

A newsletter from the Arrowhead Electric Cooperative, Inc.

The High Line

By Line

August 2009, vol. 15



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Our Energy Our Future: Tough Choices call for Strong Voices

In a 1951 play, French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre jotted down a line that seems tailor-made for the energy challenges facing our nation, and electric co-ops: “We are our choices.” Indeed, who we are is reflected in how we choose to live and the decisions we make each and every day.

Our leaders in Congress are tackling tough energy choices this year, choices we, as a nation, should make together. Will we choose for electricity to remain affordable, or will we choose for it to be a luxury? Are we ready for brownouts if enough power’s not available, or will we choose a diverse energy mix to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electricity in an environmentally responsible fashion? Will we choose to move forward or will we find ourselves, despite good intentions, moving backwards?

The climate change debate in Congress is coming down to the wire. Now, more than ever before, is the time to make sure your voice—and your choice—is heard. At Arrowhead Electric Cooperative our choice is clear. We’ve always been committed to providing affordable, reliable energy in a responsible manner. This choice reflects who we are, and why we were founded by members like you in an effort to move our community forward into a brighter future.



Our Energy, Our Future™ A Dialogue With America

Tough choices call for strong voices, and no voice is stronger than the combined force of 42 million electric cooperative consumers across the nation. Together we can choose to speak up for affordability. We can choose to invest in technology to lower energy costs, and we can pave the way for adding energy to the grid. Most importantly we can choose to work together, calling on Congress to work with electric co-ops in a combined effort to address climate change responsibly with affordability in mind.

The choice is clear. More than 370,000 electric co-op members have decided to join a national conversation, making their voices heard through the Our Energy, Our Future™ grassroots awareness campaign. Make sure your voice—and your choice—counts. Visit www.ourenergy.coop and choose to be heard today.

“Watt Savings” Tip of the Month

The easiest and cheapest way to save energy is to not use it. If you are not going to be in a room, then turn off the lights, TV, radio and all electronics off. Use ceiling fans to keep you cool (only when you are in the room with the fan) instead of using an air conditioner. Also, take advantage of cool summer nights by opening the windows and make sure to close all south and west facing window shades during the day. Help each other out, remind someone when they leave lights and appliances on unnecessarily in the house.

The right of way clearing will begin in early August in the Devil Track area.

Please mark survey pins and septic systems within the right-of-way and remove any personal items that may be damaged due to flying debris. AECI will not accept liability for any damage if not notified of the above mentioned. If you are not at your property, please call and let us know the proximity of the items mentioned previously to avoid any damage.

Q & A

Member Question & Answer corner:

Question:

Has anyone else noticed that their June electric bill rose by 1/3 over the previous year? This is since the new Hovland plant went on line.

I'm an all electric household and have had my heat turned completely off for at least 2 months. My bill should be down, not up.

Answer:

As a member-owner of Arrowhead Electric Cooperative it is imperative that you raise concerns regarding your electrical consumption when you believe an abnormality exists. Below is a list of ideas which may help to monitor your usage to control future consumption increases.

First, however, I would like to address your concerns regarding the Arrowhead Stand-by Generation facility in Colvill. The facility owned by Great River Energy (Arrowhead Electric's Power Provider) has yet to become fully operational. You may recall tests were run in March and April to ensure its operation when it's called upon to do so during times of a major transmission outage. The company holding the contract to construct the building, install the generators and ensure successful operation has yet to successfully complete a test of this facility. As such, the facility is not connected or generating power to our electrical system. It has no bearing on our member's electrical consumption. When operational, the facility will not have any affect on your electrical consumption. It ties directly into the Great River Energy Transmission line and then delivers power through Arrowhead Electric Substations and power lines - just as other power generation sources do today. Only this one is much, much closer geographically.

As the cost of power continues to increase due to many factors (legislation, materials etc.) we are focusing our efforts to communicate the numerous issues to you, our member-owners. We do this primarily through our monthly newsletter which arrives with each billing statement. The newsletter has announced our, Watt Savings Energy Contest, lists the current Energy Efficiency and Conservation rebates available, promotes off-peak storage heating, and also communicates the Our Energy Our Future campaign. To learn more about these programs please call our office (663-7239), visit our website (www.aecimn.com) or follow us and communicate via our blog (www.arowelec.wordpress.com).

To learn more about your particular energy consumption Arrowhead Electric offers two devices which aid our members in learning how their actions directly impact their energy bills. The first device called a Kill-O-Watt plugs into any 120v outlet and your device (Refrigerator, TV, Computer etc.) plugs into it. The device displays the quantity of kilowatt-hours (kWh) consumed by the device. Over time you can extrapolate a months worth of energy consumption and therefore translate kWh into dollars.

The second device is somewhat newer. The Power Cost Monitor is a device similar to a household digital weather station. A sensor is attached to your electric meter which communicates wirelessly to a display in your home. The display is programmed with your electric rate and shows you how many kilowatts per hour you are currently consuming and the cost

of the energy per hour based on the rate. The device works very well to show how the affects of large electric loads affect your monthly power bill at a given moment in time. Both the Kill-O-Watt and the Power Cost Monitor can be loaned out by Arrowhead Electric to our members at no cost for a period of time. Please call our office to make arrangement for pick-up times.

In addition to these devices there are numerous resources available to help you lessen the amount of energy you consume on a daily basis. This includes simple things such as adjusting the temperature of your hot water heater, utilizing programmable thermostats, air-drying your clothes in the summer time, utilizing compact fluorescent light bulbs and much, much more. The website www.mnbrighterideas.com and www.touchstoneenergysavers.com has many great ideas and resources for lowering your monthly energy bills. I'd encourage you to visit these sites to learn more. Also, please watch our August newsletter for information regarding a great appliance promotion coming up as well as upcoming information on the Change a light, Change the World CFL campaign.

Lastly, to help ensure we never bill our members for more energy than is consumed we have a program in which we visit each meter and test it every 7 years. Our standards ensure that we are within 1% when we test meters.

Should you have any questions regarding your specific situation please do not hesitate to contact our office. We are always happy to help you find ways to reduce your energy consumption.

Have a happy and safe Labor Day!
Arrowhead Electric will be closed
Monday, September 7th to observe Labor Day.



Coal Creek Tour - SEE CLINT BLACK LIVE -

REGISTER NOW FOR A POWER TRIP & HOSTFEST TOUR

Discover more about the source of the electricity you enjoy everyday with this fun and educational trip.

September 29th – October 2nd, join other Arrowhead Electric Cooperative and Cooperative Light and Power members on a tour of the Coal Creek Power Station in Underwood, North Dakota and a day at the Minot Hostfest with tickets to see Clint Black live.

The cost of this tour is \$350/couple or \$250/single. This modest fee includes transportation, three nights lodging (at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck, N.D.), a power plant tour (including Coal Creek Station and Falkirk Mine), a tour of Knife River Interpretive Center, and admission to the Hostfest with tickets to a live performance by Clint Black.

The Ramkota Hotel is located across the street from the Kirkwood Mall (shopping galore!) and offers an indoor pool and

water park with a 150-foot water slide, sauna, Seasons Café and Nickels Lounge and Casino.

The tour will depart from the Two Harbors cooperative headquarters at 7:00 A.M. on Tuesday, September 29th and will return around 6:00 P.M. Friday, October 2nd.

Help us fill the bus! Registration deadline is August 18th. Please call our office at (218) 663-7239 or (800) 864-3744 for further details.

Please use the handy registration form below.

COAL CREEK TOUR RESERVATION FORM

A CHECK IS ENCLOSED FOR: _____ \$350.00/PER COUPLE _____ \$250.00/SINGLE

Name(s) _____

Please include first and last name of each person. _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home phone _____

Work phone _____

E-mail address _____

If you are traveling with a friend, write friend's name here. _____

Sharing a room? _____

_____ SMOKING ROOM _____ NON-SMOKING ROOM

MAIL TO ARROWHEAD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., P.O. BOX 39, LUTSEN, MN 55612, OR BRING FORM TO AECI HEADQUARTERS IN LUTSEN.

BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR CHECK WITH YOUR RESERVATION.

Appliance Promo – Refrigerators and Washing Machines

Starting August 16th and running through September 30th, Arrowhead Electric is promoting EnergyStar Refrigerators and Washing Machines. Our partner, Minnesota Sears stores will accept the coupons enclosed in this months statement during the entire promotion period. Please note that these coupons are in lieu of Arrowhead's standard rebate for these appliances. To

maximize savings, Sears is holding a one night promotional event on Sunday, August 16th from 6-9pm. During this time Sears will have special sales of up to 30% off selected EnergyStar Refrigerators and Washing Machines available only to Arrowhead Electric members.

We realize it is not convenient for everyone to visit a Sears store. We are also working towards the creation of incentives

for our local retailers who sell EnergyStar Refrigerators and Washing Machines. Please call your local retailer to see if they are participating in our special promotion in which an in-store rebate form is available. Please watch for upcoming local advertisements in future issues of the Cook County News Herald promoting this special.



Sunshine Corner

How old is Grandpa???

One evening a grandson was talking to his grandfather about current events. The grandson asked his grandfather what he thought about the shootings at schools, the computer age, and just things in general.

The Grandfather replied, "Well, let me think a minute, I was born before": Television, penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses, Frisbees and the pill.

There were no: Credit cards, laser beams or ball-point pens.

Man had not invented: Panty hose, air conditioners, dishwashers, clothes dryers and the clothes were hung out to dry in the fresh air and man hadn't yet walked on the moon.

You're Grandmother and I got married first, and then lived together.

Every family had a father and a mother.

Until I was 25, I called every man older than me, "Sir" and after I turned 25, I still called policemen and every man with a title, "Sir."

I was born before computer-dating, dual careers, day-care centers, and group therapy.

Our lives were governed by the Ten Commandments, good judgment, and common sense.

We were taught to know the difference between right and wrong and to stand up and take responsibility for our actions.

Serving your country was a privilege; living in this country was a bigger privilege.

We thought fast food was what people ate during Lent.

Having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with your cousins.

Draft dodgers were people who closed their front doors when the evening breeze started.

Time-sharing meant time the family spent together in the evenings and weekends-not purchasing condominiums.

We never heard of FM radios, tape decks, CDs, electric typewriters, yogurt, or guys wearing earrings.

We listened to the Big Bands, Jack Benny, and the President's speeches on our radios.

And I don't ever remember any kid blowing his brains out listening to Tommy Dorsey.

If you saw anything with 'Made in Japan' on it, it was junk.

The term 'making out' referred to how you did on your school exam.

Pizza Hut, McDonald's, and instant coffee were unheard of.

We had 5 & 10-cent stores where you could actually buy things for 5 and 10 cents.

Ice-cream cones, phone calls, rides on a streetcar, and a Pepsi were all a nickel.

And if you didn't want to splurge, you could spend your nickel on enough stamps to mail 1 letter and 2 postcards.

You could buy a new Chevy Coupe for \$600.00 but who could afford one? Too bad, because gas was 11 cents a gallon.

Rebate Information:

Below are the current rebate offers through AECI. Special 2009 Rebate offers:

- CFL Bulbs (minimum 5)
- Energy Star Appliances
- Ground Source & Air Source Heat Pumps
- Energy Star Air Conditioners
- Water Heaters
- Storage Space Heating
- Outlet Gaskets
- Water Heater Blanket
- Power Strips
- Pipe Insulation
- Retractable Clothes Line
- Water Saver Shower Head
- Door Sweeps
- Expanding Foam
- Indoor Shrink Wrap
- Programmable Thermostat
- Weather Stripping

You will find the necessary forms for the above listed AECI rebates at www.aecimn.com or call our office.



Simply submit a copy of your receipt to our office for the Special 2009 rebate offers, and remember to include your name and your account number on the receipt.

In my day: "Grass" was mowed, "coke" was a cold drink, "pot" was something your mother cooked in and "rock music" was your grandmother's lullaby. "Aids" were helpers in the Principal's office, "chip" meant a piece of wood, "hardware" was found in a hardware store and "software" wasn't even a word.

And we were the last generation to actually believe that a lady needed a husband to have a baby. No wonder people call us "old and confused" and say there is a generation gap... and how old do you think I am?

I bet you have this old man in mind... you are in for a shock!

This man would be only 59 years old.

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Cooperative Board Meeting last
Thursday of each month @ 9:00 a.m.

