

The SOUTHEASTERN Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

President's Comments



Dustin Tripp
President/CEO

76th Annual Meeting of Members Report

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative held its 76th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, August 5th, 2014 with 1,066 members registered and approximately 1,600 in total attendance. For those of you who were unable to attend your Cooperative's annual meeting, this article will summarize the report members received at the annual meeting.

During the year 2013, your Cooperative invested \$6.5 million in system improvements to replace aging infrastructure and invested \$4.9 million in maintenance activities in order to increase electric service reliability. Your Cooperative also constructed 292 new services, upgraded 85 services, rebuilt 24 miles of distribution line and replaced 436 bad poles.

Your Cooperative ended the year 2013 in sound financial condition. As a not-for-profit organization, your Cooperative does not strive to produce profits for shareholders and investors but must maintain a sound financial position for the membership. In 2013, your Cooperative's Board of Trustees approved the retirement and return of \$1 million of Capital Credits and the capital credit checks were mailed to members in December of 2013. This means that over the past four years, your Cooperative has retired and returned almost \$6 million of Capital Credits to the members.



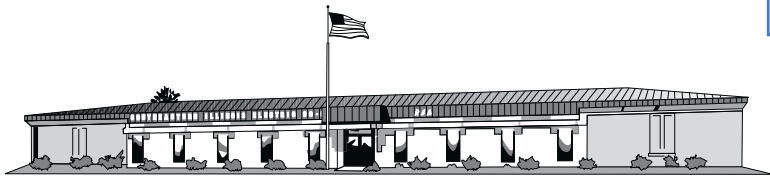
Since 1963 Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) at the Lake of Egypt has provided the generation and transmission service to your Cooperative. In fact, your Cooperative was one of the three original distribution cooperatives that formed SIPC.

SIPC's power supply includes 273 megawatts of coal-fired base-load generation at the Marion Plant and another 125 megawatts of coal-fired base-load generation at the Prairie State Generation Campus. SIPC also owns 140 megawatts of natural gas-fired peaking generation at the Marion Plant. Other power supply resources include 28 megawatts of hydro-power from the Southeastern Power Administration located on the Cumberland River and 10 megawatts of wind generation located in Paxton, Illinois.

Cooperative members were informed of the two most recent, proposed regulations published by the United States Environmental Protection

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READERSHIP PRIZE WINNER:
Frederick Berner, Mulkeytown, IL



Paying the Price of Power Theft

It's often an "invisible" crime. Someone illegally hooks into a power supply, hooks up a line that has been disconnected, or tampers with a meter to avoid recording electricity usage. Legitimate electricity consumers do not engage in these behaviors, so the impact of electricity theft – including the danger – is often unrecognized.

Power theft carries deadly risks. Many thieves have paid for the power they are stealing with their lives. But the danger does not end with those who are engaging in illegal activity. "Tampering with electrical equipment or attempting to steal electric power carries the potential to harm many people," says Molly Hall. "The innocent consumers on the same line and utility personnel that work on those lines are all at risk when someone tampers with electricity or electrical equipment." An overload of electricity could result in extremely high voltages that may damage appliances of paying customers.

Excessive current that is not safeguarded by a fuse is especially dangerous. In emergency situations such as fires, power has to be shut off to help firefighters and ambulance crews to enter a building safely. If lines have been interfered with illegally, the lines could remain energized, endangering the lives of the emergency personnel.

From a reliability standpoint, illegal connections to power sources and attempts to divert metering devices can overload the system, cause interruptions and compromise power quality.

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative reminds that everyone can help prevent and reduce power theft:

- Notify your electric utility immediately if you know of an illegally connected consumer.
- Do not cut the seal on your meter base or tamper with your own meter for any reason.
- Apply for a legal connection if you do not have one.
- Remain aware of your sur-

roundings and report any suspicious activities to your electric utility.

Most electrical theft crimes occur through meter tampering, bypassing meters and tapping power lines. Other less frequent crimes include tapping into neighboring premises, using illegal lines after being disconnected, self-reconnection without consent and electrifying fences. Possessing fraudulent electricity bills is also a federal crime and is punishable by law.

The theft of electricity is a challenge that the electricity distribution industry faces to remain sustainable and viable and safe. If illegal connections were curbed, more power would be available to customers who obey the law, power quality and safety would increase and people would experience fewer service interruptions.

Everyone is affected by power theft, and detecting and reporting illegal activity will help reduce the price paid.

Attention Local Teachers!

Apply for your 2014/2015 Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants

Does your school or classroom need new materials? Can your students benefit from new programs and educational resources? We thought so.

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative is once again coordinating this grant program with Touchstone Energy for our local teachers and administrators. The grants will be provided for innovative, unfunded projects or materials. Qualifying projects are those that improve the learning environment or increase educational resources

for the school.

A panel of judges will determine which projects will be awarded the grants. Grant applications are due by November 7. Grant awards will be announced on January 5. For a grant application and guidelines, please visit our Web site at www.seiec.com or contact Stefanie Tripp at 1-618-273-3806. It only takes a few minutes to apply.



Since 2006, SEIEC has distributed a total of \$32,600 Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants throughout the Cooperative's service area.

Before You Buy A Water Heater Of Another Brand... **Save your energy!**



Plastic Tank

- *Can't rust or corrode*
- *No smelly anode rod*
- *Stronger than steel*

Lifetime Tank Warranty

- *Warranted not to leak "for as long as you own your home."*

Envirofoam Insulation

- *The most energy efficient & environmentally friendly*

Plastic Jacket

- *No nicks, dents or scratches*


Reliability

- *Six years Parts & Labor*

Marathon®



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Agency (EPA). The first regulation calls for reductions in carbon emissions from fossil-fuel generation facilities built in the future. This new regulation, if enacted as drafted, would have the effect of banning the construction of new coal-fired generating facilities in the United States. The second regulation calls for reduction in carbon emissions from existing fossil-fuel generation facilities and calls for reductions to begin by the year 2020 and to achieve a national average reduction of 30% by the year 2030.

If these proposed regulations are enacted as drafted, they will have a profound impact on the energy policy in the United States. These two regulations will cause Americans across our great nation to spend billions of dollars in order to comply, cause significant harm to our economy and threaten the reliability and affordability of electricity that we currently enjoy. To make matters worse, the amount of carbon emissions reduced in the United States under these new regulations will be insignificant on a global scale as countries around the world continue the expansive addition of new coal fired generators to provide low cost, reliable energy to propel their economy and provide prosperity in their countries. In fact according to a study by the World Resources Institute, 59 countries from

around the world are planning the construction of 1,200 new coal-fired generating facilities representing 1,400 GW of new energy capacity. The majority of these new plants will be built in China and India. To put this into perspective, the world will be adding 1,400 GW of new coal-fired generating capacity while the United States will be forced, under these proposed regulations, to close approximately 60 GW of existing coal-fired generating facilities. In summary, these proposed regulations have the potential to cause significant harm to our economy, threaten the reliability and affordability of electricity in the United States while achieving virtually nothing in reducing carbon emissions on a global scale.

Your Cooperative is obviously very concerned about these proposed regulations. We need your help in notifying the EPA that you share in these concerns. Please visit the national cooperative network website at www.action.coop and send your message to the EPA letting them know that we need an energy policy in the United States that includes all available generation sources including clean coal.

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

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