

The SOUTHEASTERN Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

President's Comments



Dustin Tripp
President/CEO

As you read this article, I hope all of you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! As we begin the New Year, I would like to take this time to briefly reflect on the year 2015 and summarize your Cooperative's plans for the year 2016.

At the time this article is being written, the Cooperative expects to end the year 2015 by delivering 1.08 billion kilowatt-hours to all of you as Cooperative members. Residential energy consumption decreased by approximately 2.4 percent in 2015. The majority of this decrease can be attributed to more normal temperatures experienced in the winter months of 2015 as compared to the colder than average temperatures experienced in 2014 due to the Polar Vortex. In addition, the temperatures experienced in the summer months of 2015 were also slightly milder than average. Large commercial energy consumption increased 10.1 percent in 2015 which is primarily attributed to the growth in coal mine operations in the Cooperative's service area.

In 2015, the Cooperative continued to make significant investments in the vegetation management program. In fact, the Cooperative completed trimming and clearing of vegetation in the Vienna, Dixon Springs, Ewing, Cave-In-Rock, Golconda South, Golconda North and Christopher substations. As we have certainly experienced in the past with major storms, 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.

In summary, the Cooperative expects to end the year 2015 in sound financial condition and returned \$1.04 million in capital credits in December 2015 to you as Cooperative members. This means the Cooperative has returned and paid

over \$8 million in capital credits to Cooperative members over the past six years.

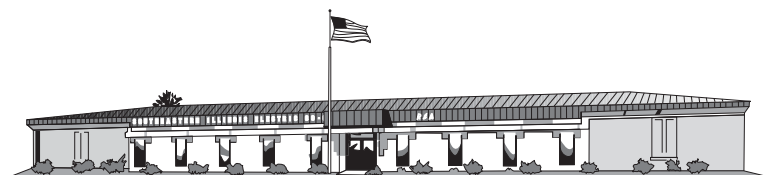
In July of 2015, the Cooperative began construction of the new headquarters facility located along Route 13 just six miles west of Harrisburg in Saline County. The construction of the new facility is progressing very well and the schedule currently indicates the Cooperative should be ready to move in to the new facility in July 2016. Your Cooperative is very excited about the new headquarters facility and how it will improve and provide better member access, privacy and security as well as assist your Cooperative in continuing to provide safe, reliable and affordable electric service to Cooperative members now and for many decades to come.

In 2016, your Cooperative will continue to make the necessary investments in the distribution facilities that serve your energy by rebuilding aging infrastructure, replacing degraded poles and performing other maintenance activities including pole testing, regulator maintenance, breaker maintenance and sectionalizing in order to help ensure a safe and reliable electric supply. The Cooperative will also continue to make significant investments in the vegetation management program in 2016. In fact, the Cooperative will be performing trimming and clearing of vegetation in the Walpole, Webb, Equality, Rosiclare, Bradley and Elizabethtown substations.

In 2015, 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.

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

READERSHIP PRIZE WINNER:
David Rone, Thompsonville, IL



Winter weather woes

Be prepared for ice storms and prolonged outages

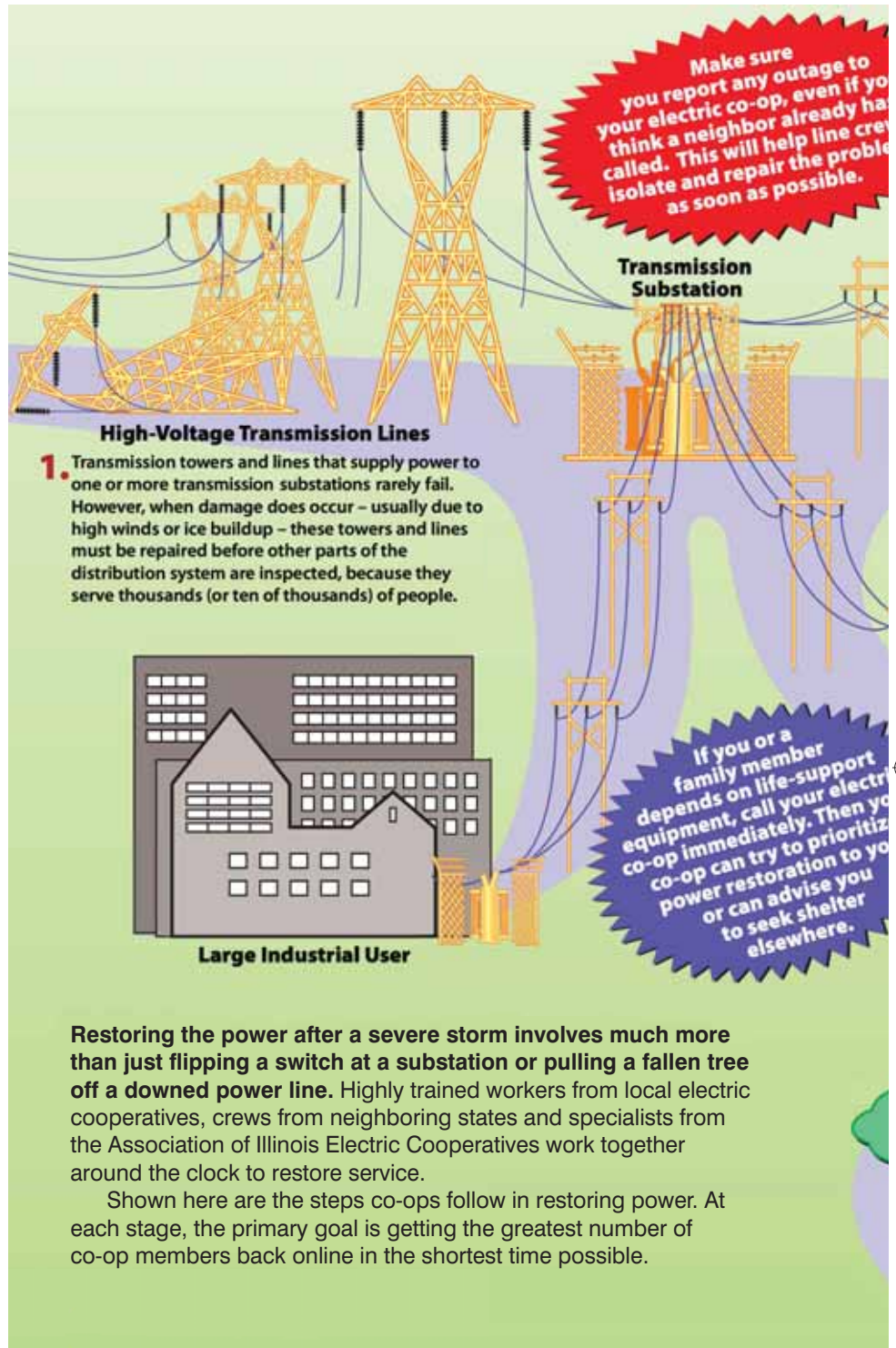
Blasts of winter wind, moisture and fluctuating temperatures can result in severe freezing rain, sleet and ice storms. A heavy build-up of ice on power lines can cause wires to snap and utility poles to topple. Falling ice-laden trees or limbs can bring down power lines, cause outages and threaten life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

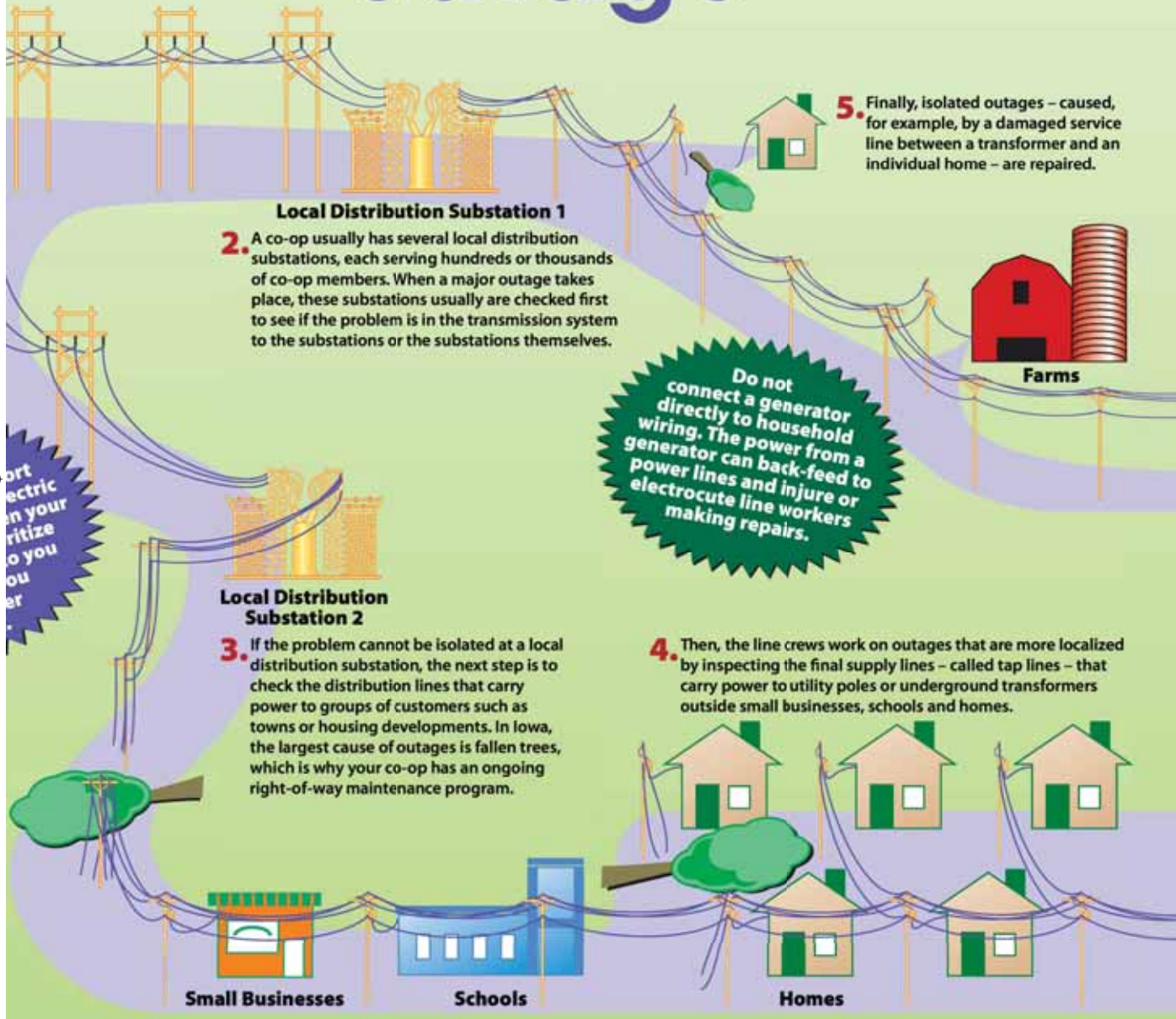


- so water drips from the tap.
- Keep all grills outdoors to stay safe from carbon monoxide.
- Assemble a disaster supply kit ahead of time. Remember to include a first aid kit, prescription medicines and special items for

- 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 instruc-

How power is restored after an outage

to if you y has crews problem e.



tions, 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.



The office will be closed on Monday, January 18th in observance of the Martin Luther King holiday



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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

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