

Spoon River News

President's Report



William R. Dodds
President/CEO

You're not alone in the dark

Electricity powers our lives. We depend on it for nearly everything we do. So we understand how frustrating it can be when you're left in the dark.

Power outages are never convenient. It takes a lot of hands to keep your power on, and even more hands to get it up and running when an outage occurs. Spoon River Electric works hard to restore your electric service when outages occur, but there are necessary steps to take to ensure that power is restored to the majority of members as quickly, and safely, as possible.

After a major storm, Spoon River line crews must identify which towers, poles and lines have incurred damage. Very rarely, but occasionally in the case of a major storm such as a hurricane or tornado, transmission towers can be damaged. If that is the case, tens of thousands of members could be affected. Repairing damage to transmission lines is top priority when it comes to restoring power.

High voltage transmission stations feed power to Spoon River's 9 distribution substations. These substations serve thousands of members. If there is no damage done to transmission towers, the local distribution substations are checked first. If the issue is isolated and can be resolved at the substation level, great! That means thousands of people can get their power restored at once.

At times, the issue cannot be isolated to one of our distribution substations. If that is the case, Spoon River crews inspect supply lines between the sub-

stations and the meters they serve. If the supply lines can be repaired, power can be restored to the towns and homes those lines serve, as long as there is no damage to the tap lines.

Tap lines carry power to the transformers located underground or connected to poles outside of homes and other buildings. Spoon River line crews identify which damaged lines to work on first based on which lines will restore power to the greatest number of members.

Many times, the issue is resolved once the tap lines are repaired. But have you ever lost power only to look next door and see the lights still blazing from your neighbor's window? When this happens, it generally means that the service line between your home and the nearby transformer has been damaged. If this happens, call Spoon River right away so we can send a line crew to your home.

Power restoration can be a tricky business, so if you lose service in your home or neighborhood please remember the following:

- Stay clear of downed power lines. Contact with these lines could be life threatening.
- Report the outage to Spoon River as soon as possible.
- Make sure to inform us if loss of power to your home affects life support systems or could cause any additional threat to health and safety.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation whenever an outage occurs.

FALL BACK!!!

Change
your clocks
November 2nd.





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



Spoon River Electric Cooperative

930 South Fifth Ave, PO Box 340, Canton, IL 61520

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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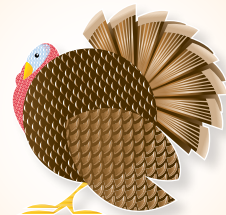
Spoon River Electric Cooperative – By the Numbers

Miles of line energized: 1,255 • Number of members served: 4,808
Number of power poles in territory: 29,255



Office Closing

**Spoon River
Electric Cooperative
will be closed
Thursday, Nov. 27th
and Friday, Nov. 28th for
Thanksgiving.**



Happy Thanksgiving!

*from all of us here at your
electric co-op.*



Unwrap winter energy savings

By Amber Bentley

The holidays are upon us! It's that special time of year when we spend a great deal of time with friends and family, either in the kitchen or out and about shopping for the perfect gift. As you find yourself wrapped up in the holiday excitement, Spoon River Electric reminds you of a few ways to be energy efficient during this busy time of year.

Cooking efficiently

- **Be kind to your oven.** Every time you open the oven door to check on that dish, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees. This forces the oven to use more energy in order to get back to the proper cooking temperature. Try keeping the door closed as much as possible. Also, remember to take advantage of residual heat for the last five to 10 minutes of baking time – this is another way to save energy use. If you're using a ceramic or glass dish, you can typically set your oven 25 degrees lower than stated, since these items hold more heat than metal pans.
- **Give your burners some relief.** The metal reflectors under your stovetop burners should always be clean. If not, this will prevent your stove from working as effectively as it should.
- **Utilize small appliances.** During the holidays, the main appliances used are the oven and stovetop. Try using your slow cooker, microwave, toaster oven or warming plate more often. This will result in substantial energy savings.

Home efficiency

- **Take advantage of heat from the sun.** Open your curtains during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and close them at night to reduce the chill from cold windows.
- **Find and seal all air leaks.** Check areas near pipes, gaps



around chimneys, cracks near doors and windows and any unfinished places.

- **Maintain your heating system.** Schedule services for your heating system before it gets too cold to find out what maintenance you may need to keep your system operating efficiently.
- **Eliminate “vampire energy” waste.** When you are not using an appliance or an electronic, unplug it to save energy. Power strips are definitely a good investment for your home.

Efficient shopping

- Purchase LED holiday lights. A string of traditional lights uses 36 watts of power and a string of LED lights only uses 5 watts. They can even last up to 10 times longer!

- **Ask for Energy Star-rated TVs and appliances.** This will save you a lot of power use because the standby-mode is lower and the device will use less energy overall.
- **Combine errands to reduce the number of small trips.** To-do lists seem to pile up around this time of the year. Believe it or not, several short trips in the winter can use twice as much fuel as one longer trip covering the same distance as all of the shorter ones.

Being energy efficient is usually not top priority when celebrating the holidays, and most of us don't realize the lack of efficiency until the next bill comes in. Prevent your post-holiday shock this year by thinking creatively and remembering all of these tips!

Attention 2014-2015 Seniors!

About the IEC Memorial Scholarship Fund

High school students who are seniors during the 2014-2015 school year and meet the requirements are eligible to apply for one of seven annual scholarships, each worth \$1500. Fill out the form at the bottom of the page and send to the cooperative before December 31, 2014, to participate. Please see the official rules and descriptions of scholarships listed.

Four scholarships will be awarded to students who are the sons or daughters of an electric cooperative member who resides in Illinois and is receiving service from the cooperative at the time the scholarship application is submitted.

A fifth scholarship – the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship – will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an electric cooperative employee or director who resides in Illinois.

A scholarship applicant is eligible for consideration in only one of the above two categories, and is

eligible to apply through only one electric cooperative.

The applicant must be a high school senior who is planning to enroll in a full-time (at least 12 hours) undergraduate course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university, or vocational/technical school in the United States.

The sixth and seventh scholarships will be awarded to a high school senior who will be enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college. Sons and daughters of electric cooperative members, employees and directors who reside in Illinois are eligible to apply.

Official Rules

- Applicants are eligible to apply through only one electric cooperative
- The applicant must be a high school senior.
- The electric cooperative through which a scholarship applicant applies must be a member of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.
- Scholarship winners must begin undergraduate studies within a year of being notified that they have won.
- Scholarship winners will be expected to be “full time” students (at least 12 hours).
- Scholarships are for one year and are not renewable.
- Scholarships will be awarded based on grade point average, college entrance test scores, work and volunteer experience, participation in school and community activities, biographical statement and knowledge of electric cooperatives as demonstrated by a short essay.
- Deadline for receipt of completed applications and submissions is DECEMBER 31, 2014.
- Scholarship winners will be notified by May 1, 2015.



Scholarship Participation Request

Name of Student _____

Address of Student _____

Name of Parent/Guardian _____

Telephone Number _____

Scholarship Applying For:

- Thomas H. Moore Memorial Scholarship
- Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship
- LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship

Return to:

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