

The SOUTHEASTERN Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

President's Comments



Dustin Tripp
President/CEO

Over the past year, I'm sure many of you along with other electric cooperative members statewide have received solicitations, both mailings and telephone calls, from power marketers representing Alternative Retail Electric Suppliers (ARES). These marketers are encouraging people to switch their power generators, not power distributors. These solicitations are intended for customers of investor-owned utility customers only, not members of a Cooperative. It appears that power marketing companies are performing mass mailings and telemarketing to all or most people in Illinois when it should have been directed to Ameren and Commonwealth Edison customers only. SEIEC members should disregard these telephone calls and solicitations.

In addition, you may have already read some articles regarding municipal aggregation in which some communities may be soliciting bids from ARES for customer of investor-owned utilities. Again, this applies to customers of investor-owned utilities such as Ameren and Commonwealth Edison but does not apply to Cooperative members.

To gain a better perspective into this issue, it is important to review the state of the electric utility generation industry and the changes that have occurred. Historically, electric utilities could make very large capital investments in base load generation facilities (low cost, high capacity generation facilities), such as coal and nuclear which provided 61% of our energy in the U.S. last year, and rely upon some level of regulatory certainty over the life of the plant. However, regulatory uncertainty in the past 15 years has driven utilities to delay and/or cancel investments in many base load generation facilities. Environmental regulations are being introduced and implemented at an unprecedented pace and will likely

have a profound impact on the way America generates electricity in the future. In fact, new regulations have resulted in the announcement of 27GW of coal plant retirements and new regulations are currently under consideration that has the practical effect of eliminating coal as a fuel source for future generation plants.

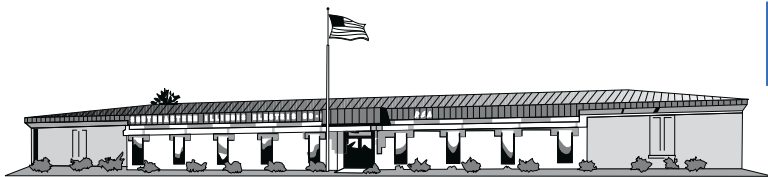
As the electric utility industry has faced significant uncertainty over the past 15 years, many investor-owned utilities have forgone the necessary investments in base load generation facilities. This lack of investment in low cost generation facilities will certainly surface in the near future when we see signs of true economic recovery which will cause an increase in both the demand and price for electricity.

Your electric cooperative along with other electric cooperatives in Southern Illinois has been preparing for the future and has made the necessary investments in low cost, base load generation facilities that will provide a reliable, stable, low cost supply of energy for many decades into the future. Your cooperative is prepared for the long term and when the demand for electricity begins to increase in the near future and the market price of energy increases, your rates will remain stable and you will not have to endure the increasing market price of energy.

As you can see, your Cooperative has made investments in base-load generation facilities and is prepared to provide you with a reliable, low cost energy supply over the next several decades. Your electric cooperative is a not-for-profit, member-owned business and exists for the sole reason of serving members. It's people like all of you and your future, not profits that drive your electric cooperative.

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

READERSHIP PRIZE WINNER:
Anna Flynn, Golconda, IL



Don't Cook Up a Stormy Electric Bill for the Holiday

While you're busy in the kitchen preparing your family's holiday feast, Safe Electricity wants to help keep your family safe and your energy bills low.

According to the National Fire Protection Agency, cooking equipment is the cause of approximately 40 percent of home structure fires. As you prepare to show off your cooking and baking skills this holiday season, remember the following tips to avoid shocks or fires:

- Inspect all small appliances and electric cords to make sure they are in good condition before using. Don't use appliances if cords are cracked or frayed.
- Read the operating instructions of any appliance before use.
- When purchasing new kitchen appliances, look for UL-Listed appliances with automatic shut-off features.
- Never plug more than one high-wattage appliance, such as a blow dryer, microwave or toaster oven, into a single outlet.
- Stay focused and attentive to baking, brewing, and simmering foods.
- Make sure outlets near sinks are equipped with properly tested ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to prevent shocks.

Always know the location of a working fire extinguisher, and know how to operate it. Cooking is also a great area to save energy. Keep these energy efficient tips in mind while preparing your holiday meals this year:

- Think small - opt for a smaller appliance, such as a toaster oven or microwave, whenever possible. Efficient microwave ovens use around 50% less energy than conventional ovens.
- Turn the oven or stove burners off a few minutes before your



No peeking! Opening the oven door can lower the internal temperature as much as 25 percent.

- food is ready - they will remain hot enough to finish cooking the food.
- Don't preheat the oven unless you are baking or a recipe requires it.
- Bake with ceramic or glass pots and pans - this will allow you to lower the oven temperature by about 25 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Self-cleaning ovens use less energy for normal cooking because of the higher insulation levels built into them. If you own one plan to clean it right after you've finished baking something so it doesn't have to heat up a second time.
- Don't peek - opening the oven door can lower the internal temperature as much as 25 percent.
- Don't cover oven racks with foil - this reduces heat flow and increases cooking time.
- Make sure your pan covers the coil of your range - if you can see coil peeping out from the sides of your pan, you need a bigger pan (or a smaller burner).
- Put a lid on it - cover pans while cooking to prevent heat loss.
- Plan ahead - defrosting food in a microwave may be convenient, but defrosting it at room temperature is free.
- In warmer months, try to use a grill to keep the heat outdoors - remember that the less energy wasted in heating food, the less work your air conditioner will have to do to keep your home cool.

These steps are easy to follow and come at no extra cost. Making a habit out of them will save you both energy in the kitchen and money on your electric bill.



Honor, perseverance, blood and victory ...

Each star and stripe on our flag represent the sacrifice made by servicemen and women from across this great land who continue to fight for our freedom.

Take time this Veterans Day to proudly display your flag and show your support to our military heroes both here and abroad.



Touchstone Energy[®]
The power of human connections

**Our office will be closed on
Monday, November 12th
in observance of Veterans Day.**



**And Thursday November 22nd
and Friday, November 23rd for the
Thanksgiving Day Holiday.**

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