

President's Report



William R. Dodds
President/CEO

The Environmental Protection Agency is currently considering proposals to regulate greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act. The author of the Clean Air Act stated this would result in a “glorious mess” as it was never intended nor designed to regulate these emissions.

It is the responsibility of Congress to determine any climate change legislation, not the EPA.

Tell Congress that they need to step in and prevent the EPA from using the Clean Air Act as a tool for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It’s the role of Congress to determine greenhouse gas policy that is fair and affordable for all Americans.

Climate change legislation will affect all of us. It would likely raise your bills for electricity at a time when many people simply can’t afford to pay more.

I urge you to contact Senators Sick Durbin and Roland Burris, as well as your U.S. Representative, and tell them how you feel about this new EPA measure. By staying engaged in climate change legislation, you can have a voice in this important issue. It doesn’t just affect us, it will also affect our children and grandchildren.



Dave Champion, left, President/CEO of Eastern Ilini Electric Cooperative and outgoing chairman of the Prairie Power, Inc. Board of Directors, is pictured with Jack Clark, the Chairman of the Spoon River Electric Cooperative Board of Directors, who was recently elected the new Chairman of the Prairie Power, Inc. Board of Directors. Read more about Clark's election on page 16b.

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U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin
309 Hart Senate Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-2152

U.S. Cong. Phil Hare
428 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-5905

U.S. Sen. Roland Burris
387 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-2854

U.S. Cong. Aaron Schock
509 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-6201

Clark named Chairman of Prairie Power board

Jack Clark, Chairman of the Spoon River Electric Cooperative Board of Directors, was recently elected Chairman of the Prairie Power, Inc. Board of Directors.

Clark, a Lewistown farmer, said he was surprised by his election.

"It's an honor when people put their trust in you," he said. "It'll be a new challenge, and I'll do my very best."

Prairie Power is a generation and transmission cooperative, providing electricity to its 10 member cooperatives, including Spoon River Electric Cooperative. Each of the 10 cooper-

atives appoints its manager and one other representative to the Prairie Power board, which sets policies for the cooperative.

Clark was elected by his fellow board members at the March 10 annual meeting of Prairie Power. He will serve a one-year term.

Clark brings intelligence, business sense and a commitment to the cooperative principals to his new role, said Jay Bartlett, President and CEO of Prairie Power.

"I think Jack was an excellent choice for chairman," Bartlett said. "He is always focused on his mem-

bers and what is best for them. He emphasizes his commitment to value – providing the most reliable service at the lowest possible rates."

Clark takes over as chairman during an important time for Prairie Power, which has a 1600 megawatt mine-mouth coal fed generating station under construction. Prairie State Generating Campus will be one of the cleanest and most economical coal fired generating stations in the country when it begins operations.

The station's first unit is slated to start operating in late 2011.

Office Closing

Spoon River Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Monday, May 31, 2010 in observance of Memorial Day.



Spoon River Electric Cooperative

930 South Fifth Ave, PO Box 340, Canton, IL 61520

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

309-647-2700 • www.srecoop.org

President/CEO

William R. Dodds
bdodds@srecoop.org

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Vice Chairman

Bernard Marvel, Browning

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Steve Pille, Glasford

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Lyle Nelson, Abingdon

Assistant Treasurer

Terry Beam, Cuba

Board of Directors

James Banks, Canton

Greg Leigh, Avon

Scott Parrish, Havana

Kathy Smysor, Smithfield

Editor of Spoon River News

Brenda Rothert

brothert@srecoop.org

Spoon River Electric Cooperative – By the Numbers

Miles of line energized: 1,249 • Number of members served: 4,944

Number of power poles in territory: 29,255

Schrodt's relocation enhances service



Spoon River Electric Cooperative Lineman Donnie Schrodt tests equipment at the Prairie Power, Inc. substation in Delong. Schrodt recently became based out of his East Galesburg home so he can better serve the northern portion of the Spoon River Electric territory.

Spoon River Electric Cooperative Lineman Donnie Schrodt is now reporting for work from his East Galesburg home to provide faster response time to members in the northern part of the cooperative's territory.

Schrodt has worked for Spoon River Electric Cooperative for 20 years. He started in the Forestry division and has been a lineman for the past 15 years.

These days he spends his time doing routine maintenance on equipment and substations in his area. Work orders are sent to him by computer, allowing him to constantly stay in touch with the main office in Canton.

Reporting from home means better service for Schrodt's area.

"I think it's excellent," he said. "It makes the members happier."

Schrodt also responds to outages around the clock in the northern territory. When he was based at the cooperative's Canton headquarters, it could take up to an hour to get to the northern part of the territory. Now he's just minutes away.

Schrodt and his wife Lisa recently moved to East Galesburg, where they are enjoying their new neighborhood.

"Everybody here has been really friendly to us," Schrodt said.

Another Spoon River Electric

lineman, Kolby Batterton, covers the cooperative's southern territory from his home in Astoria.

Spoon River Electric Cooperative Manager of Operations Frank Romane said Schrodt and Batterton are helping the cooperative form good relationships with members.

"It gives the servicemen a chance to build one-on-one relationships with our members," Romane said. "If there's a problem in their service area they're going to have a pretty good idea what caused it."

Romane can be reached at fromane@srecoop.org.

Projects intended to improve service

Reliability of electric service to many Spoon River Electric Cooperative members will be improved by major upgrades under way by Prairie Power, Inc. on lines and equipment between the Ipava and Knoxville substations.

Prairie Power, Inc. provides Spoon River Electric Cooperative's electricity. Some of the equipment owned by Prairie Power is dated, which is leading to problems with service in areas between Ipava and Knoxville, said John Dalton, Prairie Power, Inc. Vice President of Engineering, Operations and Planning.

Dalton said PPI has undertaken two projects to improve service. On the northern half of the line, in the Knoxville area, insulators are being replaced because the old ones were failing.



Prairie Power, Inc. engineering department employees look over plans for new equipment and transmission lines between Ipava and Knoxville. From left to right are Robert Reynolds, Jeremy Johnson and Mark Clayton.

More extensive work will be done on the southern half of the line, which was designed in 1948 and installed shortly after. Design work is underway for that section to be overhauled.

"We're going to completely

rebuild the line – new poles, new conductors, new everything," Dalton said.

The work will be ongoing throughout 2010, and Dalton said it should be complete within a year. Members on the line may be inconvenienced by very brief outages during the project.

"As we're doing this work, there will be times Spoon River will have to switch from one station to another," which causes the brief outages, Dalton said. "But our goal is to eliminate those longer duration outages."

Members with questions or concerns about the work can reach Spoon River Electric Cooperative at (309) 647-2700.



Steve Gottman of Prairie Power, Inc. works on line improvements. PPI is beginning a large upgrade of lines and equipment on Spoon River Electric Cooperative lines between Ipava and Knoxville.