

The SOUTHEASTERN Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

President's Comments



Dustin Tripp
President/CEO

I wanted to make you aware of another, new proposed rule issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that could potentially have a significant impact on your cooperative and on cooperative members' electric bills. I am asking for your help in contacting the U.S. EPA by visiting www.action.coop.

On June 2nd, 2014, the EPA released a 645 page proposed rule to reduce carbon emissions from existing power generation facilities as part of the President's Climate Action Plan. The proposed rule calls for reductions to begin in 2020 and to achieve a national average reduction of 30% by the year 2030. The proposed rule has a specific reduction target for each state and for Illinois, the rule calls for a 33% reduction by the year 2030.

At the present time there are no proven, commercially available, economical technologies available to capture and sequester carbon emissions from coal plants. Studies have indicated that even if the technology was available to reduce carbon emissions, the cost of electricity from a coal plant equipped with the technology could increase by as much as 80%. Therefore in order to meet this new EPA rule, the utility industry would have to close numerous coal plants across the country and rely much more heavily on natural gas. Given the historic volatility in natural gas prices and the delivery infrastructure problems encountered in the first quarter of 2014, such policies are putting the reliability and affordability of our nation's electric grid at much greater risk.

In the past, coal has proven to be the most abundant, reliable and economical fuel to generate electricity in the United States. Over the past, the industry has proven that coal can be used to produce more electricity, more efficiently,

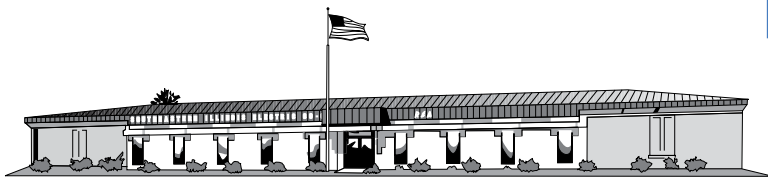
while reducing emissions. Since 1970, coal used for electricity has increased approximately 170 percent while key emissions have decreased 90 percent per unit of power produced. Advances in coal technologies deployed at the Marion plant and new plants installed with state-of-the-art technologies like Prairie State Generation Campus continue to improve efficiencies and reduce emissions.

Your Cooperative's power supplier has made significant investments in coal-fired generation and in emission control equipment to utilize coal in an environmentally responsible way. Your Cooperative's power supplier utilizes a diversified portfolio of electricity generation including coal, natural gas, hydro and wind power. Your Cooperative has long promoted a variety of energy efficiency measures to benefit Cooperative members. However, the vast majority of your Cooperative's power production (like that in many other Midwestern states) remains coal-fired.

The U.S. EPA is required to accept public comments on its June 2nd proposed rule. I respectfully ask that you consider relaying to EPA your support for a "common sense" energy strategy, and not an "all but coal" strategy. Please visit www.action.coop to add your name in support, and to learn more about the new EPA proposed rule -- it only takes a minute. If you previously went to the site to send a comment on the "new power plant" rule, I encourage you to consider visiting it again now to register your comments on the recent, and even more important, "existing power plant" proposed rule.

Thank you.

READERSHIP PRIZE WINNER:
Leland Adams, Thompsonville, IL



Teach your children well about electrical safety

Electricity is a dynamic power source. We live our lives surrounded by it, but sometimes we forget just how dangerous electricity can be. Many home electrical fires, injuries and electrocutions can be prevented when we understand and practice electrical safety. This is especially true for our youngest co-op members.

Start at an early age, teaching them about the physical dangers associated with electrical components and how to handle electrical plugs, outlets, switches and other devices. Keep in mind, talking to your children about electrical safety should also include fun activities and facts about the basics—what is electricity, the need to respect its power and how to use it efficiently as they study, work and play.

As we all know, kids will be kids. Getting them to show interest in some of these lessons won't be easy. Just remember that what your children learn from you today can be a lifesaver later when they encounter potential hazards like downed power lines in their path, play hide-and-seek behind those big metal electrical boxes in the neighborhood or are tempted to clamber up a utility pole.

Gather your youngsters around the kitchen table or on the front porch—some of the best teachable moments about electrical safety can happen in and around your home. Look around. There are plenty of opportunities to demonstrate safety that are as close as the electrical outlet on your living room wall. For example, show young children how plugs work, and let them know that



Photo courtesy of SafeElectricity.org

even if they are curious about the slits of an electrical outlet, nothing else should be placed inside. Each year about 2,400 children end up in the emergency room after suffering injuries caused by inserting objects—paper clips, pens, screws, nails, forks, hair pins, coins and more—into electrical receptacles. That's about seven children a day who sustain injuries ranging from electric shock to burns.

But this isn't the only electrical mishap that impacts youngsters. Our reliance on electronics and gadgets have left both youngsters and their parents at risk when they over-

crowd electrical outlets, continue to use frayed wires, place devices near liquids or leave electronics on for long periods of time.

Supplement your lessons at home with resources galore. The Electrical Safety Foundational International (www.esfi.org) is among the many national organizations offering free kits, videos and interactive online tools that make learning and practicing electrical safety fun for you and your children. And as they grow older, remember to keep teaching them about the power of electricity and how to use it safely.



Find us on Facebook



We walk the line

In the past year we've experienced the full gamut of weather - tornadoes, dangerous lightning, snowstorms, ice storms and floods.

It's our job to provide reliable and safe power, and regardless of what Mother Nature throws our way, we're prepared to restore it the fastest way possible.

As your Touchstone Energy cooperative, we walk the line for you every day.



Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives

TOGETHER WE SAVE



*We will be closed on
September 1 in
observance of Labor Day.*



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

During summer months, our homes can be extremely hot, making living conditions uncomfortable. Before you fire up your air conditioner, try cooling off with a ceiling fan first. Using ceiling fans can actually raise your thermostat setting by 4 degrees and still feel just as comfortable.

Source: Department of Energy

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