


The SOUTHEASTERN Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative • Madorado, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

President's Comments



Dustin Tripp
President/CEO

As we begin the New Year, I would like to take this time to briefly reflect on the year 2012 and describe your Cooperative's plans for the year 2013.

Southern and Southeastern Illinois did encounter one major storm in 2012. On the morning of February 29th severe weather including an EF4 tornado moved through the Cooperative's service area causing extensive damage in Gallatin, Saline and Williamson counties leaving 4,200 members without service. Cooperative crews as well as contract crews worked diligently and were able to restore service to all members within 24 hours.

Residential energy consumption decreased approximately 7.6% in 2012. The majority of this decrease is attributed to very mild winter weather early in the year. In fact, the heating-degree-day data accumulation for January thru April of 2012 was the lowest in over 20 years of data indicative of extremely mild winter weather.

In 2012, the Cooperative continued to make the necessary investments in the vegetation management program. As we have certainly experienced in the past with major storms in 2008, 2009, 2011 and 2012, a sound vegetation management program is crucial to your Cooperative's ability to reduce risks and outages associated with major weather events and to maintain a reliable electric supply for members.

The Cooperative ended the year 2012 in sound financial condition and returned over \$1.4 million in capital credits in December 2012 to you as Cooperative members. The capital credits that were returned are from the years 1978, 1979 & 2011. This means

that if you were a Cooperative member in any or all of these years, you should have received a check in early December for those capital credits.

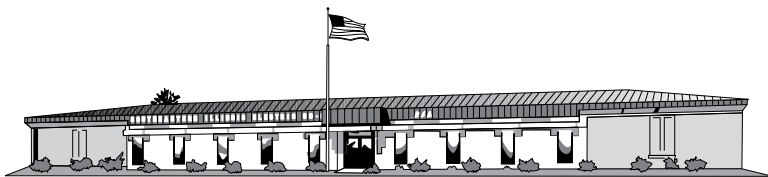
Looking forward in 2013, your Cooperative is planning to continue making necessary investments in the distribution facilities that provide your energy by rebuilding aging infrastructure, replacing degraded poles and performing other maintenance activities including pole testing, regulator maintenance, breaker maintenance, sectionalizing, etc. in order to help ensure a safe and reliable electric supply.

In 2013, your Cooperative is planning to continue making significant investments in the vegetation management program to improve the quality and reliability of electric service you receive. Major disturbances in electric service can result from fallen tree limbs and overgrown vegetation coming in contact with transmission and distribution lines. Your Cooperative is working with members and landowners to remove many trees that were previously trimmed repeatedly every three to five years. The goal of this program is to provide safe transmission and distribution services and minimize disruptions caused by trees and other vegetation.

Lastly, your Cooperative began distributing electricity to the rural areas of SouthEastern Illinois in 1938 and will celebrate 75 years of providing reliable, afford-

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READERSHIP PRIZE WINNER:
Rita Hardin, Carrier Mills, IL



HomE Lite

Co-op energy efficiency rebates return

In 2011 the electric cooperatives of Illinois received \$2.5 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's State Energy Plan. Those funds were, in turn, distributed as rebates to co-op member-owners for energy efficiency projects. This investment paid real dividends and helped prime the pump for nearly ten times that in energy efficiency investments. Better yet, the energy efficiency improvements will multiply the savings for many, many years.

The HomE energy efficiency rebate program was so successful in creating new jobs for heating and air conditioning contractors, plumbers and insulation installers plus saving energy for co-op member-owners that it is being repeated for a second but very limited time.

If you didn't get a chance to participate in the first round of HomE rebates now you have a second

chance. HomE Lite rebates are available until funding runs out, or until June of this year.

HomE Lite Incentive Rebates Include:

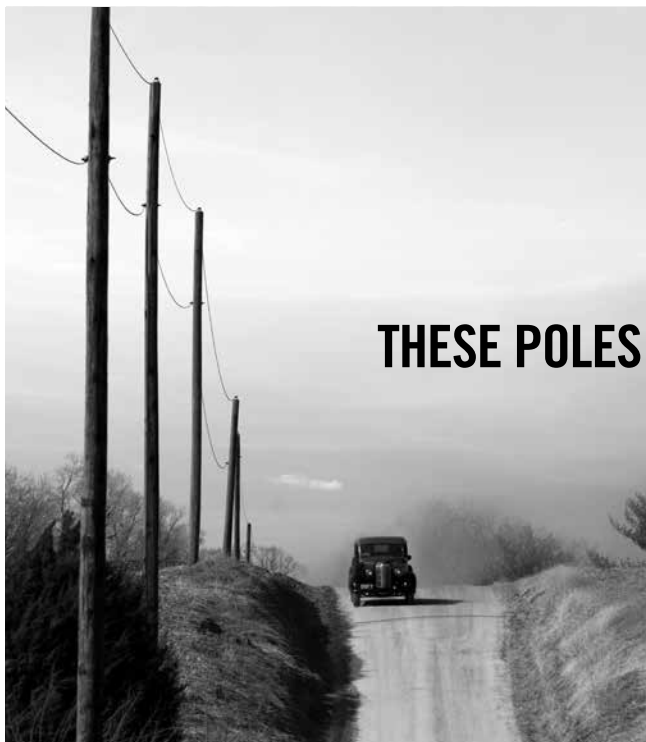
- Geothermal system - \$1,500
- Air-Source Heat Pump (16 SEER or higher) - \$1,000
- Insulation and Weatherization - 50 percent of total project cost, up to \$1,000
- Heat Pump Water Heater - \$250
- Commercial installations - \$500 per ton of capacity, up to a maximum of \$10,000 for geothermal and air source heat pumps.
- Energy Audit by BPI certified auditor - \$300

With the help of the first round of HomE funding SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative members-owners installed 50 of geothermal heat pumps, 73 air-source heat pumps, and 27 made insulation and weatherization improvements.



We know a lot of members were unable to participate in the first HomE program for a variety of reasons. All cooperative members with existing homes are eligible for HomE Lite. These rebates, plus the federal income tax credits that are available for some of the projects, make this a great time to make your home more energy efficient.

For more information please contact Stefanie Tripp, Administrative Assistant & Human Resource Manager.



THESE POLES HAVE ROOTS.

These poles stand for something. They bring us reliable, affordable electricity.

They also carry a vision that began back before the 2nd world war. These poles rose above the dust of the Great Depression, through blood, sweat, and tears.

Today, these poles are yours. And they come to you with a responsibility.

By saving energy, you can build on a dream that started decades ago, ensuring that the spirit on which it was built continues for generations to come.

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM



Winter Weather Woes

Be Prepared for Ice Storms and Prolonged Outages

Blasts of winter wind, moisture and fluctuating temperatures can result in severe freezing rain, sleet and ice storms. A heavy build-up of ice on power lines can cause wires to snap and utility poles to topple. Falling ice-laden trees or limbs can bring down power lines, cause outages and threaten life and property.

Safe Electricity and SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative stress the importance of being prepared for these potentially dangerous storms and the power outages they may cause.

“When severe weather hits, it can cause extensive damage to our substations, power lines and other electrical equipment. Even with our crews working around the clock, this damage can take days to repair. If the damage will cause long outages, we can call on other electric cooperatives for help. We’ll do everything it takes to restore your power quickly,” says Dustin Tripp, SEIEC President/CEO.

Be prepared and know what to do in case of a winter emergency and

long-term power outages:

- Always keep a battery-powered radio or TV, flashlights and a supply of fresh batteries readily available.
- Know where to find extra blankets.
- Fill spare containers with water for washing, and keep a supply of bottled drinking water on hand.
- Keep a supply of foods that don’t require cooking or refrigeration, along with a hand opener for canned food.
- Switch off lights and appliances to prevent overloading circuits and damaging appliances when power is restored. Leave one lamp or switch on to signal when your power returns.
- To prevent water pipes from freezing, keep faucets turned on slightly so water drips from the tap.
- Keep all grills outdoors to stay safe from carbon monoxide.
- Assemble a disaster supply kit ahead of time. Remember to include a first aid kit, prescription medicines and special items

for infant, elderly or disabled family members.

- Stay inside and dress warmly in layered clothing.
 - Close off unneeded rooms.
 - When using an alternate heat source, follow operating instructions, use fire safeguards and be sure to properly ventilate.
 - If you use a standby generator, make sure it has a transfer safety switch or that your power is cut off at the breaker box before you operate it. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the power lines or what’s known as “back feed.” Back feed creates danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power.
 - When outside, treat all downed and hanging lines as if they are energized electric lines. Stay away, warn others to stay away and immediately contact your utility.
- For more detailed information and electrical safety tips, visit the Safe Electricity Web site www.SafeElectricity.org.

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able service in 2013. Your Cooperative is very proud to be a locally owned, locally governed, locally operated, not-for-profit organization serving the rural areas of SouthEastern Illinois and truly making a difference in our very own communities for the past 75 years.

In 2013, your Cooperative remains committed to finding new and better ways to serve its members. Your

Cooperative will continue to work diligently to improve and enhance the level of service and reliability that you receive.

We wish you and your family a very Happy New Year!

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

Our office will be closed Jan. 21 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



Photo source Library of Congress

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.

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