



Notes From The Manager

Power costs affecting everyone

As I have mentioned before in past issues of the *R.E.C. News*, an electric rate increase from our power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative, could be possible; it has now taken effect. Dairyland will charge a 2-mill increase per kwh; it started officially on October 1, 2001. This will amount to \$2.00 per thousand kilowatt hours used monthly. You will notice this increase added on your power cost adjustment factor, which is located on your electric bill.

The main reason for the increase is the price escalation from coal suppliers starting this past summer. Coal has also been in short supply from Dairyland's regular mines because of difficulties getting coal out. The high water on the Mississippi River this past spring also held up shipments until much later in the season. As a result, Dairyland has cut back some of the generation to conserve coal for the winter months and bought power out of the power pool when the price was right. The plants most affected are the Genoa 3 and older units at Alma that have coal barged into the sites.

Preliminary looks at Dairyland's budget for 2002 indicate there could be an additional 2 to 4 mills added next year, but that has to be determined later.

Officials at Dairyland are hopeful that prices will level off for coal supplies in late 2002, but time will tell. Coal has been a lower-price resource for many years, and its price is now starting to escalate.



A coal barge delivers coal to the Genoa Power Station in Genoa, WI, on the banks of the Mississippi River. The Genoa Plant burns around 1 million tons of coal annually.

Clark Electric is not anticipating increasing its electric revenue for the time being, so these increases will be added to the Power Cost Adjustment on electric bills probably starting in December 2001.

What about our rates? It has been almost two years since there has been any increase for our operations. It doesn't look too bad for the present; however, the long-term loans we are acquiring will raise our interest expenses dramatically over previous years'. Some of that interest has already been short term, which will

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Happy Thanksgiving

Our offices will be closed

November 22 & 23.



We will be open for regular hours
on Saturday, November 24 (8 a.m.–noon)

Dual Fuel Testing

For those members who are on our Dual Fuel Rate, we will be testing the controlling equipment on Wednesday, **November 28, 2001**. Please make sure your backup heat is working. Testing starts at 5:00 p.m. and will end by 11:30 p.m.

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Cooperative Luncheon

Celebrating Cooperative Month with our members

The weather cooperated and provided us with a wonderful day for our members to come out and enjoy the annual cooperative luncheon. It was held at the Greenwood American Legion Hall as it has been for the last several years. Clark Electric Cooperative, along with Heartland Cooperative, Land-O-Lakes, North Hendren Dairy Cooperative, and Dairy Farmers of America, hosted this year's luncheon.

Each October, cooperatives across the nation celebrate Cooperative Month, acknowledging their importance and how cooperatives affect our everyday life. Cooperatives give the power to the people; you, as a member, have a voice in how your business is operated.

This year, more than 600 members attended the luncheon. They enjoyed brats, hamburgers, hot dogs, beans, sauerkraut, and various cheeses from the local dairies, along with ice



Cooperative members enjoy their lunch, which was provided by Clark Electric and other local cooperatives. The luncheon is held annually to celebrate Cooperative Month.

cream sundaes for dessert. If you didn't make it this year, mark your calendars for next October and come celebrate Cooperative Month with your favorite cooperative—Clark Electric Cooperative.

Power cost & rates

(Continued from page 13)

be converted to long term. Guessing right now, I would estimate we might get into late 2002 or early 2003 without a rate adjustment. A lot depends on how our sales increase. Most of our members know that we have lost many farms where the Amish acquired ownership. New homes are being built in the area, but it takes about three or four homes to replace the farm use of electricity. A handful of commercial accounts have really helped our sales.

An interesting note, Clark Electric Cooperative's rate for 1,000 kwh per month on December 31, 2000, was the lowest in the Dairyland Power system. The average price paid was 13.4 percent higher and the highest price was 34.6 percent above ours. Couple this with the fact that we have refunded, in cash, more than \$10 million in capital credits, and we've made using electricity for your energy needs in this area an exceptionally good deal.

Dick Adler
CEO / General Manager

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REWARD FOR VANDALISM • THEFT • FRAUD

For information leading to the conviction of anyone for damaging the property of Clark Electric Cooperative and/or resulting in interruption of service to members of Clark Electric Cooperative. Further information concerning the defrauding or unauthorized use of the cooperative's electricity (stealing of power, where no metering is occurring).

Please call the cooperative's office, 800-272-6188 or 715-267-6188, or your local Sheriff's Department with information. This is your cooperative. By informing us, you're protecting your investment—your cooperative.

Substation Training

Providing quicker outage response

Clark Electric Cooperative linemen recently participated in a substation training drill provided by Dairyland Power Cooperative linemen. In our electric distribution system, all the substations that provide electricity to our members are owned, operated, and maintained by Dairyland.

However, when certain outages occur due to substation problems, Clark Electric's linemen are trained to provide certain services to help restore power back to the substation and to the members it serves. By our linemen having this training, outage times are greatly reduced, as Dairyland's nearest crews are located in Elk Mound. Pictured are Donny Vassey, Dairyland lineman, showing (left) Josh Burns, an apprentice lineman, and (back) Jim Schemensky how to fuse a hi-line fuse used on the transmission system.



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For information on
Clark Electric Cooperative's
Dairy Farm Wiring Program &
Loan Program with free inspections

**Contact John Knox
Director of Member services**

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