



JO-CARROLL

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  **HI-LINES**



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Michael Hastings

Over the past few months we've been talking about our most recent cost of service study and a new unbundled rate structure and bill design. Simply put, unbundling is the separation of energy service into its component parts of generation, transmission and distribution.

When the new bill design debuts in May, you will see more of those components listed as line items. We are breaking down services into parts so each part can be shown separately on your bill.

Currently, some line items of your bill are made up of a handful of detailed expenses. In other words, they are bundled under terms such as facility charge or cost per kWh. We're breaking out both portions of the bill so you can better see the costs involved in getting safe and reliable energy to you every month.

The new bills will have sections for energy costs and distribution costs. Last month on the electric side, we looked at what makes up the energy costs – energy, generation and transmission charges, focusing on generation.

Transmission charges are related to costs in getting energy to Jo-Carroll Energy's substations via transmission lines.

You might think of transmission lines as a highway network for the delivery of bulk electricity from producers to utilities. Those lines are usually owned by investor-owned utilities or the generation and transmission co-ops, such as Dairyland Power and Prairie

Power, Inc. that produce the electricity.

Transmission charges are a per kWh charge covering the costs of transmitting energy from the generation facility to our substations. This type of charge is a direct pass through (no mark-up) from the transmission suppliers. You'll find the transmission charge in the energy cost section of the redesigned bill.

As we've said before, a reason for unbundling the rates and your bill is to give you a better understanding of the actual cost of providing you with safe, reliable energy services every month. It also better matches what we charge with what it costs for each type of charge the co-op incurs on members' behalf.

Next month we'll dig deeper into the energy charge and what makes up the delivery costs. We will be offering a series of member meetings beginning in March. We're still firming up the location and dates, so watch our website and the March information for details.

Here comes the sun

South View Solar Farm, our community solar project was commissioned just before the New Year, and is producing clean, local energy. Members have access to a portal that charts real-time power production from the solar farm. Visit our website and click on the Sunny Portal link.



Reserve your place in the sun!

Subscriptions to South View Solar Farm panels now available

Visit www.jocarroll.com for information

Reader prize

Each month we print the name of a Jo-Carroll Energy member who is eligible to win a monthly \$25 readership prize. If your name is printed in this month's edition, and not a part of any article, contact Jo-Carroll Energy and claim your prize no later than the 10th of the month following publication.

For your information

Your Board of Directors:

David Senn
Chairman
District 7

Chris Stadel
Vice Chairman
District 4

Marcia Stanger
Secretary
District 3

Martin Werner
Treasurer
District 1

Joseph Mattingley
District 2

Patricia Smith
District 5

Thomas Lundy
District 6

Russell Holesinger
District 8

Larry Carroll
District 9

Robert Kuhns
District 10

Douglas Darby
District 10

Ronald Hallendorff
District 10

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday

Elizabeth
793 U.S. Route 20 West
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Savanna
103 Chicago Ave.
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Geneseo
1004 S. Chicago St.
7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
1:30 - 4 p.m.

**Services and
Billing Questions:**

(800) 858-5522
www.jocarroll.com

**For emergencies
and outages call:**
(800) 927-5254

Software glitch affects capital credits to natural gas members

A problem with software used to process capital credits retirements affected Jo-Carroll Energy members who receive only natural gas services from the cooperative.

Due to this problem, current natural gas only members did not receive bill credits as they should have. If the

retirement amount was more than \$10, a check was sent. If the amount was less than \$10, the amount was rolled over for the next year.

The software vendor was notified and is working on resolution of the problem so that the capital credits will be applied.

**High School Sophomores,
Juniors and Seniors,**

*Win the trip
of a lifetime!*

Youth to Washington
June 12-19, 2015

Download an application at
www.jocarroll.com
or call 800-858-5522 ext. 1228

Applications Due: Feb. 27, 2015

Board nominations

Deadline approaches to file board nomination petitions

Terms of six Jo-Carroll Energy directors expire in 2015, with elections being held in Districts 5, 7, 8 and 10. Deadline to file nomination petitions is Feb. 17.

Directors whose terms end in 2015 are:

- Pat Smith of Galena representing District 5
- Dave Senn of Mount Carroll representing District 7
- Russell Holesinger of Fulton representing District 8
- Doug Darby, Ron Hallendorff and Bob Kuhns of Geneseo representing District 10

Elections will determine one board representative in each of Districts 5, 7 and 8 and two representatives in District 10.

Any Jo-Carroll Energy member

residing in the district of a director whose term is expiring, including the incumbent director or directors, may petition for nomination. Members interested in seeking election to the board may pick up a nomination petition at one of Jo-Carroll Energy's offices or download a petition from the cooperative's website at www.jocarroll.com.

Petitions must be signed by at least 25 Jo-Carroll Energy members residing in the district for which the director is to be elected. Petitions must be filed at Jo-Carroll Energy's headquarters no later than Feb. 17, 2015.

In order to qualify to have their names placed on the ballot, all nominees must participate in an orientation process provided by

the attorney for the cooperative assuring that all nominees fully understand the expectations and responsibilities of directors, including but not limited to: time demands, educational expectations and fiduciary duties.

Complete details on director qualifications and the nomination procedure can be found in Jo-Carroll Energy's bylaws. The bylaws are posted on the cooperative's website at www.jocarroll.com. Anyone without Internet access may request a copy by calling 800-858-5522.

All eligible candidates will be announced in the 2015 Annual Meeting Book, on the cooperative's website and in the cooperative's newsletter.

ANNUAL MEETING SAVE THE DATE!

Make plans to attend Jo-Carroll Energy's
76th Annual Meeting of Members

Saturday, April 18

St. Malachy's School Hall, Geneseo

10 a.m. Annual Meeting

11:30 a.m. Pork Chop Lunch served by the Henry County Pork Producers

Each membership attending will receive a \$10 bill credit and be entered into a drawing for larger bill credits at the conclusion of the meeting*

Annual Meeting will feature reports from Board Chairman David Senn and President and CEO Michael Hastings

- Co-op Displays
 - Co-op Connections Business Displays
 - Energy Efficiency Wall
 - Unbundling and New Bill Design Information

*Must be present to win



Local food pantries gain more than 700 pounds

Jo-Carroll Energy employees and members collected more than 700 pounds of nonperishable groceries during Jo-Carroll Energy's annual "Light Up the Holidays" food drive.

The food was divided equally and donated to each of the 10 food pantries within the cooperative's service territory.

The Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Directors also approved a cash donation of \$500 to each of the 10 pantries, including the following in Jo-Daviess County:

- East Dubuque Food Pantry
- Elizabeth Food Basket
- Hanover Food Bank

- United Churches of Galena Food Pantry

In Carroll County:

- Helping Hands Food Pantry (Milledgeville, also serving Chadwick)
- Savanna/Mt. Carroll Food Pantry (Savanna)
- Thomson/Fulton Food Pantry (Fulton)

In Whiteside County:

- Albany Food Pantry
- Erie Food Pantry
- Thomson/Fulton Food Pantry (Fulton)

In Henry County:

- Geneseo Food Pantry

"Commitment to Community is a core value of Jo-Carroll Energy. When communities work together everyone benefits. As an organization whose mission is to enhance the quality of life for its members, we are proud to support local causes with a similar goal," stated Michael Hastings, Jo-Carroll Energy President and CEO.



Mary Okrasinski, director of the Albany Food Pantry, center, accepts a \$500 donation and several sacks of non-perishable food from Jo-Carroll Energy marketing and communications coordinator, Elecia Walter and member services representative, Cindy Price.



Claudia Johnson, right, accepts a \$500 donation and several sacks of non-perishable food from Jo-Carroll Energy communications intern Jamie Lockwood, left.



Dave Leckner, center, of the East Dubuque Food Pantry accepts a \$500 donation with several sacks of groceries from Jo-Carroll Energy's Jamie Lockwood, communications intern, and Helen Kilgore, First Call technician.



Erie Food Pantry volunteers accept a \$500 donation and several sacks of non-perishable food from Jo-Carroll Energy. Pictured from left to right are Louise Wildt and Jean Spaid and Jo-Carroll Energy member service representative, Cindy Price.

Jolynn Kitterman, director of the Geneseo Food Pantry, accepts a \$500 donation and several sacks of non-perishable food from Jo-Carroll Energy member service representative, Heather Seei.



Bill and Loraine Stuzman, directors of the Hanover Food Pantry, accept a \$500 donation and several sacks of non-perishable food from Jo-Carroll Energy marketing and communications coordinator, Elecia Walter.



Holly Haring, operations coordinator at Jo-Carroll Energy presents a \$500 donation along with several sacks of non-perishable groceries to Lyle Gregory, director of the Helping Hands Food Pantry serving Chadwick and Milledgeville residents.



Jo-Carroll Energy presented the Thomson/Fulton Food Pantry a \$500 donation along with several sacks of groceries. Pictured from left are Cindy Price, member services representative, Elecia Walter, marketing and communications coordinator, and food pantry volunteers Carolyn Lankford, Ron Shear and Harlan "H" Wiebenga.



Volunteers with the United Churches of Galena Food Pantry accept a donation of \$500 and several sacks of groceries from Jo-Carroll Energy employees. Pictured from left are Virgil Gehling, volunteer, Helen Kilgore, First Call technician, Eileen McCarty, volunteer, and Elecia Walter, marketing and communications coordinator.



Celebrating years of service

Each year Jo-Carroll Energy recognizes employees for their years of service (in increments of five years). Directors are recognized every two, three-year terms. Jo-Carroll Energy recently recognized nine employees and directors for their years of service to the cooperative.

All nine chose to donate their service awards to charity in a program established by the co-op in 2013. A total of \$450 will be donated to local charities and organizations this year.

Employees and board directors recently recognized for years of service to Jo-Carroll Energy

included: Brad Travis, 5 years; Judy Glew, 5 years; Tracy Heidenreich, 10 years; Howard Helms, 5 years; Mark Beegle, 5 years; Jeff Harrelson, 5 years; Tim Knockel, 5 years; and directors Dave Senn, 6 years; Tom Lundy, 24 years.

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HomE 3.0 - Co-op energy efficiency rebates - round three

The HomE program (pronounced home E) started in 2010 with grant funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's State Energy Plan. Your electric co-op and other co-ops across the state have helped make energy efficiency improvements to hundreds of homes with these funds.

The HomE program's initial success meant there would be approval for a second round of funding. And now there is a third round, but it is smaller and will likely be the last of the funds.

If you didn't get a chance to participate in the first or second round of rebates, you now have a third and final chance. HomE 3.0 rebates are available until funding runs out, or until May 31. The program starts on February 1 and funds are on a first-come, first-served basis. So don't wait.



HomE 3.0 Incentive Rebates Include:

- Geothermal system - \$1,000
- Air-Source Heat Pump (16 SEER or higher) - \$500
- Insulation and Weatherization - 30 percent of total project cost, up to \$500
- Heat Pump Water Heater - \$250

A home energy audit by the cooperative is required.

"We know a lot of members were unable to participate in the first two rounds of the HomE program for a variety of reasons," says John Scott, the cooperative's energy advisor. "All cooperative members are eligible for HomE 3.0. These rebates, plus the federal income tax credits that are available for some of the projects, make this a great time to make your home more energy efficient."

For more information or to schedule your audit, contact John Scott at 800-858-5522, ext. 1339 or jscott@jocarroll.com.

2015 energy efficiency incentives are here!

Being energy efficient puts dollars in your pocket by lowering your electric bill and it also qualifies you for additional dollars through our incentive program.

Our 2015 Energy Efficiency incentives are for both our electric and natural gas members. Eligible members can qualify for rebates on: electric clothes washers, dehumidifiers, dishwashers, refrigerators, room air conditioners, freezer recycling, refrigerator recycling, window air conditioning recycling, LED light fixtures and electric HVAC (electric members); and natural gas HVAC, natural gas water heaters, stoves and dryers (natural gas members). Air sealing

and insulation incentives are available, also.

To qualify for one of our incentives in 2015:

- Purchase and install a qualified energy efficient product in 2015.
- Submit required documentation as soon as possible as funds are limited. Incentives are in place through Dec. 31, 2015 or until funds are depleted.
- Submit forms and documentation by Jan. 2, 2016.

Incentive forms and complete information are available at Jo-Carroll Energy's offices or by visiting www.jocarroll.com.

Here comes the sun!

Most of the construction work on Jo-Carroll Energy's South View Solar Farm, the cooperative's first community solar project, wrapped up in December with commissioning of the array just after Christmas.

The array was energized on Dec. 26 and saw its first production on Saturday, Dec. 27. You can monitor how much energy the solar farm generates by visiting the Sunny Portal on our website at www.jocarroll.com.

Located at the cooperative's Elizabeth headquarters, the 460-panel array has a combined capacity of 16.5 kW (dc). Each panel has a capacity of 275 watts. Construction on the solar farm began in November by Eagle Point Solar of Dubuque, Iowa.

Jo-Carroll Energy members who receive their electricity from the co-op can purchase subscriptions for this locally produced clean energy. Participating members subscribe to panels for capacity credits and receive a monthly bill credit for their panels' output.

A number of panels are still available for subscription. More information can be found on the South View Solar Farm page on our website.



Jo-Carroll Energy lineworkers construct the three-phase overhead transformer bank that provides the system interconnection to South View Solar Farm. The transformer allows the 480V output of the solar array to connect with the 12.67kV distribution system. Line crews also constructed an underground conductor between the transformer pole and the array's inverter (which converts the DC panel output to AC) to allow a tie-in with the existing system. Meter techs programed a three-phase meter and installed associated equipment to gauge the output of the array.