

# HI-LINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR JO-CARROLL ENERGY MEMBERS

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Elizabeth, Illinois



800-858-5522



www.jocarroll.com



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## Future energy costs

As inflation continues to rise, it seems like we're paying more for most everything from groceries to gasoline.

During the past decade, the U.S. has been fortunate with relatively low-cost energy, but as you have experienced at the pump, transportation fuel continues to hover around all-time highs. Similarly, market prices for natural gas and other commodities utilized in the production of electricity have increased.

The purpose of my message this month is to be transparent and prepare you for the possibility of a future power cost adjustment (PCA). The PCA is a monthly adjustment on a per-kWh basis that can fluctuate depending on the total cost each month from our power suppliers. The PCA is determined by how much the monthly power cost per kWh is above or below the base power cost.

Fortunately, Jo-Carroll Energy – like most electric distribution cooperatives-- is a member of generation and transmission (G&T) cooperatives.

Dairyland Power Cooperative and Prairie Power, Inc. (PPI) are our G&Ts, which means they generate or acquire all the power needs of their member cooperatives and send the electricity to our local substations, which is then distributed by Jo-Carroll to your electric meter.

Dairyland and PPI are part of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) regional



### CEO'S REPORT by Mike Casper

transmission organization (RTO). As members of MISO, they utilize a mix of owned assets as well as short- and long-term agreements to meet members' electricity needs.

This is done through:

- Owning and operating generation facilities
- Power Purchase Agreements that include wind, solar and hydroelectric

As a member-owner, Jo-Carroll and the other distribution cooperative members have tasked Dairyland and PPI with providing long-term affordable, reliable and environmentally sustainable electricity, while minimizing members' exposure to the real-time, up-and-down prices of the MISO market.

By following this approach, most of our electricity needs are protected from short and, to an extent, long-term market price spikes. However, our G&Ts are experiencing higher commodity and material costs, which may have an impact on future energy costs that are a pass-through charge from our energy suppliers to our members.

We are sensitive to our members' unique situations especially as inflation is driving costs higher. So, what

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## For your information

### Your Board of Directors:

**David Senn**  
Chairman  
District 7

**Russell Holesinger**  
Vice Chairman  
District 8

**Marcia Stanger**  
Secretary  
District 3

**Robert Kuhns**  
Treasurer  
District 10

**Jerry Meyer**  
District 1

**Joseph Mattingley**  
District 2

**Dan Tindell**  
District 4

**Patricia Smith**  
District 5

**Thomas Lundy**  
District 6

**Larry Carroll**  
District 9

### Office Hours:

Monday-Friday

**Elizabeth**  
793 U.S. Route 20 West  
7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Savanna**  
103 Chicago Ave.  
7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
1:30 to 4 p.m.

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

### Services and Billing Questions:

(800) 858-5522  
www.jocarroll.com

### For emergencies and outages call:

(800) 858-5522

# Resume of Minutes

March 30, 2022

*The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) was held on Wednesday March 30, 2022.*

*A Safety Moment was provided by Director Larry Carroll on motor vehicle safety driving distractions.*

**Approval of Agenda** – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda.

**Consent Agenda** – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda

**Presentation** – A presentation was provided by Mark Prouhet of BKD CPAs & Advisors. Mark provided a high-level presentation of the annual independent audit that is conducted of Jo-Carroll Energy. BKD issued a clean unmodified opinion and no issues with accounting policies, management practices or information provided by staff. The Independent Auditor's Report and Consolidated Financial Statements for Dec. 31, 2021, and 2020, are located on the Jo-Carroll Energy website.

### Governance Topics & Board Policy Review

**Bylaw Amendments** – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve suggested changes to the bylaws under Article V Meetings of Directors, Section 8. In addition, Article IV Directors, Section 3, will be referred to the Governance Committee for further review. The bylaw change will be presented to the full membership during the annual meeting on June 2, 2022, for approval by the members.

### Board Issues and Action Items

**Approve Audited Financials** – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the audited financials.

**Approve Large Load Rate Policies 902, 903 & 904** – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve Rate Policy 902. A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve Rate Policy 903. A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve Rate Policy 904.

**USDA RUS Community-Oriented Connectivity Broadband Grant IL1404-B23 Agreement Resolution** – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the USDA RUS Community-Oriented Connectivity Broadband Grant IL 1404-B23.

**Confirm CFC Forum Attendees** – CFC Forum Attendees were selected.

**Select AIEC Annual Meeting Attendees** – Attendees for the AIEC Annual Meeting were selected.

### CEO/Financial Operating Report

**CEO Report** – President and CEO Casper provided an update on Natural Gas (NG) pricing, noting that prices continue to increase due to demand and energy prices in general. Jo-Carroll's finance team continues to seek opportunities to purchase gas forward at more favorable prices. In addition, Casper commented that the Illinois Public Energy Agency (IPEA), who Jo-Carroll Energy is a member, reviewed proposals from NG marketing firms to provide purchasing services for their Illinois NG members.

**Financial Operating Report** – Chuck Woods, Chief Financial Officer provided a summary of the financial operating report for February. Revenue for February is approximately \$12.8 million vs. a budgeted amount of approximately \$12.2 million. Total operations and

maintenance expenses were approximately \$535,287 under budget. Margins are approximately \$2.1 million vs. a budgeted amount of approximately \$865,310. By general consent, the board moved to file the financial operating report with the auditor.

### Operations and Regulatory/Legislative Update

**Operations Update** – Kyle Buros, Senior V.P. and Chief Operating Officer provided an update on a new city ordinance that the City of East Dubuque approved regarding tree trimming. Buros also commented on the Burns Road natural gas infrastructure rebuild, noting that JCE will be replacing portions of the pipe this year and portions in 2023. Letters will be sent out notifying members, along with phone calls. In addition, Buros included a broadband status update and noted which fiber communities are in the construction phase. Status of fiber communities can be found on Connectsp.com.

**Employee Update** – V.P. of Human Resources, Merri Sevey discussed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Power Exchange Annual Meeting and the benefit for those employees that were able to attend. Sevey remarked on the educational opportunities and commented that the content was very informative.

**2022 Initiatives** – Jennifer Meyer, V.P. of Member Services provided a high-level overview/roadmap of JCE's 2022 goals and initiatives and provided an update on the Illinois Shines Program.

**External Affairs/Legislative Update** – None.

**Governance Topics and Board Policy Review** – None.

### Reports/Updates

**Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) Report** – Chairman Senn provided highlights from the AIEC Board Meeting and the NRECA Power Exchange Annual Mtg.

**American Public Gas Association (APGA) Report** – Director Carroll discussed the various topics within the natural gas (NG) industry including new regulations and potential available infrastructure funding. President & CEO Casper shared highlights from the APGA Direct Use Taskforce Group (DUTG) meeting.

**Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC)** – Director Mattingley provided highlights from the March DPC board meeting. President & CEO Casper provided an update from the DPC manager's meeting. Adding that DPC continues to evaluate their top enterprise risks and ways to mitigate.

**Prairie Power Incorporated (PPI) Report** – Director Kuhns provided a summary of the PPI Board Meeting and generation report.

**Executive Session** – None.

**Out of Executive Session** – None.

**Action Resulting from Executive Session** – None.

**Other Business** – None.

**Adjournment** – Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 11:58 a.m.

Do The

# SUMMER SHIFT

## SMART ENERGY SAVINGS

As temperatures rise, so does the demand for electricity. You can conserve energy and save money when you do the Summer Shift.

The goal of the Summer Shift program is to shift nonessential electricity use to before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m., June through August. These are times when electricity use is not at its peak and, therefore, not as expensive.

One of the best parts of the Summer Shift is that everyone can participate.

Here are a few ideas:

- Program the Summer Shift into your smart thermostat or increase the setting by a few degrees; 78 degrees is recommended during the summer.
- Do laundry after 7 p.m. and use cold water, if possible. You could get a load (or two) of clothes washed and hung up to dry overnight before going to bed. Or wash clothes first thing in the morning and use solar energy to dry your clothes outside during the day.
- Open the dishwasher after the wash cycle to let dishes air dry.
- Shut off lights. Longer days have arrived, so utilize the extra daylight to delay turning on lights around the house. Smart lights can be programmed to turn on/off on a schedule.
- Use the grill or plan a picnic for dinner. It's a great way to save energy and eliminate unwanted heat from cooking indoors.
- Charge electric vehicles overnight.
- Set the water heater to 120 degrees.

## Call our 'energy detective' for efficiency advice

Looking for a way to increase the efficiency of your home? Our Energy Detective is here to help!

Contact our energy advisor John Scott (aka, The Energy Detective) at 800-858-5522, ext. 1339, to discuss options for home energy assessments and audits and our efficiency incentives program.

Our walk-through energy

assessment lasts about an hour and is FREE! The assessment includes a review of your energy use, discussion of your home's history and recent energy efficiency upgrades and a walk-through observation that allows the energy advisor to gather information, point out possible energy wasters and provide guidance. He will provide possible upgrades that

increase the overall energy efficiency of your home.

Want more detailed information? A whole house energy audit lasts about four hours, costs \$300, and qualifies you for the Insulation and Air-sealing Incentive.

Information about both programs can be found at [jocarroll.com/energy-analysis-program](http://jocarroll.com/energy-analysis-program).

# Safety tips for before, during and after the storm

Storm season is in full swing. Many summer storms have the potential to produce tornadoes—they can happen anytime, anywhere, and can bring winds more than 200 miles per hour.

As adults, we understand the importance of storm safety, but younger children and teens may not realize the dangers storms pose. That's why it's so important to talk to your family and have a storm plan in place. Here are several tips you can share with your loved ones.

## Before the storm

- Talk to your family about what to do in the event of a severe storm or tornado. Point out the safest location to shelter, like a small, interior, windowless room on the lowest level of your home. Discuss the dangers of severe thunderstorms; lightning can strike 10

miles outside of a storm. Remember: when you hear thunder roar, head indoors.

- Make a storm kit. It doesn't have to be elaborate—having a few items on hand is better than nothing at all. Try to include items like water, non-perishable foods, a manual can opener, a First-Aid kit, flashlights and extra batteries, prescriptions, baby supplies and pet supplies. Keep all the items in one place for easy access if the power goes out.

## During the storm

- Pay attention to local weather alerts—either on the TV, your smartphone or weather radio—and understand the types of alerts. A thunderstorm or tornado watch means these events are possible and you should be prepared; a warning means a thunderstorm or

tornado has been spotted in your area and it's time to take action.

- If you find yourself in the path of a tornado, head to your safe place to shelter, and protect yourself by covering your head with your arms or materials like blankets and pillows.
- If you're driving during a severe storm or tornado, do not try to outrun it. Pull over and cover your body with a coat or blanket if possible.

## After the storm

- If the power is out, conserve your phone battery as much as possible, limiting calls and texts to let others know you are safe or for emergencies only.
- Stay off the roads if trees, power lines or utility poles are down. Lines and equipment could still be energized, posing life-threatening risks to anyone who gets too close.
- Wear appropriate gear if you're cleaning up storm debris on your property. Thick-soled shoes, long pants and work gloves will help protect you from sharp or dangerous debris left behind.

Summer is a time for many fun-filled activities, but the season can also bring severe, dangerous weather. Talk to your loved ones about storm safety so that everyone is prepared and knows exactly what to do when a storm strikes.

## Practice Storm Safety

Have a plan in place and make a storm kit.

Listen to local alerts and know where to shelter.

Stay off the roads if trees and power lines are down.



# Restoring power safely and efficiently

Jo-Carroll Energy always monitors the severe storms forecasted to impact our area. While we do our best to avoid them, power outages occasionally happen. When major storms impact our area, extended outages can be unavoidable.

When the lights go out and it's safe for our crews to begin the restoration process, they start by repairing power lines and equipment that will restore power to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible.

This process typically begins with repairs to the larger main distribution lines that service

a great number of homes and businesses. After those repairs are made, crews work on tap lines, which deliver power to transformers, either mounted on utility poles (for above-ground service) or placed on pads (for underground service). Finally, individual service lines that run between the transformer and the home are repaired.

When widespread outages occur, multiple crews will be out in the field simultaneously working to repair damage at multiple locations. We also coordinate with nearby co-ops to bring in additional crews when necessary.

If you experience a power outage, don't assume a neighbor reported it. It's best to report the outage yourself. Our operations center and member services representatives are available 24/7, and members are encouraged to report any power outages through our phone lines at 800-858-5522. Please do not report power outages on JCE's Facebook page.

*For updates on power outages and restoration efforts, visit our website at [jocarroll.com](http://jocarroll.com) or follow us on Facebook, [@jocarrollenergy](https://www.facebook.com/jocarrollenergy).*

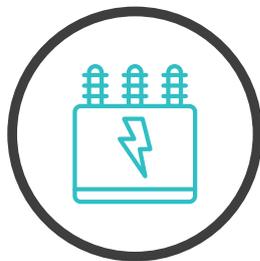
## The Steps to Restoring Power

When a major outage occurs, our crews restore service to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible - until everyone has power.



### 1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines

These lines carry large amounts of electricity. They rarely fail but must be repaired first.



### 2. Distribution Substations

Crews inspect substations, which can serve hundreds or thousands of people.



### 3. Main Distribution Lines

Main lines serve essential facilities like hospitals and larger communities.



### 4. Individual Homes and Businesses

After main line repairs are complete, we repair lines that serve individual homes and businesses.

## 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.

## If you feel a shock, swim away from the dock

"If you feel a shock, swim away from the dock," is a good thing to remember when swimming. Knowing what to do if water becomes electrified can help swimmers avoid an invisible hazard called electric shock drowning (ESD).

Outdated wiring and a lack of proper safety equipment on boats and docks can cause situations where electricity seeps or leaks into the water. It is a particularly dangerous hazard because it is impossible to tell by looking if water is energized. According to the Electric Shock Drowning Prevention Association, between 10 and 15 milliamps, which is just 1/50 the wattage of a 60-watt light bulb, can cause drowning. The association also reports that most ESD deaths have occurred in public and private marinas and docks.

Safe Electricity recommends that individuals do not swim around docks with electrical equipment or boats plugged into shore power. If you are in the water and feel electric current, shout to let others

know, try to stay upright, tuck your legs up to make yourself smaller, and swim away from anything that could be energized. Do not swim to boat or dock ladders to get out.

If you see someone who you suspect is getting shocked, do not immediately jump in to save them. Throw them a float, turn off the shore power connection or unplug shore power cords. Try to eliminate the source of electricity as quickly as possible; then call 911 for help.

Safe Electricity, along with the American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC) and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers/National Electrical Contractors Association, recommends adhering to these steps in order to enhance water recreation safety and accident prevention:

- All electrical installations and maintenance should be performed by a professional electrical contractor familiar with marine codes and standards and inspected at least once a year.

- Docks should have GFCI breakers on the circuits feeding electricity to the dock.
- The metal frame of docks should be bonded to connect all metal parts to the alternating current (AC) safety ground at the power source.
- Neighboring docks can also present a shock hazard. Make your neighbors aware of the need for safety inspections and maintenance. Marinas should comply with NFPA and NEC codes.
- Have your boat's electrical system checked at least once a year. Boats should also be checked when something is added to or removed from their systems.
- Boats with AC systems should have isolation transformers or equipment leakage circuit interrupter (ELCI) protection, comply with ABYC standards and be serviced by an ABYC Certified Technician.

For more information on electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



## Enter JCE's photo contest!

Jo-Carroll Energy is accepting entries for its 2022 Photo Contest through June 30. Winning entries will be featured in the 2023 Jo-Carroll Energy photo calendar.

We're looking for images that represent life in our area, whether they are action shots or scenic landscapes.

Entrants must be Jo-Carroll Energy members. All photos must be the work of the entrant and be taken within

the co-op's service territory.

From the submissions, we choose 12 photos to appear on the calendar pages along with the front and back cover photos. Several others are selected as honorable mention.

Complete rules and entry information can be found at [jocarroll.com/photo-contest](http://jocarroll.com/photo-contest). Don't miss your chance to see your photos in print!

## Showcase your child's artistic talents

Looking for something for your children to do? Have them enter Jo-Carroll Energy's Summer Coloring Contest.

We'll select a winner in each of three age categories – ages 5-6, 7-8 and 9-10. The winners will receive a set of school supplies for the fall school year and other fun prizes. We traditionally donate five energy-related children's books to the child's community library, also.

Coloring sheets, along with the entry form and rules, can be downloaded at [jocarroll.com](http://jocarroll.com). Only one entry per child is allowed, and each entry will be placed into one of the three age groups.

Artwork will be judged based on creativity, originality and use of color.

All artwork will not be returned except upon request, and will be displayed in our Elizabeth, Savanna and Geneseo offices.

**Mail or deliver completed forms and artwork to:**

**Jo-Carroll Energy  
Attn: Sara Lechowicz  
P.O. Box 390  
Elizabeth, IL 61028**

**Or by email to**

**[slechowicz@jocarroll.com](mailto:slechowicz@jocarroll.com)**

**Entries must be received by the contest deadline of July 15, 2022.**



### ► Continued from page 18A

is Jo-Carroll doing to assist our members to reduce usage and if eligible, assist you with paying your electric and/or natural gas bill? **Jason Muchow**

JCE has an energy advisor who can talk with members about energy efficiency resources that are available and to help members use energy wisely. I encourage you to call John Scott at 800-858- 5522, ext. 1339 to discover more ways to help control your energy consumption while maintaining comfort. Inside this issue, you'll also find information about our free home assessments and energy tips to shift summer electric use to times when demand is not at its peak.

Should you ever find yourself needing help paying your energy bill, funds are available

to help pay utility bills for qualifying members. Two assistance programs available to members are LIHEAP and Jo-Carroll's own Neighbor to Neighbor program.

LIHEAP provides qualifying households with monetary relief for energy bills with eligibility based on several factors including household size and income. The Jo-Carroll program works in tandem with LIHEAP. Members must first apply for LIHEAP to be considered. If funds are available, a member may receive a grant. The agencies to contact are:

- Jo Daviess County:  
Northwestern Illinois  
Community Action Agency  
(NICAA), 815-232-3141
- Carroll and Whiteside  
counties: Tri- County

Opportunities Council,  
800-323-5434

- Henry County: Project Now,  
309-852-4565

The co-op also has a couple of billing options to help members manage their energy bills. Jo-Carroll offers budget billing or levelized billing plans to help keep monthly energy bills manageable. These options average energy use over a 12-month period to avoid big fluctuations in monthly bills.

As I shared in my February report, your Jo-Carroll Energy directors and team continue to be very conscientious of increasing costs. We'll continue to monitor material shortages and increased costs, working toward our goal to curb rates at or below inflation.

# SAND PRAIRIE FIBER INTERNET UPDATE



## Fiber Construction Crews Ready For Busy Summer Buildout

Summer is starting to sizzle with fiber activity in many of our fiber neighborhoods. Chadwick, East Dubuque, Galena, Mount Carroll, Savanna, Scales Mound, Stockton, Warren, and The Galena Territory areas have all moved ahead! Follow your community's progress on our Fiber Communities Map.

### Recent updates and phase changes include:

#### Interest to Sign-Up

East Dubuque: ED10  
Galena: G1, G2, G3, G5, G9, G10, G11, G24  
Stockton: STK1, STK3

#### Sign-Up to Pre-Construction

Stockton: STK6

Sign-Up  
Today!

Sign-up or express your interest at  
[www.connectsp.com/iwantfiber](http://www.connectsp.com/iwantfiber)

#### Pre-Construction to Construction

Galena Territory: GT7  
Savanna: SAV8  
Chadwick: CDW3  
Galena: G6,13,18, 20, 21  
Galena Territory GT7  
Mount Carroll: MCS1, MTC7  
Sand Ridge (East Dubuque/Menominee area): SR2  
Warren: WRN1  
York: YRK 2

#### Construction to Schedule Install

Galena Territory: GT6  
Savanna: SAV1

#### Fiber In-Service

Galena: G16  
Scales Mound: SM2, SM3

*Status as of press deadline.*