

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

As another summer begins to wind down, I'd like to start by thanking everyone who joined us for our 82nd Annual Meeting. Whether you attended for the meal, visiting with neighbors, exercising your right to vote for your board representatives, or simply to learn more about your cooperative, your participation is what makes the cooperative business model unique. Clay Electric belongs to its members, and your involvement helps guide the future of the cooperative. Thank you for taking the time to be a part of that tradition.

One of the responsibilities of your board of directors and management team is ensuring that the cooperative remains financially healthy while continuing to provide safe, reliable and exceptional service to our member-owners. Sometimes that means making difficult decisions that we know will affect our members' monthly bills.

This month, I want to explain an important change involving the Power Cost Adjustment, or PCA.

Many of you will remember that last year we introduced a Power Cost Adjustment on your bill. Prior to that, Clay Electric absorbed the entire monthly PCA charged to us by our wholesale power supplier, Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC). Beginning on the November 2025 bill, members began paying only one-half of that monthly adjustment while the cooperative continued absorbing the remaining half. **8590-001**

Beginning with the September bill for August usage, Clay Electric will move to a full pass-through of SIPC's monthly Power Cost Adjustment. In simple terms, instead of recovering

only half of the monthly PCA from members, the cooperative will recover the full amount charged to us by our wholesale power supplier. This change affects only the PCA portion of your bill. It does not increase the energy portion of your bill or change the cooperative's base energy rates. The calculation is straightforward: billed kilowatt-hours multiplied by the monthly PCA factor.

Why are we making this change?

The cooperative has absorbed half of these wholesale power costs for nearly a year in an effort to lessen the immediate impact on our members. While that approach helped, it is not sustainable over the long term. As a not-for-profit cooperative, our responsibility is to recover the actual cost of providing electric service while maintaining the financial strength necessary to continue investing in the system our members depend upon every day.

The Power Cost Adjustment is not a fixed fee. It reflects changes in the actual cost of wholesale power purchased by SIPC. When wholesale costs increase, the PCA increases. When wholesale costs decrease, the PCA decreases. If wholesale power costs fall, the PCA can also decrease or even become a credit. It is designed to move with actual wholesale costs rather than requiring repeated adjustments to permanent base rates.

We know no one enjoys hearing about a bill increase, and we don't take that lightly. That's why we believe it's important to explain this change



before it appears on your bill. If you ever have questions about your bill, our staff is always happy to help explain the charges.

Our forestry crew will continue working this month to improve system reliability by clearing vegetation from rights-of-way in the Iola area. Their work area is highlighted on the accompanying map.

As always, don't forget to search for your member number in the center section of this magazine. Three lucky numbers are hidden each month in Clay Electric News. If you find yours and give us a call, you'll receive a \$5 credit on your next electric bill.

Thank you for your continued trust in Clay Electric Co-operative.



Matt Conklin
CEO

Storm safety tips: How to prepare and stay safe

It is easy to become complacent about the weather, but severe weather claims hundreds of lives each year.

From tornadoes and floods to lightning, high winds, extreme heat and cold, severe weather can cause destruction and power outages. Many people end up in dangerous situations because they think they can outrun or outsmart a storm, extreme temperatures or other hazardous conditions. Being prepared with supplies, a plan and safety knowledge can help protect you and your family.

Watch vs. warning

When severe weather is approaching, many people turn on the TV, check a weather app or go online for updates. It is important to know the difference between a watch and a warning. **9001-001**

A **watch** means conditions are favorable for severe weather, such as a severe thunderstorm or tornado. Stay alert, monitor conditions and take precautionary steps, such as unplugging electronics and checking your emergency kit.

A **warning** means severe weather is occurring, is imminent or is indicated by radar. Take shelter immediately in the safest part of the building, such as a basement or an interior room on the lowest floor, away from windows.

Follow these tips to stay safe

- Install a weather app and enable severe weather alerts.
- Remember that a warning means it is time to act.
- Have an evacuation plan for hazards such as floods or wildfires.
- Establish a family communication plan, including each person's responsibilities and a meeting place in case you are separated.
- Keep emergency kits stocked and up to date. Include a first-aid kit, portable phone charger, flashlights, batteries, food, water and enough supplies to last at least three days.

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions when using a generator.
- Use a generator only outdoors in an open area, never in a garage, carport or other enclosed space.
- Keep portable generators at least 20 feet from doors, windows and vents.

Know how to keep others safe

Storms can be unpredictable and can damage the power grid. Severe weather may also make utility equipment harder to access. During and after major weather events, line crews may be out restoring power and making repairs.

Everyone should do their part to help keep lineworkers and utility crews safe:

- Slow down and move over in work zones.
- Do not distract crews while they work.
- Direct service questions to your utility.
- Check your utility's social media channels or text alerts for outage updates, if available.
- Never plug a generator into a wall outlet. Doing so can cause back-feed, which sends electricity from your home back onto power lines.

Stay alert during cleanup

- If the power is out, stay indoors unless you must leave to remain safe.
- Be alert for downed power lines that may be hidden by ice, snow, standing water or storm debris.
- Never approach a downed power line. Call 911, then keep others away.
- Do not trim trees or branches within 10 feet of an overhead power line.

Power outages, downed lines and generator misuse can create serious risks during and after severe weather. To learn more about keeping loved ones safe, visit SafeElectricity.org.



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COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Unleashing the Power of OUR Community!

Clay Electric Co-operative's Community Spotlight is featured in each issue of Illinois Country Living Magazine and on our Facebook page each Thursday.

If you have a community event you would like to see spotlighted, send your submissions to us by email at Admin@ceci.coop

or by mail to
Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. —
Community Spotlight,
P.O. Box 517, Flora, IL 62839



MEMBER PRIZES

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.

DON'T GET OUT

If your machinery, vehicle or other **equipment makes contact with a power line, guy wire or electrical box, DO NOT get out of your cab.**

Stray power could energize your equipment and the ground.

To avoid becoming electrocuted:

- **Call 9-1-1** and wait for us to arrive to cut the power.
- **Wait to exit** your cab until the power is de-energized.

In rare cases you may need to exit your cab due to smoke or fire. **If you must get out:**

- **Make a solid jump out** without touching any part of the tractor or vehicle.
- **Hop away as far as you can,** keeping both feet together as you hop away.

For more information visit SafeElectricity.org.

 Safe
Electricity.org®

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

July 27, 2026

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 7 p.m. on Monday, July 27, 2026.

Trustees present were Bob Pierson, Neil Gould, Bill Croy, Frank Czyzewski, Richard Rudolphi, Evan Smith, Kevin Logan and Frank Herman. Also present were Matt Conklin, CEO, and Attorney for the Board Tyra Cycholl. Josh Schnepfer was absent. The meeting was opened by Bob Pierson, who presided, and Neil Gould acted as secretary thereof.

The invocation was given by Neil Gould 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]:

Motion by B. Croy seconded by K. Logan to approve the suggested Agenda as presented.

APPROVED, the Suggested Agenda.

HEARD, the Manager's Report on Safety including:

- The Monthly Safety Report;
- Monday Morning Safety meeting held June 20, 2026.

Motion by N. Gould seconded by F. Herman to approve the consent Agenda as presented.

APPROVED, the Consent Agenda, including the following:

- **APPROVED**, the prior meeting minutes as amended for typographical error;
- **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;

■ **REVIEWED**, CFC Report from the Board.

Motion by F. Czyzewski seconded by K. Logan to pass through 100% of the PCA to our members starting on September bill.

APPROVED, passing through 100% of the PCA to our members starting in September.

WERE UPDATED, on Meridian Merger.

HEARD, the NRTA Executive Summary for CFC.

WERE UPDATED, on Federated Member issues.

REVIEWED, the CRC Newsletter.

WERE UPDATED, on NRECA dues increase.

HEARD, a report by Bob Pierson regarding SIPC.

There was no AIEC Board Meeting this month.

REVIEWED, Events and Training including AIEC Annual Meeting and Region 5 Registration.

Motion by F. Herman seconded by F. Czyzewski to approve the financial report by Matt Conklin.

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

- Monthly Reconciliation;
- SIPC Power Delivered in June 2026;
- June 2026 Cash Flow;
- Line Loss;
- June 2026 Form 7;
- June 2026 Balance Sheet.

REVIEWED, the Cybersecurity Report by Matt Conklin, CEO.

Motion by E. Smith seconded by R. Rudolphi to approve the Manager's Report by Matt Conklin.

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

- PCA Projections;
- Wabash internet outage;

■ Radio Tower light;

■ Digger Truck and repairs to new digger unit;

■ Rate increase;

■ Operations Report;

■ Communications Report;

■ Upcoming meetings.

DISCUSSED, the PCA projections from SIPC.

DISCUSSED, Wabash internet outage and the need for a backup supplier.

WERE INFORMED, the Radio Tower light went out and was replaced.

DISCUSSED, the old Digger Truck is listed on Purple Wave Auction site, and Terex was here to replace a value on the new digger unit.

DISCUSSED, rate increases for CECI. **9960-001**

REVIEWED, the Operations Report.
REVIEWED, the Communications Report.

WERE REMINDED, of upcoming meetings on Aug. 24, 2026, at 7 p.m., Sept. 28, 2026, at 7 p.m., Oct. 16, 2026, at 7 p.m., and Nov. 23, 2026, at 3:30 p.m., and the Annual Meeting Aug. 27, 2026, starting at 5:30 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

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