

WIEC NEWS

P.O. Box 338 ■ Carthage, Illinois 62321 ■ www.wiec.net ■ 800/576-3125

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

From the Manager:



In the February issue of *Illinois Country Living*, Duane Noland, President of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, describes very well

the problem that is now facing Illinois Electric Cooperative members, including WIEC members. If you haven't read it, I hope you still have a copy so you can go back and read it. If you would like a copy of his article, call our office and we can send you a copy.

So often, we see or read about what is going on in Washington DC and tell ourselves that the "topic-of-the-day" doesn't affect us. Most of the time, we just want government to work together for the greater good of our country. However, there is something happening in Washington now that could impact all of us here in Western Illinois.

In January 2012, President Obama in his State of the Union Address supported all methods of generating power, including wind, natural gas, nuclear and coal. Supporters call this the "all-of-the-above" approach. Last fall, the Environmental Protection Agency issued new proposed rules limiting the carbon dioxide emissions of new coal and natural gas based power plants. This would eliminate coal as a potential fuel source and has

been nicknamed the "all-but-one" approach.

WIEC purchases our electricity from Prairie Power Inc. and the majority of kilowatts purchased from them are produced by coal. If these new limits were to go into effect, the Congressional Budget Office has estimated it would increase the cost of producing electricity from coal-based plants by 75%. If enacted, these costs would be passed on to WIEC and ultimately passed on to our members. You don't have to get out the calculator to realize this could have a huge economic impact on homes and businesses across Western Illinois.

We can let the EPA know now that we are concerned and support the "all-of-the-above" approach. We need to keep electricity affordable, which is so important for all of us here in Hancock and Henderson County. We just celebrated our 75th Anniversary by re-telling the story of how families came together and worked hard to bring much needed electricity to this area. Affordable electricity was important to our area then, and even more so now.

There is a grass roots effort aimed at letting those in Washington hear our voices. You can share your comments and concerns by going to www.action.coop or by filling out a postcard that (395-64-1) we have in our office which will be forwarded to the EPA.

Back in 2009, we asked our



The screenshot shows a web page for NRECA with a 'TELL EPA' campaign. The main heading is 'TELL EPA' with the subtext 'AMERICA NEEDS A COMMON SENSE SOLUTION'. Below this is a form with fields for Name, Email, and Mobile phone. A 'SEND MY MESSAGE!' button is visible. To the right is a banner for 'COOPERATIVE ACTION NETWORK ACTION.COOP' featuring a photo of a worker. Below the banner is a 'Learn more about these issues' button. The page also includes a 'Your Message to the Environmental Protection Agency' section with explanatory text.

... and now we ask you to raise your voices again.

members to participate in the "Our Energy/Our Future" campaign to let our Senators know that we were concerned about keeping electricity affordable and now we ask you to raise your voices again. Your Board of Directors and I urge you to do what you can to make your voice heard.

If you have any questions, please call the office.

Tommie



Western Illinois
ELECTRICAL COOP.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

524 North Madison | P.O. Box 338
Carthage, IL 62321
www.wiec.net | 800/576-3125

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday

BUSINESS OFFICE

217-357-3125

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

800-576-3125

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **David Biery** — President, Carthage
- **Mike Ford** — Vice President, Lomax
- **Janet Spory** — Secretary/Treasurer, Sutter
- **Jay Morrison** — Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, Burnside
- **Kent Flesner** — Director, West Point
- **Rob Gronewold** — Director, Carthage
- **William Newton** — Director, Burnside

STAFF

- **Tommie Long** — Manager
- **Todd Grotts** — Manager of Operations
- **Becky Dickinson** — Office Manager

MAP LOCATION CONTEST

Every month we are printing four member's map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a \$10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.

Blue invoice vs White invoice

What's the difference?

Did you know that WIEC uses two types of invoices to bill to our members? First, we use a blue WIEC monthly bill to charge members for their electricity usage each month. On this bill, each member has their own account number for each location they have a meter.

Besides providing electricity, we can also do electrical work, installing or upgrading your service, repairing or selling water heaters (for installation on our lines), and do wiring on the

member's side of the meter. We cannot bill for these services on your blue electric bill. For repairs, material and labor, we have a different billing system with a different bill and different account number. Members are billed on a white invoice for these charges.

We ask that when members pay for these types of services, please put THAT account number or invoice number on their memo line of their check.

For members who utilize online banking, we also ask that they use the proper account number when entering the payment information to insure that their payments go to the invoice or account that is the payment intended.

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT NAME	MAP LOCATION	SERVICE ADDRESS	METER NUMBER	BILL DATE				
MEMBER	WESTERN ILLINOIS ELECTRICAL COOP.		SUB METER - GSHIP		01/09/14				
SERVICE PERIOD		NO. DAYS	BILL CODE	RATE	METER READING		KWH USAGE		CHARGES
FROM	TO				PREVIOUS	PRESENT	MULT		
11/29/13	12/31/13	32	0	61	6256	6639	10	3830	287.25
11/29/13	12/31/13	32	0	1	43923	48764	1	1011	128.90
1 YARD LIGHT RENTAL: \$7.00									
WATER HEATER CREDIT									
FACILITIES CHARGE									
									8.00
									32.00

Electric bill

Service/Material Bill

WESTERN ILL. ELECTRICAL COOP.
524 N. MADISON
PO BOX 338
CARTHAGE, IL 62321

DATE: 01/29/14
CUSTOMER: [redacted]
INVOICE: [redacted]

BILL TO: [redacted]
SHIP TO: [redacted]

PO NO. SHIP DATE SHIP VIA FOB DUE DATE

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	UOM	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
1.00	LIVE SECURITY SPD		80.00	80.00
WORK DONE BY TRKSP 1-16-14 DUE 30 DAYS AFTER INVOICE DATE				

America needs an
ALL OF THE ABOVE STRATEGY
to keep electric bills affordable

URGE EPA TO RECONSIDER
ITS "ALL-BUT-ONE" APPROACH

Visit **ACTION.COOP**

Spory earns CCD Certificate



Janet Spory

In this era of increased scrutiny of governing boards and the directors who serve on them, it is more important than ever for directors to understand their roles

and responsibilities and to have the knowledge and skills to govern today's cooperatives. National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Director Education program is specifically designed to address the learning needs of electric cooperative directors.

Training courses offered address board governance, financial decision-making, strategic (855-37-1) planning, and current and emerging issues. Upon taking these classes and successfully completing a learning assessment for each, a director can earn the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) designation.

WIEC Director Janet Spory, recently completed the requirements to become a Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD). Janet has served on the WIEC board representing District 7 since 2002 and has served as Secretary-Treasurer since 2005.

Congratulations Janet!

Welcome New Members

Doug Althide, Basco
Patricia S Butler, Carman
Kevin Kleemeyer, Quincy
Gary Mason, Nauvoo
Terry L & Lori A
Roskamp, Sutter
Jared Ruholl, LaHarpe
Sherry Shrader, West Point
Thomas A Wood, Macomb

Rising LP prices stretching your budget?

Did you know that those WIEC members who have electric heat are paying the same rate for their electric heat that they did since 2011? Can those who heat with propane make the same claim?

Call our office for more information about geothermal heating and cooling.

*Choose smart
- choose Geo!*

National scams impacting utility consumers

Western Illinois Electrical Coop would like our members to know that several nationwide scams are targeting utility customers, including electric cooperative members.

One scam is where bogus invoices are sent directing the reader to a virus-infected website. The fraudulent billing message explains their bill is ready and provides a hyperlink to view it. Do not click on the hyperlink. Reports say the link takes the person to a website that infects their device with malware or a virus. This malware could go after banking information or attempt to steal usernames or passwords. WIEC advises members to ignore suspicious requests for personal information, such as bank account numbers, credit card numbers and user names and passwords.

Another scam is where a phone call is made by someone claiming to be from the local utility demanding payment, sometimes in the form of a prepaid debit card. Without payment, the caller threatens the homeowner that his electricity will be disconnected. Please know that WIEC has never used this method of collection.

No WIEC members have been contacted that we know of, but McDonough Power Cooperative of Macomb has reported receiving a call from a member who received the bogus email.

Anytime a WIEC member receives a call from someone claiming to be from WIEC and something doesn't seem right, please hang up, then call our office to confirm it really was a WIEC employee.

Director nomination and election process

In accordance with Article IV, Section 4, of your cooperative's by-laws, a nominating committee must be appointed between 30 and 120 days prior to the Annual Meeting of Members (June 26, 2014).

Directors shall be elected by and from the membership by ballot and shall serve for a term of three years, or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified. The terms of directors from Districts #6 and #7 will expire this year.

District No. 6, currently represented by Robert Gronewold, is Augusta, St. Mary's, Hancock, and Harmony

Townships in Hancock County, Illinois. District No. 7, currently represented by Janet Spory, is Wythe, Wilcox, Rocky Run, and Walker Townships in Hancock County, Illinois.

The nominating committee must post a list of nominations at the cooperative office at least 20 days before the annual meeting. **(2811-9)** Any 15 cooperative members may act together and nominate another member by petition. These nominations will be posted with those made by the nominating committee. Nominations made by petition at least 10 days before the annual meeting will be included on the official ballot. Later

nominations by petition shall be treated as nominations from the floor. The chairman shall call for additional nominations from the floor. No member may nominate more than one candidate.



Planning any spring spruce-ups?

Make sure utilities lines aren't in the way

Planning a home improvement project? Always remember that working near electrical wires or equipment can be dangerous. Keep an eye out for overhead lines when moving ladders or working on your roof. If you need to work near an electric line, ask WIEC to disconnect service wires so you can work nearby safely.

If you will be digging for new trees or footings for a new deck, make sure there aren't any underground utility lines, water lines or telephone cable in the way. Even when digging down only a few inches, it's important to know what's there. Many utilities are buried just inches below the surface.

Please call the WIEC office to locate underground electrical lines on either side of the meter. We ask for 24-hour notice. To locate water, sewer, phone, gas, cable and all other utility lines, call JULIE at 8-1-1 (or 1-800-892-0123). They require 48-hour notice. Both services are free and besides being a good idea, calling **(946-34) J.U.L.I.E** is the law.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**





POUND OF COFFEE	
1936.....	14.5¢
2013.....	\$7.43
INCREASE.....	51X

ELECTRICITY	
1936.....	5¢
2013.....	11¢
INCREASE.....	2X

BASED ON AVERAGE COST PER KILOWATT HOUR

HERE'S SOMETHING THAT WILL REALLY WAKE YOU UP.

Keeping energy affordable. Just another way it pays to be a co-op member. Learn more about the power of your co-op membership at TogetherWeSave.com.

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM