

Menard Electric Cooperative's

Connect to MEC



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

New construction project completed

Back in March, our operations department embarked on a very large job – building three phase distribution line to serve five new wells that are part of the city of Virginia's new water project.

Previously, we served one well at the site, and it will soon be shut down as the five new wells take over. The new wells each contain an 80 horsepower pump. With 300 horsepower overall, the project required three-phase instead of standard single-phase line to provide enough power. That meant adding new crossarms to 30 existing poles, adding 183 new poles, and stringing more than 10 miles of line.

Our crews worked through less than ideal conditions, fighting rain delays and extremely hot temperatures this summer along with traversing hilly, muddy, often flooded terrain, some of which was only accessible by four-wheeler or on foot.

As of this writing in early December, the project is nearly complete. Estimated total cost of the new line is about \$625,000. Virginia has reimbursed MEC about 45 percent of the total cost.

The five new wells are part of Virginia's project that includes a lime-softening plant and a 300,000 gallon water tower, which is planned to be completed in March. The new water tower will be 100,000 gallons larger than the existing one, built in 1936. This will allow the Cass Rural Water District, North Morgan Water Co-op and the Arenzville Water Co-op

to connect to the tower with new waterlines.

Currently 88 customers receive their water from Virginia; that number will change to more than 800. Once the new water project is complete, 600 customers in the city of Ashland will receive their water from the new plant by tapping into both the Cass Rural Water District and the North Morgan Water Co-op. The city will no longer have its own water system. The Arenzville Water Co-op will switch from private wells to the Virginia system to serve its 200 customers as well.

"Providing safe and reliable water for families and businesses in rural areas is a vitally important service," says MEC Manager Lynn Frasco. "Improv-

ing the quality of life of rural residents is what this co-op is all about. It's why we brought electricity to this area nearly 74 years ago and why we continue to explore ways to best serve our members. The Virginia water project will improve the lives of many of our members and more."



You can pay online

Did you know that if your bank allows you to pay bills online, you can pay your MEC bill as well? Please remember to put your account number (found in bold face on your bill stub above your map location number) in the appropriate location on your financial institution's form.

LIHEAP

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides a one-time lump sum payment directly to Menard Electric Cooperative on behalf of qualified individuals. Payment is based upon household size and combined gross monthly income (ex: One person-\$1,354; four-\$2,756). For more information contact the agency in your county.

Cass County-217-243-9404
 Logan County-217-732-2159
 Macon County-
217-428-0155 ext. 219
 Mason County-309-543-2594
 Menard County-217-632-3878
 Morgan County-.....217-243-9404
 Sangamon County- ...217-535-3120
 Tazewell County-.....309-266-9941

Mark the Date

74th Annual Meeting
 of Members
 Saturday, June 4, 2011

14300 State Hwy 97
 P.O. Box 200
 Petersburg, IL 62675

1-800-872-1203
 217-632-7746

www.menard.com

Monthly Safety Tip

Fire safety

Do you have one smoke alarm on each level and inside each bedroom? When was the last time you checked them all? Do it now. And change the batteries if it's been over 6 months.



Make One Change

We encourage you to make one small, no-cost change each month to save energy. To find out how all the little changes add up visit www.togetherwe-save.coop.



Time to pull the plug?

Pull the plug on that old fridge in your garage this month and you could save \$146 this year. Decide now if you really need the extra cold storage.

FOR SALE:

2003 Ford F550. Cab and chassis; 4 wheel drive; automatic; 147,000 miles. Sealed bids must be received in the office by 4:30 p.m. on January 15.

2011 tree trimming plan

We strive to provide safe, reliable service for all our members. One way we do that is to trim trees that could interfere with our 2,600 miles of distribution lines. MEC contract crews attempt to trim each circuit on our lines once every four years. This year they will trim circuits emanating from the Virginia, Bishop, New Berlin, Topeka, Allen, and Mason City substations (see maps).

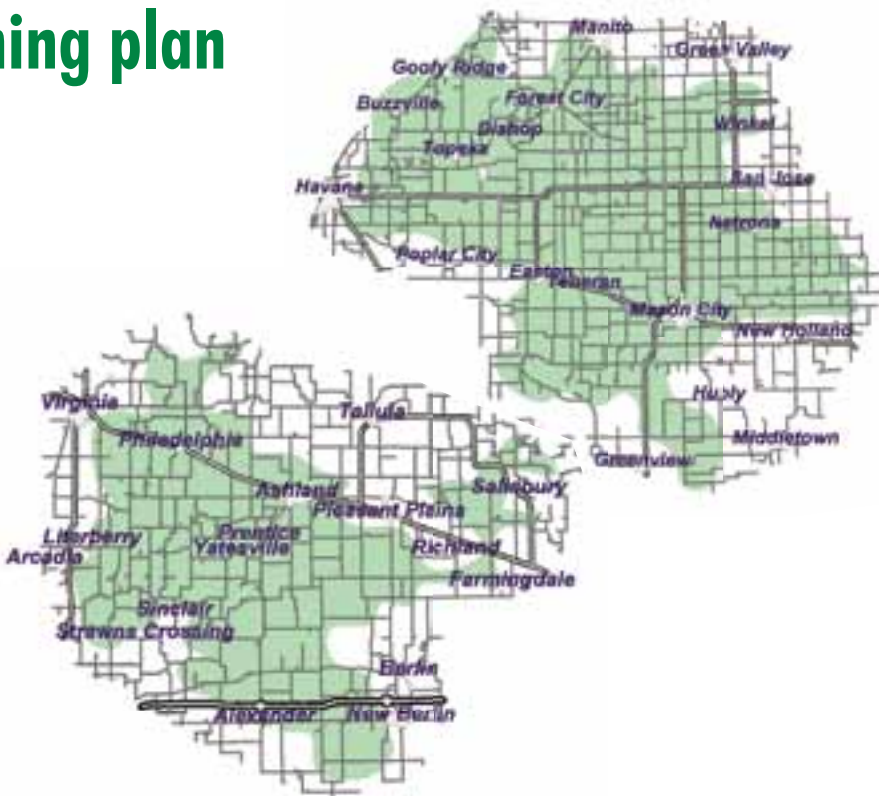
Trees are pruned back eight to 10 feet from lines. All trimming meets American National Standards Institute requirements to assure continued health of trees. Smaller trees and brush are removed to allow access and eliminate future problems. Small branches and brush will be chipped and removed while larger wood will be cut into manageable lengths for disposal by the member or other local parties.

Because of the size of our electric system, we ask that members keep trees trimmed around service wires from the home to the utility pole. Please notify us if you wish to tempo-

rarily disconnect power while you or a private contractor trim these trees.

Please contact us if a tree on your property needs to be trimmed back from our distribution lines. For more

information or to request tree trimming visit our website at www.menard.com or call System Engineer Jim Rechner at 800-872-1203.



Automatic Payment: One less thing to worry about!

You can have the net amount of your bill automatically deducted from your checking or savings account on the 17th of each month. Just get us this form by the 20th of the month prior to when you wish payments to begin.

Mail with a voided check to Menard Electric Cooperative, PO Box 200, Petersburg, IL 62675.

Name: _____ SS No. _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Map Location No. _____

Bank Name: _____

Bank Account No. _____

Checking acct. Savings acct.

I, _____, authorize Menard Electric Cooperative (MEC) to draw monthly bank drafts through the automatic plan (ACH) on the account shown above for the payment of my electric bill in full and any other services I authorize. I understand that I may discontinue my participation at any time by notifying MEC in writing. Both Menard Electric Cooperative and the bank may terminate this agreement with 10 days written notice. I understand that MEC reserves the right to limit participation in this program to customers whose accounts are in good standing. I understand the amount of my bill each month will be drafted on the 17th or next business day after. I understand that if funds are not available in my account for the draft to clear, there will be a charge posted to my MEC account, for NSF, and I will still be required to make full payment before the due date of the bill.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Board Meeting Report

For full minutes please visit our website at www.menard.com or contact our office.

Menard Electric Cooperative
From the Board Room
October 26, 2010

Present were Manager Lynn Frasco, Attorney Charles K. Smith and Directors Jerry Brooks, Michael Carls, Warren Goetsch, Gary Martin, Donald McMillan, Michael Patrick, Roy Seaney and Steven Worner. Director D. Jay Frye was absent.

2011 staff budgets presented.

Frasco and Hinton reviewed Rate 31-Large Power and Rate 70 - LMS as they would affect the 2011 CPDA with regard to problems with recent bills utilizing said rates. Proposed changes to the CPDA methodology was discussed and was scheduled for continued discussion at next month's meeting.

Resolutions were adopted regard-

ing additional equity contributions to Prairie Power, Inc. and revised loan guarantees with continuing guarantees for Prudential Insurance Company of America, CFC and CoBank.

An additional \$1,519,130 contribution from Menard to Prairie Power, Inc. financed at 3.75 percent fixed interest rate through a maturity date of 11/30/2022 was approved.

Carls discussed the switch to a pooling wholesale power contract with Prairie Power Inc. Smith advised he would review the amended wholesale power contract.

Frasco advised the cooperative had completed its updates to the

security system.

He reviewed qualifications of Brady Smith, hired as part of the engineering department due to the impending retirement of Alan Horn.

Frasco discussed hiring USIC Locating Services to perform cooperative locating services and advised a formal contract would be forthcoming.

Year to date margins were \$1,284,225 compared to \$1,239,844 a year earlier. Equity as of the end of September was 35.46 percent and the number of members served was 10,527 compared to 10,503 a year ago. Net utility plant was \$35,418,416 compared to \$35,366,958 last year.

Janey Ames retires

Janey Ames has served as a clerk for Menard Electric for 20 years. She handles daily deposits, mailings and customer service as part of her duties. You may have spoken to her on the phone regarding a bill or to make a payment. And if you've attended one of our annual meetings you've surely met her as you picked up your attendance gift.

This month Janey retires. She says she doesn't have any large retirement plans, she simply plans to enjoy each day and do a little more traveling.

