

# Clay ELECTRIC News

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

7784 Old Hwy. 50 ■ P.O. Box 517 ■ Flora, Illinois 62839 ■ [www.ceci.coop](http://www.ceci.coop) ■ 618-662-2171 ■ 800-582-9012

## From the Manager

**A**s we get into autumn, with harvest in full swing, it's a good time to reflect on the stability and reliability of the services we provide at Clay Electric Co-operative. We're committed to delivering safe, affordable and exceptional service to our member-owners, but like many utilities across the nation, we're navigating challenges such as fluctuating energy market costs, infrastructure upgrades and regulatory changes. This month, I want to address an important update regarding our rates, based on a comprehensive Cost-of-Service Study we conducted earlier this year in partnership with our lending provider. This study, which we perform approximately every five years, ensures that our rates accurately reflect the true costs of providing service to different member classes, promoting fairness and sustainability for everyone.

First, let's talk about the Service Availability Charge, formerly referred to as the Facility Charge, which is a fundamental part of your monthly bill. This is essentially a base fee that covers the fixed costs required to maintain and deliver electricity to your specific location, regardless of how much energy you actually use in a given month. It helps fund the infrastructure and resources that keep our system running smoothly — resources like power lines, poles, transformers, substations, linemen, trucks, equipment and ongoing maintenance. These elements are in place 24/7 to ensure power is available whenever you need it, even if your usage is low or zero. Without this charge, the cooperative couldn't sustain the grid that serves our rural communities.

Effective on your November bill for October usage, we're adjusting this Service Availability Charge upward by \$3 for all accounts across every rate class. This modest increase helps us keep pace with rising operational costs while continuing to invest in system reliability, such as the pole replacements, conductor upgrades and vegetation management we've been prioritizing.

In addition to this across-the-board adjustment, the Cost-of-Service Study revealed that certain rate classes needed targeted updates to better align with their actual cost to the cooperative. Specifically, our All Electric and Grain Drying rates will see a small increase in their energy charges. For All Electric members, who rely heavily on electricity for heating, cooling and other high-usage needs, this adjustment ensures the rate more accurately covers the demands placed on our grid and generation resources. Similarly, for Grain Drying operations, which often involve seasonal spikes in high-demand equipment usage, the updated energy charge reflects the specialized infrastructure and capacity required to support these essential agricultural activities. These changes are not arbitrary; they're data-driven from the study. By fine-tuning these rates, we ensure no single group of members subsidizes another, maintaining fairness while supporting the cooperative's financial health.

Finally, we're introducing a new Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) charge on members' bills. This PCA will pass through a portion — specifically half — of the fluctuating costs we incur from our Generation and

Transmission (G&T) cooperative, Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC). SIPC supplies our power through a diverse mix of sources, including coal, natural gas, wind, solar, hydro and market purchases, and they face variable expenses related to fuel, generation and market volatility. The full PCA we receive from SIPC each month can go up or down based on these factors. By passing through only half the charge to our members, we're absorbing the rest to minimize the impact on your bills. This approach helps stabilize rates over time when the electric industry is rapidly changing.

We understand that any rate adjustment can feel challenging, especially in today's economic climate, but these changes are essential to keeping our cooperative strong and reliable for the long term. They support ongoing investments, like the 205 poles set and over 6 miles of new wire installed so far this year, which contribute to our impressive 99.94% service availability rating. **12264-001**

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



## Protect yourself and your medical devices during a power outage

Use this guide to plan ahead and stay safe

**I**f you or a loved one relies on an electric medical device, a power outage isn't just an inconvenience — it could be life-threatening. Severe weather or equipment failures can knock out electricity without warning, so it's essential to have a plan in place to stay safe.

Start by contacting your cooperative. Many offer priority restoration for those with medical needs. Clay Electric Cooperative maintains a medical needs list and works to restore power to those members as quickly as possible as the situation allows. Electric distribution cooperatives work hard to restore power as quickly as possible, even priority customers may face delays during widespread outages. That's why it's so important to be prepared.

### Follow these tips to prepare medical equipment for a power outage:

- **Document your devices.** Keep a file that includes the device's manufacturer, model, serial number, instruction manuals and a photo. This information can be useful for repairs, replacement or communicating with your utility or insurance provider.
- **Know your backup options.** Find out if your device is compatible with backup power like batteries or a generator. Check how long it can operate during an outage. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations and keep device-specific supplies on hand. **14551-001**
- **Keep devices maintained.** Make sure equipment is clean, calibrated and working properly ahead of time. Routine maintenance helps prevent surprises during emergencies.
- **Charge up.** Keep your cell phone, backup power sources and battery-powered medical devices fully charged. Keep extra batteries on hand, especially during storm season.
- **Create an evacuation plan.** Have a plan in case you need to leave your home. Identify locations of emergency shelters and power stations in your area. Talk with family or friends about places you can go that have power and are accessible.
- **Stock up for two weeks.** Keep a two-week supply of medications, medical accessories and essentials like coolers and refrigeration packs for temperature-sensitive medicine.
- **Consider manual alternatives.** Look for portable, dependable alternatives to electronic medical devices — for example, a manual wheelchair, walker or cane as a backup for an electric scooter.
- **Review your insurance coverage.** Before disaster strikes, talk with your insurance provider so you know what's covered if your medical device is damaged during a weather event or power outage.



Clay Electric  
Co-operative, Inc.

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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](mailto:Admin@ceci.coop)

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



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.



# Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

Aug. 25, 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 7 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 25, 2025.

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

The invocation was given by Kevin Logan 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. **14539-001**

**HEARD**, the Manager's Report on Safety including:

- The Monthly Safety Report;
- Monday Morning Safety meeting held Aug. 19, 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.

**REVIEWED** and **APPROVED**, policy revision to Policies 1000-1, 1000-2, 1000-3, 1000-4, 1000-5, 1000-6, 1000-15, 1000-16, 1000-21, 1000-22, 1000-31, 1000-41, 1000-44 and policy reviews to Policies 400-1, 400-2, 400-4, 400-5.

**UPDATED**, on CFC KRTA Executive Summary and Quarterly Loan Payment.

**UPDATED**, on NRECA issues.

**HEARD**, a report by Bob Pierson regarding SIPC.

**HEARD**, a report by Kevin Logan regarding the AIEC.

**DISCUSSED**, upcoming Board Training and Events including:

- NRECA BLC 947.1;
- NRECA BLC 950.

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

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

**REVIEWED**, the Cybersecurity Report.

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

- REDLG Loan Discussion;
- Operations Report;
- Communications Report;
- Upcoming meetings.

**DISCUSSED**, REDLG Loan with Clay City Fire Department.

**REVIEWED**, the Operations Report.

**REVIEWED**, the Communications Report.

**WERE REMINDED**, of upcoming meetings on Aug. 25, 2025 at 7 p.m., Sept. 22, 2025 at 7 p.m., Nov. 24 at 3:30 p.m., and rescheduled the December meeting to Dec. 17, 2025 at 3:30 p.m. with the Christmas party to follow.

CEO Evaluations were passed out for review next month.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

## Safety Tip

Never bring your electronics to bed with you. Charging your phone or laptop while it's on or under a pillow or blanket—where airflow is blocked—can cause it to overheat and catch fire. Charge it on a hard, flat surface instead.

Safe  
Electricity.org



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