

JAMUP

published by Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Dongola, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Please Read. You will find a copy of this letter from Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative Executive Vice President/General Manager Larry Lovell enclosed with your electric bill statement, due March 15.

February 1, 2012

Dear Member:

As reported to the membership at the 2011 Annual Meeting and in recent issues in the JAMUP, the Board and management have determined that it was necessary to implement a rate increase averaging just over nine percent. The increase went into effect with this billing cycle (February) with payments due by March 15.

The increase is mainly due to a 23 percent increase in SIEC's wholesale cost of power, or \$4.2 million, from Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) in 2012. The increase is due in large part to SIPC's participation in the building of the Prairie State Energy Campus located in Washington County, Illinois. SIPC chose to participate in the new state-of-the-art power plant to meet members' energy needs. The plant is extremely economical, efficient and environmentally friendly.

The other factor driving the escalating wholesale power costs is meeting the ever increasing requirements of environmental and regulatory compliance regulations. We all understand the need for protecting our environment, but doing so is costly. With this billing, you will see a new line item called *Environmental/Regulatory Compliance Charge*. This is not an additional charge; it has always been a part of your bill. The Board and management feel it is important for members to be informed of the regulatory costs of generating electricity. Thus, we are choosing to show these costs as a separate line item on your electric bill.

For additional information, please visit our website, www.siec.coop, or call SIEC at 1-800-762-1400 for copies of recent rate increase articles.

At SIEC, we are deeply concerned about escalating costs in our volatile economy. We will continue to work hard to minimize rate increases by implementing cost-saving budget actions. It is our hope that another rate increase will not be necessary for a few years.

Sincerely,
Larry Lovell
Executive Vice President/General Manager

Outdoor safety for children



While it is nice to get some fresh air and sunshine, there are hazards that we need to make sure kids are aware of to keep them safe when playing outside:

- Never enter an electrical substation for any reason. If a ball or other toy enters the fence, call your utility for help.
- Never climb trees near power lines. They could be conductors of electricity if branches touch the wires. Even if branches are not touching power lines, they could if weight from a child is added.
- Do not fly kites or model planes near overhead power lines or elec-

trical substations. A kite string can conduct electricity from an overhead power line to the person on the ground.

- Storm fronts can move rapidly and lightning is a potential danger 10 miles in advance of a storm. The rule of thumb from the National Weather Service is, **“When thunder roars, go indoors!”** Make sure kids know not to seek shelter under a tree or open picnic shelter.
- Ensure your children are protected from the electrical service connection to your home. Keep ladders or long poles stowed and

away from youngsters who might be tempted to use them to reach the wires connected to your house.

- If electric wires in your neighborhood have sagged for some reason or a tree limb has pushed the line out of place, keep your neighborhood safe by alerting your electric utility.

For more information on electrical safety and to see videos about power line safety, visit www.siec.coop and www.SafeElectricity.org.

Legislative efforts

First-term Republican U.S. Sen. Mark Kirk made a scheduled stop at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in Springfield earlier this year. He addressed the Board of Directors on issues related to energy. Here, SIEC Board President Scott Ury spoke directly to the visiting senator, representing your cooperative on the issues. Just a couple days after his visit, Kirk suffered a debilitating stroke, according to doctors. We are hopeful the senator makes a full recovery.

Mary J. Long



Five consistent ways to stay informed as a co-op member

- Read...JAMUP (Illinois Country Living magazine center section)
- Log on...SIEC website www.siec.coop
- "Like" ...Facebook (visit our page) **Ruth E. Morrison**
- Join...SIEC Information Communication Campaign (email/texts/letters)
- Attend your annual meeting (8/9/12)

If you were part-owner of the local gas station, wouldn't you pay more attention to gas prices, its success, its customer service, etc.? Do you know that you are part-owner of Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative? To receive electricity in your name, you paid a \$5 cooperative membership fee. You are one of over 8,500 owners of this utility and as a member of this cooperative, you have a stake in its future. Remember, you are not a customer of SIEC,

YOU ARE A **MEMBER!**

So please continue to read JAMUP, visit our website and Facebook page, and join our information campaign by filling out the below information and returning it to SIEC. We want you to stay informed of issues affecting your cooperative.



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

SIEC Member Account Number: _____

Primary Telephone Number: _____


Please indicate if you would rather be contacted through emails, letters or texting:

() Cell Phone Number: _____

() Email Address: _____

() Letter to Above Address

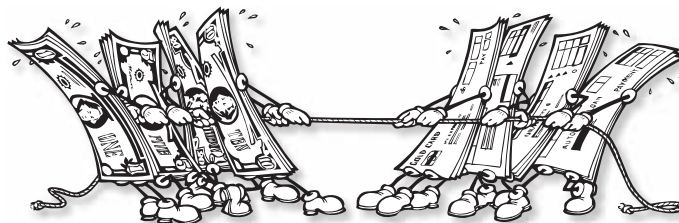
Please mail completed form to Jerri Schaefer, SIEC, P. O. Box 100, Dongola, IL 62926 or email her the above information at siecadministration@siec.org.



Need Help?

LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)

If you need financial assistance to pay your electric bills, you may be eligible through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) through Shawnee Development Council.



Alexander 734-0535
Johnson 658-6131

Massac 524-2941
Pope 683-2107

Pulaski 745-6388
Union 833-7431



Marathon® WATER HEATERS

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative proudly offers the Marathon water heater in 50 and 85 gallon models.

Why Marathon?

Because we believe, if you want your water heater to give you years of service, you must get one that will stand the test of time.

Marathon offers a life-time no-leak warranty, guaranteed to last you as long as you own your home. This will save you the future expense of buying a replacement heater and having it installed.

Because it has a plastic tank, the Marathon will not rust or corrode.

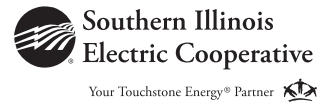
If you have any questions, please call our office at 1(800)762-1400 or visit our Web site for detailed information, www.siec.coop.

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SOMETIMES KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES IS ABOUT KEEPING YOUR ELECTRIC BILLS DOWN.



When you save energy, it helps our entire co-op lower its costs. Find out what you can do at TogetherWeSave.com.



TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

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For Outages Call: 800-762-1400 • 618-827-3555

Member prize

In this issue of the JAMUP, we printed the names of three SIEC members who are eligible to receive a \$10 credit toward their utility bill. If you find your name printed in this center section and it's not part of the story, call Jerri with your account number at **800-762-1400** to claim your prize.

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

7420 U.S. Highway 51 South • P.O. Box 100 • Dongola, Illinois 62926
618-827-3555 • Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4 p.m. • Web address: www.siec.coop

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