

# The SOUTHEASTERN Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## President's Comments



**Dustin Tripp**  
President/CEO

Over the past few years, your Cooperative has been informing you of pending legislation and new environmental regulations that if enacted would impact the cost of generating electricity.

In the March 2012 issue, your Cooperative informed members regarding a new EPA regulation titled the "Cross-State Air Pollution Rule" (CSAPR) that was passed last summer.

After the EPA released the final version of CSAPR, some forty-five petitioners in 27 states, including local governments, companies, industry groups and states, filed motions asking the court to stay the rule pending review. Petitioners claimed the new regulation was legally and scientifically flawed and that the EPA must stay within the boundaries that Congress set in the Clean Air Act. On December 30, 2011, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia issued an order staying CSAPR pending the resolution of an appeal of the rule. The court ordered the EPA to continue administering the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) of 2005 during the appeal process of CSAPR.

The United States Court of Appeals in Washington D.C. conducted hearings this summer and issued a ruling on Tuesday, August 21st.

In summary the Court ruled that the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) violated federal law and therefore, must be vacated. In a 2-1 ruling, the panel of Judges for the United States Court of Appeals said the EPA had exceeded its authority and struck down the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule.

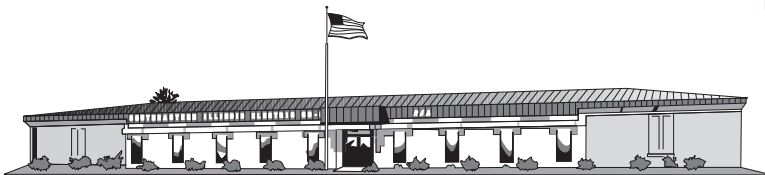
The Court's decision stated, "Absent a claim of constitutional authority, executive agencies may exercise only the authority conferred by statute, and agencies may not transgress statutory limits on that authority." The Court's decision went on to state that the EPA had exceeded statutory authority in two independent respects. First, the EPA's rule would have caused some states to reduce their emissions above and beyond their actual contributions. In addition, the EPA quantified States' good neighbor obligations and simultaneously set forth EPA designed Federal Implementation Plans to implement those obligations at the State level, which was inconsistent with its prior approach of implementing the good neighbor provision and violated the Act.

In a 60 page opinion, Circuit Judge Brett Kavanaugh wrote, "It's not our job to set environmental policy. Our limited but important role is to independently ensure that the agency stays within the boundaries Congress has set. EPA did not do so here." The court ordered the EPA to vacate the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) and to continue administering the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) of 2005.

Your Cooperative will continue to update you regarding the status of additional regulations as they develop in the future. Your Cooperative strives to provide you, as Cooperative members, with a reliable, cost-effective and environmentally responsible energy supply.

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

READERSHIP PRIZE WINNER:  
William Everly, Jr., Johnston City, IL





## Farmers urged to be aware of electrical hazards

**F**armers and farm family members face dangers every day. Although tragedies such as tractor rollovers and grain bin suffocation receive the most attention, electrocution and electrical burn accidents are frequent on farms. And electrical safety is one of the priorities during National Farm Safety and Health Week.

The simple movement of a portable grain auger from one bin to another can have tragic results if the individuals involved are not extremely careful. The use of tractors with large cabs and antennas and oversized grain wagons can also result in preventable electrocution incidents.

Electrical equipment around fields, such as power lines in the end rows may get overlooked during such a hectic time of year as harvest. However failure to notice overhead power lines can be a deadly oversight.

Most farmsteads could use a very

careful overhead visual inspection of electric lines. The service may no longer meet the proper height codes because of age and/or damage to poles and pole guy wires. The sag may have increased over the years, while the height of the machinery being used today may be much higher.

However, today's farm equipment has a long reach when extended; and even when collapsed for roadway transport, many pieces of equipment may exceed the height of power lines. A daily check should be made of where equipment will be moving to ensure that it will clear power lines. But don't take matters into your own hands. They may not be as high as they look. Always use a spotter, someone with a broad vantage point, when working in the vicinity of power lines.

Maintain a 10 foot separation from a power line completely around it, whether you are driving underneath or passing a grain auger

near it. A 53 year old Michigan truck driver who was cleaning sugar beets out of his truck unknowingly raised the bed into a 4,800 volt overhead power line. As he stood in the wet field and touched the energized truck bed, he was fatally burned.

In addition to conducting a field survey of power lines to locate potential hazards, employers should obtain safety information from utility companies for the benefit of their workers, if the lines are to remain energized.

Where possible, install electrical safety warning signage to prevent equipment and personnel contact with power lines. This will also be beneficial to your suppliers who may be making deliveries to your farm. Always keep in mind that electricity doesn't allow mistakes. And neither should you.



## Trick or Treat?

Kids already know that it's better to get a treat than a trick. When you look at your electric bill each month, which do you get ... a Snicker's bar or a sour lemon? If it's a lemon, log on at [www.togetherwesave.com](http://www.togetherwesave.com) and find out how little changes you make can add up to big savings.

By using the numerous suggestions from the site such as sealing your home's cracks, adding insulation and installing a programmable thermostat, before long when your bill arrives you'll be snickering instead of puckering!

For more information about the [togetherwesave.com](http://togetherwesave.com) campaign, call your local Touchstone Energy Cooperative.



Touchstone Energy®  
*The power of human connections*

SOMETIMES KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES  
IS ABOUT KEEPING YOUR ELECTRIC BILLS DOWN.



When you save energy, it helps our entire co-op lower its costs.  
Find out what you can do at [TOGETHERWESAVE.COM](http://TOGETHERWESAVE.COM)

# 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**

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