

JAMMUP

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Then and now

by Larry Lingle, Director of Operations and Maintenance

Many things have changed at Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) since “Then,” when the first poles were set and the first wires were strung to bring electricity to the waiting members of SIEC. “Now”, looking back, with changes in trucks and equipment, it is very apparent that vast improvements in design and lineman-friendly features make the work very different today.

Pictured is one of the first digger-derricks owned by SIEC. The truck commonly referred to as a boom truck uses pipes and cables for digging pole holes and setting poles. As one can see, the use of this truck would be very labor intensive as well as locating it exactly where you were setting the pole. As different as they

were from the trucks of today, these were the trucks that linemen used to initially build the start of the electrical system that SIEC has today. Few, if any, of the poles or wires set by this truck would still be part of the system today. There were no bucket trucks during that time period and linemen had to climb every pole to attach wires or to hang transformers.

The “Now” shows just how things have changed. Several crews work together to complete a job that consists of changing two twin circuit three phase poles. The poles replace the pole that is leaning in the center of the picture. The circuits were de-energized and crews worked together to minimize outage time. Many poles today are changed out

using rubber-gloving procedures and do not require the line to be de-energized, but all poles cannot be done using these procedures.

Some of the digger-derricks of today are controlled by remote radio control. The operator carries a remote control box, and a receiver antenna is mounted on the truck. The control box carried by the operator can control all of the operations of the truck. This frees the operator from having to climb on and off the truck numerous times daily. It also allows the operator to be free to walk on the ground and observe the operations of the truck from the ground in a safe fashion. Hydraulics have replaced the pipes and cables of

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Then ← & → Now



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Cooperative urges safe use of emergency generators

As you know, southern Illinois has seen its share of natural disasters in recent years. Just in the past several years, we have experienced wind storms, floods, tornados, and ice storms, all causing widespread damage and power outages. Many of you have had to use emergency generators for the first time in your lives.

We recommend a standby source of electricity generation for those of you who rely on electricity for farm, business, life-support systems, etc. However, most homes or businesses do not have a permanently installed generator, or even facilities for a standby generator, when an unexpected or extended power outage occurs. Thus, most do not know the proper methods for installing and running one.

There are several factors you need to consider when deciding to install a standby generator:

- What size of generator do I need?
- Do I want to run the whole house or just a few appliances?
- What voltage is needed?
- Where do I locate the generator?
- Are there special grounding requirements?

Your cooperative can provide you assistance with these questions. We also have brochures which explain the proper methods for sizing, installing, and operating generators. Give us a call and we will be happy to speak with you or send you some information.

The most important concern we have with members operating emergency generators is the connection the generator has with our electrical system. Improper connection of a generator can cause serious injury or death to our linemen working

on the lines to restore power. For a normal home service, generators that are installed at the main service disconnect, or in any way use the home's existing wiring, must utilize a **double-pole double-throw transfer switch**. This switch prevents generator current from flowing onto our lines during an outage. The switch also protects the generator from our lines when power is restored.

Our linemen and other employees have noticed numerous incorrect generator hookups during recent major storms. Most incorrect installations have the generator hooked up directly to the home's wiring below the main service breaker with the breaker in the "off" position. It does not have the double-pole double-throw switch installed. This is very dangerous in that if the breaker malfunctions or is accidentally put in the "on" position, the generator will energize our power lines and may cause serious injury or even death to our linemen. Pulling the breaker or meter out still does not provide the safety needed. The double-pole double-throw transfer

switch must be properly installed before the generator may be used.


A double-pole double-throw transfer switch is not required only when appliances or equipment are plugged directly into the generator. Thus, there is no possible connection between the home's electrical wiring and our power lines.

Before installing or operating any type of standby or emergency generator, you should always read the manufacturer's operating manual and safety requirements. A qualified electrician should perform the installation.

Despite our construction and maintenance programs, unexpected or extended outages are always a possibility, especially in rural areas where miles of line run. But with a little planning, you can protect yourselves and our linemen when that unexpected event occurs.

Please contact us at www.siec.coop or visit www.SafeElectricity.org for any questions or concerns you may have about emergency generators or electrical safety.



 **⚠ DANGER**
FAILURE TO CONNECT GENERATOR PROPERLY TO YOUR ELECTRICAL SYSTEM CAN RESULT IN ENERGIZING UTILITY LINES AND DEATH TO LINEMEN WORKING ON THOSE LINES.

Help our dispatchers provide you better service during power outages!

SIEC dispatchers monitor your outage calls 24-hours per day through our automated outage reporting system. There are a few simple things you can do to help our dispatchers provide you with better service.

1. Make sure your primary telephone number is up-to-date in our records.

The primary number we have on file is listed on your monthly bill. This is the number our outage system will key to when you report an outage. If this number is incorrect, or if you have recently changed your primary number, please call us to have your records updated. If you call to report an outage using a different telephone, the system will ask if you know the primary number on your account. You may still enter this number to report your outage.



2. Have your account number available before calling in your outage.

The account number is listed on your monthly bill. If the system does not recognize your telephone number or if you have more than one account, you will be prompted to enter your account number.

3. Do not leave a message unless the system does not recognize your telephone or account information, or unless you

know the specific cause of your outage. Not having to listen to messages helps our dispatchers more efficiently get crews out to restore your service.

Again, SIEC dispatchers monitor your outage calls 24-hours per day through our automated system. This system helps to efficiently group outages by location, and helps our dispatchers serve you better. Each member can help by following the above recommendations.



Holiday cooking efficiency tip:

Every time you open the oven door to check that dish, the temperature inside decreases by up to 25 percent!

Hold off on peeking inside so that your oven doesn't have to work harder than necessary to heat holiday treats.

the first line trucks.

Safety is a major factor that linemen have always considered and been part of their job. Each one of the digger-derricks and bucket trucks today are di-electric and structurally tested twice each year. Any issues found are noted by the testing company and repaired by SIEC's in-house mechanic. Items can vary from a leaky hose or hydraulic fitting, crack in a weld, fiberglass repairs and truck grounds.

The changes from then to now have been just one of the improvements to assist the linemen in their daily jobs. One can only imagine the improvements that will happen in the same future in the span of time from "Then to Now."



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

To save energy this month, try lowering your water heating costs. Water heating accounts for 14 to 25 percent of the energy you consume. Turn the water heater's temperature to the warm setting, which is around 120 degrees Fahrenheit. This will save energy – and help you save on your monthly bill.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



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For Outages Call:
800-762-1400 * 618-827-3555

Holiday closings

In observance of the following holidays, the Cooperative office will be closed:



Veterans Day

Tuesday, Nov. 11



Thanksgiving

Thursday, Nov. 27
and Friday, Nov. 28

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative

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