

## Co-op crew of four back from Haiti

When a massive earthquake struck Haiti in 2010, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) International Foundation quickly sent teams to help. Now, at the one-year anniversary of the January 12, 2010 quake, a new group of foundation-backed volunteers went to help the devastated country.

"Conditions in Haiti today are no better than they were right after the quake hit," said Ingrid Hunsicker, senior program manager at the foundation. "One of the biggest issues is the rubble," said Hunsicker.

As one of the volunteer teams traveling to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, the Shelby Electric Cooperative group assisted in the rebuilding and reconstruction efforts of distribution lines. All work was performed on de-energized lines. As part of the volunteer assignment, the Shelby crew also provided hands-on training to the local crews on topics related to safe construction practices and use of equipment.

"What a great experience to go help a country in need," said Foreman Kris Koehler. Lineman Brian Chevalier agreed and said, "The local crews were very receptive to us. We enjoyed working and teaching them what we could about what we do back home every day."

In early February, Shelby sent down Line Superintendent Terry Oldham, Foreman Kris Koehler, Lineman Brian Chevalier and President and CEO James Coleman to assist with the rebuilding efforts. Central Virginia Cooperative and White River Valley Electric Cooperative from Branson, Missouri, also made the trip.

"We brought down as much gear as we could carry on the plane," said



*Shelby Electric Cooperative President and CEO James Coleman, pictured far left, and Operations Superintendent Terry Oldham, pictured in back row third from right, pose for a picture while showing local Electric de Haiti officials how to properly care for their equipment.*

Coleman. "Our plan was to bring whatever we could with us and leave it behind." The donation included tools and climbing boots — standard equipment for American co-ops, but rare in Haiti.

"We hope we have left them with a little better knowledge of working on rebuilding their electrical system in a safe and efficient manner," said Oldham. "They were very eager to learn from us."

All four of the Shelby group were in agreement on how humbling it was to be part of this work assignment to Haiti and how well-mannered and clean the people were.

"Given their circumstances and how they currently have to live, while trying to pick up the pieces and repair their tattered community, we were amazed at how well-dressed

► **Continued on 16b**



*Shelby Electric Cooperative Foreman Kris Koehler, pictured in foreground, and Lineman Brian Chevalier, pictured far left, answer questions during one of the training exercises with local Haitian crews.*

## ► Continued from 16a

the people were in the streets and the school children were in clean pressed uniforms and polished shoes,” said Coleman. “It says a lot about the character and pride of these families who have had to endure a lot of turmoil,” said Oldham.

All four agreed that this work assignment made them better appreciate what they have back home in the United States. “This kind of trip was an eye-opening experience and makes you realize just how great a country we live in and take for granted,” said Oldham.

The Shelby group spent a three-week mission in Haiti where they worked with local crews helping with rehabilitating the electrical system and also focus on teaching safety techniques.

“I believe in the international program,” Coleman said. “I think it’s a great way we can spread the rural electric message around the world and I would go back in a heartbeat.”

*Excerpts of this story were taken from ECT.coop – for a related story see page 20 in this issue of the Illinois Country Living magazine.*

# SHELBY News

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## OUTAGE REPORT

### LINE OUTAGES

DATE	HOURS	SUBSTATION	CAUSE	MEMBERS AFFECTED
02/05/2011	2.00	Neoga	Ice storm	65
02/06/2011	1.30	Richland	Ice storm	52
02/06/2011	3.00	Neoga	Ice storm	168
02/06/2011	2.00	Lakewood	Ice storm	138
02/08/2011	0.40	Shelbyville	Planned work	592
02/09/2011	0.40	Yantisville	Loose connection	55
02/16/2011	2.28	Neoga	Equipment failure	101
02/19/2011	1.05	Yantisville	Loose connection	55
02/21/2011	3.00	Velma	Equipment failure	163
02/21/2011	1.10	Lakewood	Trees	127
02/21/2011	1.20	Blue Mound	Equipment failure	201
02/23/2011	1.15	Taylorville	Lightning	105
02/24/2011	0.37	Velma	Planned work	538
02/24/2011	1.30	Airport	Broken conductor	75
02/27/2011	2.30	Lakewood	Storm	183
02/28/2011	1.15	Taylorville	Broken conductor	100

### SUBSTATION OUTAGES

DATE	HOURS	SUBSTATION	CAUSE	MEMBERS AFFECTED
02/08/2011	2.50	Taylorville	Equipment failure	576
02/08/2011	0.03	Shelbyville	Planned work	650
02/11/2011	2.00	Dunkel	Power supplier	306
02/17/2011	1.40	Yantisville	Planned work	758
02/27/2011	1.10	Grove City	Lightning	106
02/27/2011	3.20	Taylorville	Lightning	579

*Due to the amount of outages that occurred from February 1 - February 4, as a result of the ice storm, we are not listing those outages.*



## Time is running out: Filling the generation gap

**E**lectric co-ops have important energy choices to make. We can't stall or wait for a magic "electricity" bullet. Tighter government regulations — and the high cost to comply with new rules — may signal lights-out for many of the nation's older coal-fired power plants at a time when forecasters predict energy demand will eventually outpace supply. We're approaching crunch time on our ability to keep the lights on and we need to build new power plants.

The recent economic turmoil, terrible as it was, provided some much-needed breathing room on addressing our growing energy needs. As the economy rebounds, so will our nation's hunger for electricity. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) predicts when the final 2010 numbers are tallied, energy use will have shot up 5 percent from 2009 levels.

We have encouraged you to be energy efficient both for your sake (lower electric bills) and to help mitigate the need to build new generation sources. You've certainly done your part; between 1980 and 2006, the average amount of energy each American used dropped 2.5 percent. With an ever-expanding population, these measures are not enough to completely offset escalating energy demand.

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the nation's bulk power grid watchdog, estimates we need to build 135,000 MW of new generation by 2017 to meet demand. Generation facilities on the drawing board will only deliver 77,000 MW — leaving a generation gap. Compounding



*The Prairie State Energy Campus, currently under construction in Lively Grove, Illinois, is one of a few, if not the only, major coal-fired power plant being built in the U.S.*

this issue, some of our current power plants may soon be shut down by federal regulations. One NERC-commissioned report claims new government rules could force utilities to retire or retrofit 33,000 MW to 70,000 MW of generating capacity by 2015. Meanwhile, every year that we delay building new plants drives up construction costs. If we wait too long, we could see power shortages by the end of this decade.

Traditional power plants (coal, natural gas and nuclear) take between three years and a decade to build — not leaving much wiggle room before shortages become a reality. Renewable energy resources, notably wind farms, can be constructed more quickly, but they're not perfect options or cost efficient. It may sound cliché to say the wind doesn't always blow, but it's the truth — and you wouldn't be satisfied

with only having power 40 percent of the time.

At Shelby Electric Cooperative we're focused on affordability. Our nation needs to build new power plants before the need for electricity outstrips current generation resources. That is why Shelby Electric, through our power supplier Prairie Power, Inc., is part of Prairie State Energy Campus. Once construction is completed, this will be one of the cleanest coal fired power plants in the country. Unit one is scheduled to go on-line in December of this year with unit two scheduled for 2012. We appreciate your support as we make these critical and time-sensitive choices. Balancing your energy needs with electricity reliability and affordability is one more way we're looking out for you.

**Mark June 10  
on your calendar for  
Shelby Electric Cooperative's  
annual meeting.**



This year's meeting will be held at the Chautauqua building in Forest Park, Ninth Street, Shelbyville. Watch for more information in the May issue of Shelby News.

## REAL LIFE REAL POWER

### Getting real efficient with Marla

**I**n keeping with my resolution to get around to making my home more energy efficient, I made another improvement! Well, sort of. I purchased a refrigerator coil brush. I haven't actually used it yet – unless I can count my son using it to torment the cat. Soon, I intend to conquer my fear of what lurks under our refrigerator.

Clean refrigerator coils can improve the efficiency of a refrigerator by as much as 30 percent. Considering that a refrigerator can account for 6 percent of a home's annual energy use, slaying the dust bunnies becomes a very worthwhile investment of time.

My refrigerator coil brush came with six easy instructions:

1. Unplug refrigerator.
2. Remove kick plate at bottom of the refrigerator. If coils are on the back, remove guard plate.
3. Gently insert brush between coils. Move the brush back and forth

to remove dirt. Carefully clean around fan. Residue may fall to the floor.

4. Wash brush in soap and water, shake dry and store.
5. Replace kick plate or guard.
6. Plug in refrigerator.

I will add a 7th instruction – clean up the “residue” that fell to the floor. Yes, this will probably turn into a mop-the-whole-kitchen-floor project. However, I am sure your refrigerator and electric bill will gasp with relief.

While you are at it, check the temperature setting of your refrigerator and freezer. A refrigerator should maintain the temperature between 35-38 degrees F and freezers should be set at 0 degrees F. Colder settings than those are wasting electricity.

Remember, bunnies at Easter are cute. (Dust) bunnies that choke your refrigerator are not cute, just costly. Happy spring cleaning!



– Marla Eversole, Member Services Representative  
Source: [www.consumerenergycenter.org](http://www.consumerenergycenter.org)



### Earth Day 2011

**I**n honor of Earth Day (April 22nd) you may consider planting trees or shrubs. Remember to call JULIE before you dig!

Whether you are planning to do it yourself or hire a professional, smart digging means calling 811 before each job. Homeowners often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked, but every digging job requires a call – even small projects like planting trees and shrubs.

If you hit an underground utility line while digging, you can harm yourself or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially be responsible for fines and repair costs.

For more information, visit their website at <http://www.call811.com>



### Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

It may be time to replace your refrigerator. A fridge made before 1993 could cost more than \$100 each year to operate. A new ENERGY STAR qualified model could cut your related energy costs in half. In addition, newer models keep food fresher longer.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

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