Published for members of Western Illinois Electrical Coop.

WIEC NEWS

P.O. Box 338 ■ Carthage, Illinois 62321 ■ www.wiec.net ■ 800/576-3125

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Consolidation study continues

Vote by membership may happen in March 2013

The WIEC and the Adams Electric Coop. (AEC) boards passed resolutions to continue the consolidation study. The resolutions formalize the process and provide documentation that can be shared with other entities who work closely with the cooperatives (i.e. bankers, power supplier, statewide organization, and national organization).

"The real work begins now," says WIEC Manager Paul Dion. The boards created six committees to focus on different areas of the consolidation study. The six committees are: Board Restructuring/Governance, Bylaws, Wage & Benefits, Communication, Rates and Finance.

The goal, as long as everything continues to progress, is to have both memberships vote in March of 2013. Having this meeting in early spring will allow our agricultural members to be present at the meeting. We will have two separate meetings – one for each cooperative. A quorum will need to be present (150 members for WIEC and 200 for AEC). To be successful, two thirds (2/3) of the members voting at each meeting will need to vote in favor of consolidation.

Early indications show significant benefits for both cooperatives. The consolidation will:

- Save Money
- Lower Risk
- Better Position Ourselves for Success
- Eliminate Duplication
- Gain Efficiency of Scale

Both WIEC and AEC will continue to evaluate what is best of our members and will keep our members posted of the progress.

Ways to pay your WIEC Bill

- ✓ Pay your bill online through our website www.wiec.net. Members can also view past bills and see historical usage from the **(6732-17)** website.
- ✓ Call our office during office hours and give your credit card number over the phone.
- ✓ Mail your bill. Bills will be considered "on time" if the postmark is the due date or before.
- ✓ Have your bill paid automatically each month by using "Auto Pay". This free service will automatically pay your bill from either your bank account or your favorite credit card on the due date each month.
- ✓ Use the drive up box in the WIEC driveway.
- ✓ Or come into our office in Carthage and say hello.

Congratulations Wyatt Johnson

Of the
Durham Dukes and Duchesses
The winner of the WIEC Best Electrical Project
At the 2012 4-H Fair
Wyatt also won Best of Class and was a State Fair Delegate.

Western Illinois Electrical Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

524 North Madison | P.O. Box 338
Carthage, IL 62321
www.wiec.net | 800/576-3125

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday

DURING OFFICE HOURS, OR AFTER HOURS TO REPORT OUTAGE

217-357-3125

800-576-3125

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **Rob Gronewold** — President, **Carthage**
- **Jay Morrison** — Vice President, **Niota**
- **Janet Spory** — Secretary/Treasurer, **Sutter**
- **William R. Newton** — Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, **Burnside**
- **Dave Biery** — Director, **Carthage**
- **Calvin Baumann** — Director, **Basco**
- **Mike Ford** — Director, **Lomax**

STAFF

- **Paul Dion** — Manager
- **Tommie Long** — Manager of Operations
- **Becky Dickinson** — Office Manager

MAP LOCATION CONTEST

Every month we are printing four member's map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a $10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.

An important message from the Federal Trade Commission

Shopping for New Windows?

If you're thinking about replacing windows in your home, the choices you make about style, materials, and installation could have a big impact on your energy bill. Here are some things to consider.

Choosing Your Windows

Cost
Price per window ranges from a few hundred to a few thousand dollars, depending on materials, features, and installation costs.

Materials
Wood frames offer good insulation, but are heavy and high-maintenance. Vinyl-frames insulate well and don't need painting.

Style
Single-hung, double-hung, and sliding windows leak more air than casement, awning, and hopper windows.

Glazing & Glass Technologies
Some glazes and glass provide better insulation, light, and condensation resistance. Windows with low-emissivity (low-e) coatings often are more energy efficient.

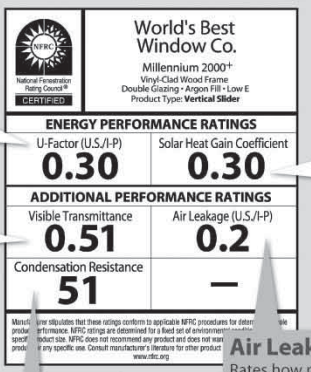
Cleaning & Maintenance
Some materials and features make windows easier to care for. Tilt-in sashes, for example, make cleaning easier.

Installation
If windows aren't installed according to manufacturer's instructions, you might not get the savings or comfort expected.

An Energy-Rating Label to Help You Shop

Look for the National Fenestration Rating Council's label when you shop.

U-factor:
Rates how much heat escapes through a window; most important in cold climates.
Range: 0.2 — 1.2



Solar Heat Gain Coefficient:
Rates how much heat from the sun is allowed in. This is most important in warm climates.
Range: 0 — 1

Visible Transmittance
Rates how much light comes in.
Range: 0 — 1

Air Leakage
Rates how much outside air comes in.
Range: 0.1 — 0.3

Condensation Resistance
Rates how well a product resists condensation.
Range: 1 — 100

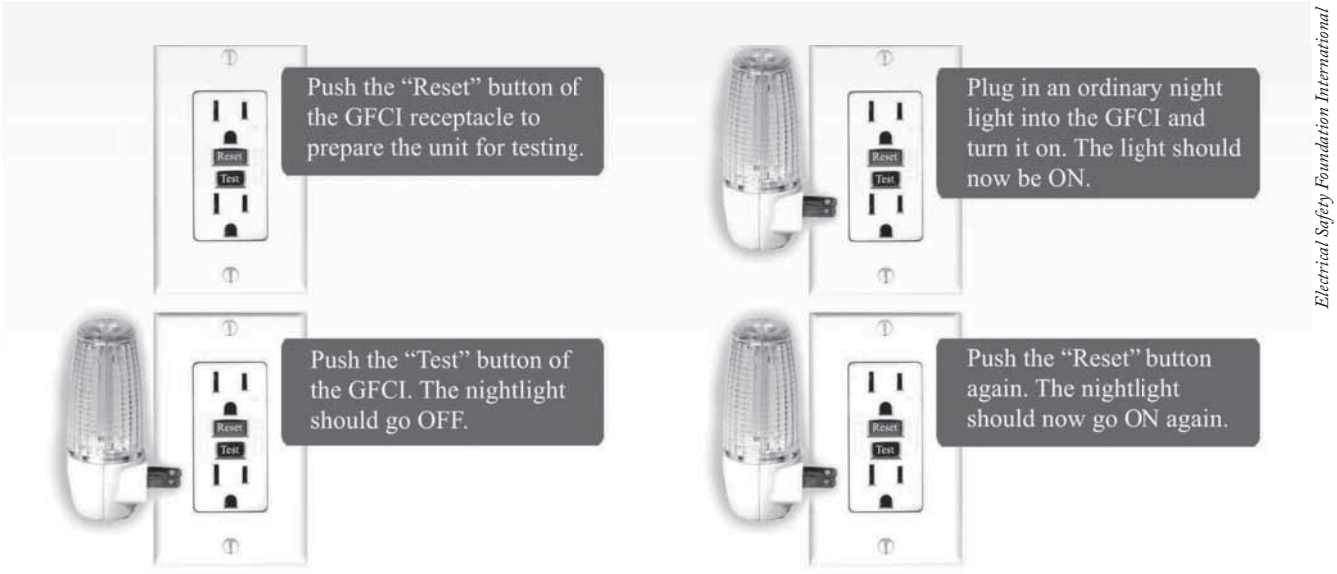
= ratings may not be on the label, but may be online or from the vendor

For more information visit energysavers.gov or efficientwindows.org

2012

What is a GFCI?

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters



Electrical Safety Foundation International

Since the 1970s, ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) have saved thousands of lives and have helped cut the number of home electrocutions in half.

GFCIs are electrical safety devices that trip electrical circuits when they detect ground faults or leakage currents. A person who becomes part of a path for leakage current will be severely shocked or electrocuted. These outlets prevent deadly shock by quickly shutting off power to the circuit if the electricity flowing into the circuit differs by even a slight amount from that returning.

A GFCI should be used in any indoor or outdoor area where water may come into contact with electrical products. The 2008 edition of the National Electrical Code currently requires that GFCIs be used in all kitchens, bathrooms, garages, and outdoors. **(5515-2)**

GFCIs should be tested once a month to confirm that they are working properly.

The night light should go out when the Test button is pushed. If the light does not go out, then the GFCI may have been improperly wired or damaged and does not offer shock protection. In this case, contact a licensed electrician to check the GFCI and correct the problem.

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International. To learn more about EFSI and electrical safety, visit www.electrical-safety.org.

Welcome New Members

Brandi Alred, Carthage
Bruce A. Arnold, Washington DC
Mitch Beals, LaHarpe
Yvonne A Bryant, Carthage
Kristine Elledge, Carman
Michael L. Ford, Stronghurst
Julie Hamilton, Nauvoo
Thomas L Hosack, Wheaton, IL
Allyssa E Johnson, Sutter
Jerry Lunt, Quincy
Jennifer Miller, Plymouth
Scott Pilkington, Nauvoo
Preserve Inc Farms, by Scott Scheetz, Hamilton
Safeguard Properties, by Rhonda Griffin, Dallas TX
John Trott, Saline MI
Timothy Wollbrink, Sutter

Let the light shine in: Safe lighting in the workplace

Proper light in the workplace is more than a matter of standing on a chair and shouting, "Let there be light!" Too little light, or too much, or the wrong kind, can be a safety hazard for your workforce, causing eyestrain, headaches, and physical injury (if people can't see obstacles clearly, for example). Take an illuminating look at these good lighting guidelines:

- Look around. Check your workplace often for light bulbs that need replacing and any areas that need increased visibility.
- Keep it clean. Dust off your lighting fixtures so their illumination doesn't get blocked.
- Lighten up surrounding areas. Walls should be painted or papered in light tones that reflect light easily but don't produce glare.
- Mix it up. Provide a combination of natural light that's healthy and easy on the eyes, and artificial light that can be easily controlled by employees for their needs.
- Shade employees' eyes. Outfit windows with shades and blinds so employees can adjust the amount of natural light that falls across their workspaces.
- Shift as necessary. Employees shouldn't face a light source or window directly (where glare can be distracting and damaging) or sit with their backs to the light (casting shadows across their work). Position computers, desks, and people at right angles to light sources for safety and quality.
- Suit the light to the task. Task lighting can provide the illumination needed for detail work. Give employees lamps and other options so they can get the light they need.

Home Electrical Safety

Should you Do-It-Yourself?

Know When to Call a Professional

Safety should ALWAYS be the foremost concern for anyone who is working on or around electricity. It is critical to recognize and distinguish between those repairs that you are qualified to undertake and those that only a professional electrician should handle.

Do-It-Yourself Safety Tips

- ✓ ESFI recommends that you always contact a qualified, licensed electrician to perform any electrical work in your home. If you do decide to undertake a basic home electrical project, consider the following important safety tips:
- ✓ Always turn off the power to the circuit that you plan to work on by switching off the circuit breaker in the main service panel.
- ✓ Be sure to test wires before you touch them to make sure that the power has been turned off. Test from the black wires to both the grounded box and the white wires, and test from the white wires to the grounded box.
- ✓ *Never* touch plumbing or gas pipes when performing a do-it-yourself electrical project.
- ✓ Make sure that you are not standing on a damp floor.
- ✓ Be sure to unplug any lamp or appliance before working on it.
- ✓ Take an active role in understanding the condition of your current electrical system, its capacity, limitations, and potential hazards.

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International.

The WIEC office will be closed Monday, September 3 in observance of Labor Day. We will reopen on (5818-24) Tuesday, September 4.

As always, in case of power emergencies, call 217-357-3125 or 1-800-576-3125.

Please wait and call for questions concerning billing, payment arrangements, capital credits or other non-emergency matters until normal business hours.

Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Using compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) in outdoor lights can save money and energy because these lights stay on the longest. ENERGY STAR-qualified CFLs use 75 percent less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs. **(6619-16)** To save even more, look for fixtures designed for outdoor use that have automatic daylight shutoff and motion sensors. Learn more at www.energysavers.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy