

Clay ELECTRIC News

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

7784 Old Hwy. 50 ■ P.O. Box 517 ■ Flora, Illinois 62839 ■ www.ceci.coop ■ 618-662-2171 ■ 800-582-9012

From the Manager

In last month's letter, we covered the basics of energy consumption and demand, and introduced you to our power suppliers. Now I'd like to talk about how you can take control of your energy use and save on your electric bill.

Here are some practical tips to help you manage your energy costs, especially during peak demand times:

- 1. Understand peak times:** Peak demand varies by season. In winter, it typically occurs in the mornings (7-10 a.m.) and early evenings (5-8 p.m.) In summer, it's usually in the afternoons (2-6 p.m.) Try to reduce your energy use during these hours.
- 2. Manage appliance use:** High-demand appliances like ovens, dryers and HVAC systems can significantly impact your energy consumption. Use them during off-peak hours when possible and consider energy-efficient models.
- 3. Seal and insulate:** Check for drafts around windows, doors and outlets. Sealing these can prevent heat loss in winter and keep air cool in during summer.
- 4. Adjust your thermostat:** Lowering your thermostat by a few degrees in winter or raising it in summer can save energy. Use a smart thermostat to automate this and even control it remotely.
- 5. Use natural light and ventilation:** Open blinds during sunny days to let in natural warmth and use ceiling fans to circulate air efficiently.

- 6. Turn off and unplug:** Remember to turn off lights and unplug devices when not in use. Even in standby mode, they can consume energy.

By implementing these tips, you not only save on your bill but also help reduce strain on the grid during peak times. **14362-001**

Our annual meeting is coming up later this month on Thursday, Aug. 21 at Oilbelt Christian Service Camp. Registration and meal begin at 5 p.m. with the business meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. We will be welcoming back Guy Ash as live entertainment and will have local health professionals putting on a small health fair. We encourage all our members to come and exercise their democratic control of the cooperative by voting for board members for the 1st, 3rd and 9th districts. All registered members will receive a bill credit and have a chance to win door prizes. We hope to see you there!

Thank you for being a valued member of our cooperative. Be sure to keep an eye out for your member number in the center section of this magazine. There are three member numbers hidden within the pages of Clay Electric News. If you spot your number and give us a call, you will win a \$5 discount on your next bill!



Matt Conklin
CEO

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Delete deceptive emails. If you receive an email that appears to be from your electric utility but you are unsure about it, delete it. Never click on a link, open an attachment or send a reply to an untrusted source. When in doubt, contact your utility directly to report suspected email scams.

Source: Utilities United Against Scams



EPA's power plant rule threatens electric reliability

Keeping the lights on at a cost you, as a consumer-member of Clay Electric Co-operative, can afford is the focal point of everything we do. Transparency is one of our core values, so in addition to sharing co-op successes, I believe we also have a responsibility to tell you about the challenges, too.

In May, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a rule that impacts energy production from power plants. The power plant rule will undoubtedly threaten access to reliable electricity for our local community and communities across the country. **14815-001**

The rule constrains existing coal and new natural gas plants by requiring them to install carbon capture and storage (CCS) — a technology that has potential but has not been proven to be viable as required. No power plant in North America currently uses CCS at the scale and levels mandated by the EPA. When power plants aren't able to comply with EPA's CCS requirements, they will be required to shut down, significantly limit operations or switch fuels. These unrealistic standards will force the unnecessary and early shutdown of many power plants that currently provide reliable electricity 24/7.

Renewable sources, such as solar and wind, are important components of our overall generation mix. But, given the intermittent nature of these energy sources, we simply cannot depend on them, because the wind doesn't always blow, and the sun doesn't always shine. The need for always-available power-generating resources is still essential.

The timing of the power plant rule is equally troubling. At the same time

the EPA is leading our nation down the path to fewer power plants, utilities are facing a surge in electricity demand — driven by the onshoring of manufacturing, the growth of the American economy and the rapid expansion of data centers to support artificial intelligence, e-commerce and cryptocurrency.

Many states have already experienced rolling outages, and if the supply of electricity is further threatened by the EPA's power plant rule, the problem will only get worse. In fact, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the nation's electric reliability watchdog, recently forecasted that over the next 5 years, all or parts of 19 states are at high risk of rolling power outages during normal peak electricity demand conditions.

It's also no secret that when demand is high and supply is low, costs go up. We're concerned about threats to reliability as well as cost increases to our members.

I don't say all of this to worry you, but I do want our members to understand the challenges that lie ahead.

Just as we've always done, we will look for solutions that serve our members best. We are joining electric co-ops across the country to fight these regulations, and we are working with our local elected officials to help them understand the consequences this would have on all Illinois residents.

Co-ops are no strangers to innovation, and we're taking proactive steps to address today's energy challenges and tomorrow's energy needs. Co-ops have led the charge on industry endeavors, such as community solar projects, and we'll continue to explore new technologies and strategies that bolster reliability and our local grid.

Electric cooperatives like WIEC deliver power to 42 million Americans. At the end of the day, our top priority is to meet our members' energy needs, and we must have reliable electricity available to do that.

If you're interested in learning more about policy impacts to power reliability, or to make your voice heard on this matter, visit voicesforcooperativepower.com.

IMPACTS OF THE EPA'S POWER PLANT RULE

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) power plant rule threatens access to reliable electricity for millions of Americans. The EPA's power plant rule will:



- 1 Force the premature closure of many power plants that currently provide electricity 24/7.
- 2 Mandate the deployment of unproven carbon capture and storage technology.
- 3 Jeopardize the reliability of the grid at a time when America is already facing a surge in electricity demand.
- 4 Heighten the risk of rolling power outages to relieve pressure on the electric grid.
- 5 Increase costs for consumers as utilities are forced to pay for new power generation to comply with the EPA rule.



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COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

CECI 81st Annual Meeting will be held August 21st at Oil Belt Christian Service Camp with registration at 5:00 PM and business meeting starting at 6:30 PM.

Activities Include:

- Pork Chop or Chicken Dinner
- Health/Vendor Fair with the Clay Health Department, Clay County Hospital, and others!
- A Bill Credit for all registered members
- Scholarship and Prize Drawings
- Director Elections for Districts 1, 3, & 9
- Cooperative Updates and more!

5 Tips for a Safe Harvest

Electrical safety during harvest season requires vigilance and proactive measures. Follow these tips to reduce the risk of electrical accidents.

1. Maintain at least a 10-foot distance from power lines when operating equipment like grain augers, elevators and other tall machinery.
2. Use a spotter to navigate safely around power lines and other electrical equipment.
3. Ensure all farm workers are trained on electrical safety procedures.
4. Regularly inspect all electrical equipment and machinery for signs of wear and damage.
5. Keep first aid kits and emergency contact numbers in an easily accessible location.



Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

June 23, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. (CECI) was held at the Clay Electric Co-operative Headquarters, Flora, Ill., beginning at 6:55 p.m. on Monday, June 23, 2025.

Trustees present were Bob Pierson, Bill Croy, Kevin Logan, Frank Herman, Richard Rudolphi, Evan Smith and Josh Schnepfer. Attending by phone: Frank Czyzewski. Also present were Matt Conklin, CEO; Brian Stagen, CFC RVP; Brian Adams, CFC; and Daniel Gottschalk, CFC. Absent from the meeting was Neil Gould. The meeting was opened by Bob Pierson, who presided, and Bill Croy acted as secretary thereof.

The invocation was given by Evan Smith, and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following proceedings were had [all action being first duly moved and seconded, and all action taken being upon the unanimous vote of the Board or without dissenting vote of abstention unless otherwise stated]:

APPROVED, the Suggested Agenda. **12096-001**

HEARD, a report from CFC representatives on the CFC Cost-of-Service Study.

HEARD, the Manager's Report on Safety including:

- The Monthly Safety Report;
- Monday Morning Safety meeting held June 17, 2025;
- Safety Committee meeting held June 12, 2025.

APPROVED, the Consent Agenda including the following:

- **APPROVED**, the prior meeting minutes;
- **APPROVED**, (a) to admit to membership those applicants connected for service since the last such review by the Board, and (b) cancel those former members shown on the Manager's Report since the last such review by the Board, said members no longer taking service.

REVIEWED, the Consent Agenda including the following:

- **REVIEWED**, the Work Orders;
- **REVIEWED**, the Disbursements;
- **REVIEWED**, the Credit Card Statements;
- **REVIEWED**, the Attorney Retainer;
- **REVIEWED**, the Account Summary Report.

APPROVED, the retirement of capital credits on a member estate.

REVIEWED and APPROVED, policy revision to Policies 800-5.

REVIEWED, CFC Quarterly Loan payment and Quarterly LOC payment.

HEARD, a report by Bob Pierson regarding SIPC, updated on recent Illinois Pollution Control Board hearing.

HEARD, a report by Kevin Logan regarding the AIEC board meeting for the month.

DISCUSSED, upcoming Board Training and Events including:

- AIEC Annual Meeting;
- NRECA Region 5 meeting.

HEARD and APPROVED, a financial report by Matt Conklin as to the following:

- Monthly Reconciliation;
- SIPC Power Delivered in May 2025;
- May 2025 Cash Flow;
- Line Loss;
- May 2025 Form 7;
- May 2025 Balance Sheet.

REVIEWED, the Cybersecurity Report.

HEARD and APPROVED, the Manager's Report by Matt Conklin on the following topics:

- Labor Negotiations;
- CECI ACSI Score;
- Operations Report;
- Communications Report;
- Upcoming meetings.

DISCUSSED, recent labor negotiations results.

REVIEWED, Touchstone Energy American Customer Satisfaction

Index (ACSI) results for Clay Electric Co-operative.

REVIEWED, the Operations Report.

REVIEWED, the Communications Report.


WERE REMINDED, of upcoming meetings on July 28, 2025 at 7 p.m., Aug. 25, 2025 at 7 p.m., and Sept. 22, 2025 at 7 p.m., Oct. 27, 2025 at 7 p.m. and the annual meeting Aug. 21, 2025 at 5 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 9:31 p.m.



Every month we will have three member numbers hidden throughout Clay Electric News. If you find your member number that corresponds to the one found on the upper right corner of your bill, call our office and identify your number and the page it's on. If correct, you will win a \$5 credit on your next electric bill.

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7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.
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