

New facilities charge

President's Report



William R. Dodds
President/CEO

Contents

Pool Efficiency16b

Fulton County
Fair Schedule 16c

Spoon River
Mechanical.....16d

On this month's bill, you will see our new facilities charge. The Board of Directors voted recently to increase this charge by \$6 per month.

Why is this charge increasing? The facilities charge covers our costs for labor, materials and equipment. All these costs continue to rise, but our membership has declined. Over the past year, the Cooperative has lost more than 90 meters. Our largest commercial user has also significantly reduced its usage.

Whether or not you use any electricity, there are things we provide every member. Through line clearance and preventive maintenance, we do our best to ensure that the power you use will be reliable. There is expense

in maintaining poles, lines and the other equipment that makes the lights come on when you flip a switch.

There are other expenses to running the Cooperative that may not immediately come to mind. Sending out bills, having staff to answer the phones and responding to calls about service problems all cost money. And like the expenses in your household budget, our costs continue to rise. From the fuel for our trucks to the poles we install, everything is going up in cost.

In addition to those expenses rising, our biggest expense continues to increase dramatically. Power costs our Cooperative more than anything else. And without major legislative changes

to existing policies, it will continue escalating. Keeping up with ever-tightening Environmental Protection Agency regulations ultimately costs the everyday people who use electricity. Nationwide, power plants are closing because they no longer meet environmental standards. And you already know what effect a reduced supply of electricity will have on its cost.

The facilities charge affects all of our members the same. The \$6 increase on every account is the most equitable way to recover our costs. If you have any questions about the new facilities charge, please call the office at (309) 647-2700.



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Pump up your pool's efficiency

After a summer workout in the yard, a swimming pool can provide a perfect summer retreat. But if it's a drain on your wallet, it may not be so perfect? Soak up these pool efficiency tips to save money while maintaining your personal oasis from the heat.

Every swimming pool is equipped with an energy guzzler: the pump. The bigger the pump, the higher the energy use. For every horsepower of pump, you can estimate it consumes approximately one kWh for every hour it runs. With an average of 720 hours in a month, a one horsepower pump can use 720 kWhs, or over \$75 worth of electricity. A two horsepower pump would use 1,440 kWhs or nearly \$150 worth. To minimize your energy use, make sure your pool uses the smallest pump possible. In this case, larger may not be better. New products like variable-speed pumps offer an effective way to save electricity. A knowledgeable pool supply or service firm can help choose a proper pump for your pool, taking into consideration its size, filter and piping.

Even greater savings can come

from reducing the amount of run time your pump operates each day. Instead of running your pump all day every day, consider installing a timer to minimize how much your pump runs. Keep drains clear of debris, or your pump will work harder to circulate water. Also, find a proper balance for backwashing the filter. Too much backwashing — the process of filtering and disposing of dirty water — wastes water, while too little strains the pump.

Here are some common myths that lead to extra pump time (and wasted energy):

- I need to run my pump to keep chemicals mixed – FALSE. Circulate while adding chemicals, and they will stay mixed. There is no need to recirculate the water each day to “re-mix” the water.
- My pool will be dirty if I don't run my pump to constantly clean debris – FALSE. Try running your pump for six hours or less a day, as suggested by the U.S. Department of Energy's EnergySavers.gov. If the cleanliness is not to your

liking, increase filtration time by 30-minute increments until you are satisfied. If six hours works well, try decreasing filtration time to find a balance with energy efficiency. To keep debris down without running your pump overtime, use a skimmer to manually clean the water. Also, try using a timer to run your filter for several short periods during the day rather than allowing debris to pile up after one long continuous filtration.

- I need my pump to run continuously to keep algae at bay – FALSE. Proper chemical balance and brushing down pool walls are the best algae fighters.

Make sure your pool isn't draining energy dollars needlessly by adjusting pump time and investing a little legwork. You'll have a prime pool-side spot to relax in afterward, and the relief you'll see on your power bill will be well worth the effort. Find more ways to save energy around your home at www.TogetherWeSave.com.

Spoon River Electric Cooperative

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

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

309-647-2700 • www.srecoop.org

President/CEO

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bdodds@srecoop.org

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brothert@srecoop.org

Spoon River Electric Cooperative – By the Numbers

Miles of line energized: 1,249 • Number of members served: 4,944

Number of power poles in territory: 29,255

2012 Fulton County Fair Grandstand Schedule

Mon., July 23

Talent contest 6 p.m. -- \$4

Queen contest 7 p.m. -- \$5

Tues., July 24

Harness Races 5:30 p.m. – Free

Illinois Winery's Wine Tasting – 3 p.m.

Karaoke with Ted Martin – 8 p.m. (Beer Tent)

Wed., July 25

Motocross Races – Gates open 12 p.m., Races start 7 p.m. –

Grandstand \$6, Pit Pass \$10

Thurs., July 26

4-H/FFA Horse Show – 10 a.m.

Kids Day, Rides 1 – 4 p.m. – Armbands \$12

Livestock Auction 3 p.m.

Candy Scramble 5 p.m., Scrambles 6:30 p.m. – Grandstand \$4

Beer Tent 8 p.m. – Karaoke with Ted Martin

Fri., July 27 – Kids Tractor Pull – 3 p.m.

Kids Rides Friday Evening – 6-11 p.m. – Armbands \$14

Tractor & 4x4 Truck Pulls – 6 p.m. – Grandstand \$6

Garden Tractor Pulls – 6 p.m.

Beer Tent – 8 p.m. – Stranger Danger

Pit passes -- \$6

Sat., July 28

Beef Cook-Off Contest, Judging at 11 a.m.

Demo Derby – 6:30 p.m. -- \$6

Buddy Day – Buy a ticket and your buddy rides free – 1-4 p.m.

Beer Tent – 8 p.m. – Thirsty Brothers

**Carnival – Rides begin each night
@ 6 p.m., 1 p.m. on Sat.**





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