


The SOUTHEASTERN Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

President's Comments



Dustin Tripp
President/CEO

Southern Illinois is rich in coal deposits, and coal-fired generation plants are the primary source of electric generation in the Midwest. In fact coal-fired generation provided approximately 37% of the nation's electricity in 2012 making coal the most common source of fuel for electricity generation in the United States. To put this into perspective, all of the wind and solar renewable energy generation that you may have seen scattered across the United States provided only 5.4% of the nation's electricity in 2012.

In a speech on June 25, 2013, President Obama announced a broad new federal mandate to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from electric power plants. The President will direct the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set carbon emissions standards for both new and existing power plants.

One may wonder why this announcement is so critical to all energy consumers, the electric utility industry, the coal mining industry and all other related industries across the United States. The answer is that there is no proven, commercially available technology that utilities can purchase and install on coal-fired generation plants that captures the carbon emissions. In addition, all of the research and design efforts have revealed that the equipment required to capture the carbon and sequester it would be large, complex and very expensive. In fact the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has predicted that the technology required to perform this function would increase the cost of building a coal-fired plant by approximately 76% which doesn't even take

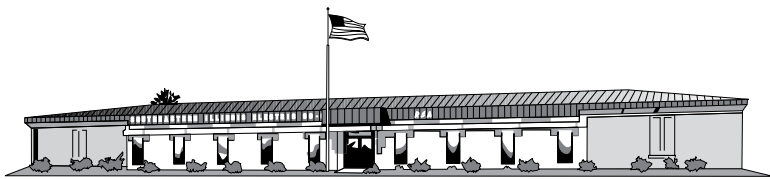
into consideration the additional costs of operating the plant.

If the President's plan is implemented in the United States in the next few years thru increased regulations, it could prove very detrimental to our region. First, your Cooperative's wholesale power supplier, Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), has made significant investments in coal-fired generation and in emission control equipment to utilize Southern Illinois coal in an environmentally responsible way. According to all of the research surrounding carbon capture and sequestration technologies, new regulations will likely require significant investments to continue using coal to generate electricity and increase the cost to all members. Secondly, the coal industry is a significant part of our economy in Southern Illinois and the proposal for new regulations could cause significant harm to this industry and the thousands of jobs it creates in Southern Illinois.

As a not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperative, we are concerned that new regulations will likely make electric power more expensive for you and all Americans. Over the past several years, Electric Cooperatives have been urging Congress and the EPA to pursue fair, affordable and achievable solutions. Your Cooperative remains committed to working with our nation's leaders to ensure affordable electric rates are a high priority as our nation's energy policy is discussed.

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

READERSHIP PRIZE WINNER:
Billy Owens, Golconda, IL



Tips for Safe Summer Driving

Summer is the season of vacation and road trips. If you plan on spending time in the car this summer, it is important to be aware of electrical safety risks you may encounter on the road.

If you are driving after a storm, keep away from downed power poles, stray power lines, and damaged electric equipment. Downed and damaged electric equipment can still be charged with electric energy. If you come in contact with the equipment you could receive a severe shock.

Car accidents are another occasion when people may come in contact with electricity. If you are in a car accident with a power pole, do not leave the car until utility professionals tell you it is safe. After a car accident, it may be instinctive to flee the car as quickly as possible. However, if you are in an accident with a power pole, inside the car is probably the safest place.

If the power line involved in the accident is still energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path for that electricity and electrocution is the tragic result. Even if a power line has landed on the ground, there is still the potential



for the area near your car to be energized. Stay inside the vehicle unless there's fire or imminent risk of fire.

If you must get out because of fire or other danger, jump clear of the vehicle without touching it and the ground at the same time. Then hop with feet together, this way there will not be a voltage difference between your two feet, which would give electricity the chance to flow through your body.

Several years ago, a group of four Indiana teenagers were in an acci-

dent with a power pole. Fortunately, they had seen a demonstration about the dangers of electricity in car accidents earlier that week at their school. Not only did the teenagers know to stay in the car, they warned people who approached the car to stay far away. A video of their story is available on the Safe Electricity website.

Safe Electricity wishes you safety in all your travels this summer.

Get Schooled on College Dorm Electrical Safety

A limited number of electrical outlets in student dorm rooms tempt students to use multiple extension cords and power strips, which can cause cords to overheat and create a fire hazard. Small rooms crammed with books, papers, bedding and more only adds to the problem.

Send this safety list with a college student this fall.



Electric Safety Tips

- Don't use extension cords on a continuous basis; they are for temporary use.
- Don't overload outlets or power strips.
- Don't tack or nail cords to surfaces.
- Don't run cords under rugs or furniture.
- Use light bulbs with the correct wattage for fixtures.
- Keep appliances away from bedding.
- If using an item causes the breaker to trip or outlets or cords to feel hot, unplug the item and report the condition to the landlord/housing staff.
- Check smoke detectors and know emergency exit locations.



Does back to school time mean your house is now empty during the day? Consider programming your thermostat to lower the temperature of your home when it's unoccupied, raising it just before everyone is due to arrive home in the evenings. Why spend money heating an empty home?

(Note: if you have a heat pump it's recommended you keep your temperature steadier if dramatic shifts would cause the strip heating elements to come on.)

 **SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative**
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

*In observance of Labor Day,
the cooperative office will be
**CLOSED on Monday, September
2nd***



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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618-273-2611 or 800-833-2611 • Office hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. M-F