



TIPS From T.I.P.

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OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

March 2009

Brooklyn, Iowa

American Energy Services Inc. Doing Pole-By-Pole Line Inspection



Pictured above are the shaded areas that will be checked by American Energy Services Inc. in 2009. They include our Tama Substation and Chelsea Substation.

Your Cooperative has been surveying all its lines once a year with its own supervisors looking for things which might need correction such as broken insulators, low line clearance, split cross-arms, trees to trim, etc. The problems located are always prioritized in order of need for correction and corrective actions are then made. This has been done to help provide reliable electric service to you.

2009 is the eighth year of our second time through of a pole-by-pole inspection program the Iowa Utilities Board is now requiring in addition to the program above. In this pole-by-pole program, a more detailed inspection is made where each pole is stopped by, gone up to, checked

over, recorded and a list of the required corrective action is made. This is being done so our entire system is covered in 10 years. As we have 1,700 miles of line we thus are doing this pole-by-pole line inspection on 170 miles of line each year. We will again prioritize problems located in order of need for correction and corrective actions will be made accordingly.

This is locating and correcting even more problems, but it does, of course, also cost more money to carry out as the added inspection plus additional work generated does all count up.

As we do not have enough time to do this additional inspection work with our own employees, we have again contracted with American Energy Services Inc. to do this inspection for us in 2009. They will be starting around the end of March and will be working in the areas that are shaded on the map shown to your left. They will use a couple of pickups with their company signs on them and possibly a 4 wheeler part of the time. If you see either their pickups or 4 wheeler in the area you will know what is going on.

A Dusty Refrigerator?

When is the last time you cleaned your refrigerator? Did you clean the back side or underneath it as well? The dust that accumulates on the coils makes your refrigerator run much longer and harder and it will shorten its life. A simple little brush, known as a refrigerator brush sold at hardware stores, or another similar cleaning tool is all you need. Clean the dirt off every 3-4 months and you will instantly begin saving energy.

Want to Pay Your Bill by Check, Debit or Credit Card? Log on to tiprec.com and Click on Rapid Pay or Call 866-271-5568.

**T.I.P. Rural Electric
Phone Numbers:**

**Regular hours 641-522-9221
After hours & holidays 641-522-9223
Toll free anytime 800-934-7976**

**Office hours: 8-5 weekdays
website: www.tiprec.com**

License Renewal Process Underway For The Duane Arnold Energy Center

The application for license renewal of Iowa's only nuclear power plant was submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on September 30, 2008. After more than 30 years in operation in providing environmentally-friendly energy to Iowa, the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC) has begun the anticipated 22-month process for renewing its operating license which is current until 2014.

Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO) is a co-owner of the DAEC with 20 percent ownership in the facility. CIPCO is T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperatives wholesale supplier of electricity. FPL Energy, a subsidiary of FPL Group, owns 70 percent of the DAEC. The remaining 10 percent is owned by Corn Belt Power Cooperative, Humboldt, Iowa.

The DAEC has been upgraded from its original 535 megawatt facility to 613 megawatts of electricity, enough energy to power 480,000 Iowa homes. Improvements over the years which have increased plant output include the installation of better equipment, improved energy practices, and preventive plant maintenance plans. "The plant is being maintained to a high state of performance and is prepared and equipped for the license renewal that would extend its operation to 2034," said Rich Anderson, site vice president of DAEC for FPL Energy.

This comprehensive process is reviewed by the federal government agency, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, by thoroughly examining safety and environmental analyses to ensure continued safe operation of the plant. The operation of the DAEC protects air quality as nuclear power plants do not emit greenhouse gases and therefore do not contribute to the nation's global warming concerns. A license renewal for the DAEC would mean that this plant can continue in generating safe and reliable electricity to benefit all Iowans.

Our Energy, Our Future A Dialog With America

Join thousands of Americans who have already sent 1,585,000 letters and emails to elected officials asking about our nation's energy and climate policy. Start by asking three questions about capacity, technology and affordability to get the dialog headed in the right direction. Go to www.ourenergy.coop for details about these questions and for more information.

Budget Billing

If you opt for budget billing your account is averaged for your last year of usage. That amount is what you would pay each month over the next 12 months. Periodically your account will be reviewed to insure that your monthly payments are keeping up with your actual usage. If you are interested, give our office a call.



Your Cooperative's Wind Supply Continues To Grow

The Story County Wind Energy Center pictured above became operational in October with 100 turbines.

Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), a generation and transmission cooperative owned by T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative and other distribution electric cooperatives in Iowa, has broadened its investment in Iowa-generated wind energy through the purchase of an additional 42 megawatts of renewable energy. CIPCO entered into a 10-year contract with a subsidiary of FPL Energy to purchase this resource from the 150-megawatt Story County Wind Energy Center.

"Adding additional wind energy furthers CIPCO's commitment to developing renewable energy resources in Iowa while supporting the state's economic growth," says Dennis Murdock, executive vice president and CEO of CIPCO. "This project enables us to continue enhancing our environmental stewardship by increasing our generation from carbon-free sources."

CIPCO uses a diverse fuel mix of coal, nuclear, hydro, wind, natural gas, and oil energy resources. Nearly 99 percent of the power CIPCO currently provides to its member systems is generated in Iowa, and more than one-third of the electricity is generated from carbon-free resources.

The Story County Wind Energy Center, located near Colo in northeastern Story County, consists of 100 wind turbines, each capable of producing 1.5 megawatts of wind power. Planning for the project started in 2005, and earth moving began in November 2007. The turbines became operational in October 2008.

Economic Impact - Story County Wind Energy Center

1. During construction, as many as 125 to 150 workers were involved in erecting the wind turbines on any given day.
2. 10 to 15 workers are responsible for ongoing inspection and maintenance of the equipment.
3. Nearly 60 miles of wire were buried to complete the project.
4. 32 truckloads of concrete were used to form the foundation for each of the 100 turbines.

Stimulus Package Extends Energy Rebates

The \$700 billion Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 that President Bush signed into law also extended and enhanced tax credits and financing related to renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Specifically, it extends energy efficiency tax deductions for commercial buildings through 2013 and revives similar deductions for home improvements installed in 2009. It also extends tax credits for builders of new energy-efficient homes through 2009.

Installation of a new, energy efficient ground source heat pump, central-air conditioner, or added insulation are just a few of these items listed that may qualify T.I.P. REC members for a tax credit in 2009.

For a complete list of these items and specifications to qualify log onto www.energystar.gov and click on the "1040 Tax Credits Under the Energy Bill" icon on the home page. Members are also welcome to call T.I.P. and request that a list be mailed.

NOTICE: If you are interested in having your monthly electric bill automatically withdrawn from your checking or savings account, please contact our office. We will send you a form to fill out and return with a voided check. Payments will be withdrawn from your account around the 18th of each month.



Annual Audit Completed

Each year your Cooperative requires an audit of its books by a Certified Public Accountant to check that proper accounting practices are followed. The 2008 audit was completed in January by the firm of Clifton Gunderson LLP of Cedar Rapids. Pictured above is Jim Fitzpatrick, (left), and Karen Nemecek.

Celebrate St. Pat's Day By Making Your Home "Green"

From clovers to leprechauns, green is the color of spring. Get your house in on the trend: Celebrate St. Patrick's Day by turning it "green" with energy-saving practices.

A few major overhauls can make your house greener, or more energy efficient. Some examples: Install energy-efficient doors and windows; buy Energy Star-qualified appliances; and invest in solar panels.

Small changes also can save energy on a daily basis and improve the environment. Here are a few to try:

1. Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent ones, which save energy and last longer. Upgrade light fixtures and lamps that won't accept compact fluorescent bulbs.
2. Save gas and postage stamps by banking and bill-paying online. Deliver other documents by e-mail rather than regular mail to save time and gas.
3. Make it a habit to turn off lights and computers at night or when you're finished using them.
4. Lower the heat or air conditioning before you leave the house. Close heating and cooling vents in rooms that you rarely use.
5. Before turning on the air conditioning, try opening a window to cool the house. Install shades or blinds to keep the sun's heat from getting into your rooms.
6. Reduce waste by reusing plastic water bottles and by donating unwanted clothes rather than throwing them out.

Watch Cooperative Property When Burning Ditches

It is that time of the year again when many of you may be burning off the weeds, grass, etc. in your ditches.

This burning helps clean things up, but it can also cause problems as "in" or "out" of control fire is sometimes allowed to burn around your Cooperative poles, anchor guy assemblies, underground cabinets and so forth.

Burning close to Cooperative property not only can cause a lot of damage, but it can also be dangerous and could cause future electric service problems. Any member involved may be invoiced for damage they cause to Cooperative property.

To avoid damage to Cooperative property, future service problems and danger to yourself and others, please watch where you burn.

Moving? Don't forget to notify your Cooperative.

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Happiness Is A By-Product Of An Effort To Make Someone Else Happy.

Your T.I.P. REC Employees: Showing You What The “Power Of Human Connections” Really Means

Your Cooperative employees have been busy demonstrating what the Touchstone Energy® brand means by showing customers that co-ops bring more to them than just electricity; they bring the power of human connections which is the tagline for Touchstone Energy®.

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative’s 26 employees have been showing that we care about our communities and promise to stand behind the core values of Touchstone Energy® which are integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to communities we serve by taking the time to volunteer when a helping hand is needed.

Last year your co-op employees put in approximately 1576.75 volunteer hours and are continuing to volunteer today to keep our communities thriving.

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative employees-volunteering to make our communities a better place to live.

Identify The Energy Abusers In Your Home With A Kill A Watt Monitor

Ever wonder how much electricity that old refrigerator in the basement uses? You can find out by using a Kill A Watt monitor. You simply plug your 110-volt

electronics or 110-volt appliances into a Kill A Watt monitor and measure how much electricity they use.

With rising electric costs, it’s a perfect time to see if your freezer in the garage is making the meter spin-or how much it is costing you to leave your computer on throughout the day. It may be cost effective to upgrade to more efficient appliances or to turn off electronics when not in use.

Kill A Watt monitors are available to T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative members to check out for one week at a time. Stop by the office and fill out the necessary paperwork and pay a \$30 deposit fee. The \$30 deposit fee will be returned to you when the monitor is returned to the office in good working order. If the monitors are already checked out, we will put your name on a waiting list.

Stay Safe Outdoors This Spring

Keep yourself and your family safe this spring as the warm weather lures you outdoors for chores and play.

1. Teach children to stay away from power lines, utility poles and substations.
2. Stay away from fallen power lines. Call your electric cooperative to report them.
3. Call Iowa One Call before you dig to plant a tree or build a deck or any other digging you might be planning to do. You’ll need to know if any underground electric, natural gas, water or cable lines are located on your property.