe game



If You Depend On Life-Support Equipment We Need To Know

While SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative strives to maintain the best possible service with a minimum of outage time, occasional outages, either planned or uncontrolled, do occur. Your Cooperative needs to know the names and location of Cooperative mem-

bers who depend on life-support equipment. We keep a registry of members who are on life-support equipment and it is important that this information be current and accurate. We will make every effort to give priority to restore service to members on life-support systems.

If you or a family member depend on life-support equipment, please fill out the form below and mail it to us along with a medical certificate from your physician at:

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 251, Eldorado, IL 62930

NAME: _____

PHONE: (_____) _____ - _____ ACCOUNT NUMBER: _____

TYPE OF SUPPORT EQUIPMENT: _____

DAY(S) OF USE: _____

TIME(S) OF USE: _____

DO YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY STAND-BY GENERATOR TO OPERATE THIS EQUIPMENT?

YES

NO

Mail this form along with a Medical Certificate from your physician to:
SouthEastern Illinois Electric Coop., P.O. Box 251, Eldorado, IL 62930

In observance of Labor Day,
the office will be **CLOSED** on
Monday, September 5th

LABOR DAY



► *Continued from page 16a*

become operational, SIPC will begin paying on the loans acquired to construct these facilities. This will cause SIPC to increase the wholesale rate to all seven distribution cooperatives in Southern Illinois including SEIEC. At the time this article is being written, SIPC is currently developing their new wholesale rate. Once SEIEC receives the new wholesale rate from SIPC, your Cooperative will determine the necessary retail rate increases and inform you of those changes.

Unlike other electric utility business structures that

strive to produce profits for investors, your cooperative is a not-for-profit organization that strives to provide the highest level of reliable, quality service at rates just high enough to cover the costs of operation. Your Cooperative will continue to strive to provide reliable electric service at the most reasonable cost. 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 SouthEast-ern'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