



# Clark Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy Partner



Dick Adler  
CEO/General manager

## Things of importance

### *Interesting cooperative happenings*

#### **California Mess**

Who would have dreamed of electrical blackouts in these days of high technology? Well, consumers in California have had real problems not only with deregulation and price increase, but also with the supply.

I have mentioned to our members that we will continue to oppose deregulation until we feel it will benefit all of our members, including the small users. We have not seen anything on the horizon yet to give us that indication, so your management as well as our statewide organization, Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association, will continue to oppose it.

Wisconsin does have a supply problem. This past winter we had to control many times to avoid huge demands that increase our costs and threaten our supplies. We had similar problems with summer loads also. Dairyland Power is constructing a peaking plant in the Elk Mound area to help us for a few years, but it will not be enough.

#### **Fuel Cells**

Clark Electric Cooperative has become a member of Electric Co-Opportunity (ECO) and is investing in fuel cell technology. Through our subsidiary, Clark Electric Appliance and Satellite, Inc., we will have low-capacity fuel cells available, hopefully during 2001. Although they will be quite expensive at first, when sales pick up, prices will fall. The fuel cells will be adaptable to residential and some farm use. Currently, test models are being installed around the United States that will be the preludes to the small-size units. More on this as the product becomes available.

#### **Rural Septic Phased Out**

Our idea to help and be of service to our members got put on the shelf before we could start. Clark Electric Appliance & Satellite, Inc., was prepared to

coordinate the installation, inspections, and reporting for new septic systems. We had intended to guarantee the proper operations of septic systems and periodic inspection for a monthly fee so people could be in compliance with new state laws. Well, after all the work to put the plan together, the state changed the rules and did not require the inspection and reporting on most of the systems that would be installed; therefore, it would not be necessary for us to provide this service. Like I mentioned, the plan is on the shelf if we would ever be called upon to provide such a service, but for now, everyone is on their own.

#### **Record Electric Sales in December**

Clark Electric had an increase of over 11 percent in kilowatt hours of electric sales for December as it was cold—worse than the past few years. Even though we had to control water heaters and dual fuel systems often, we were able to keep the system going with hardly any problems. The heavy snows we had were the dry type, and as of this writing (1/18), no ice. We still have to get through the mild part of winter when we can expect some icing, but hopefully we will escape.

#### **Your Thank Yous Appreciated**

It is gratifying to hear the thank yous for our recent capital credit refund. In early January, we sent out more than \$500,000 in cash refunds to those members and former members who received electric service from us in 1981. Many people who called didn't realize they would get these credits in cash, or they appreciated the money at this time of the year. The annual refund program is designed to help our members out a little more at this time of year, with the holidays just past and the tax season coming. This refund included capital credits allocated from Dairyland Power Cooperative, and they won't be making their refund for 1981 until October of this year, so it does put a squeeze on our cash.

**Dick Adler**  
CEO / General Manager

# Farm Wiring Program

*Is your farm up to code?*



With all the concerns of area farmers concerning stray voltage and other power-quality problems, Clark

Electric Cooperative has developed a new program for area farmers. The farm wiring program comes in two parts: The first, a complete wiring inspection by a licensed Wisconsin Electrical Inspector, with no cost to the member. Second: A loan program secured by a member's capital credits to fix any wiring problems found during the investigation.

The investigation will look at all the farm wiring, including entrances, junction boxes, types of service (3-wire or 4-wire systems), neutral connections, motors, lights, and all other systems that could cause or be suspect to electrical problems. The inspector follows NEC (National Electrical Code) and State of Wisconsin codes. When the inspection is completed, the inspector gives the member a complete report detailing any problems found. One of the best things about this program is that the farmer does not have to pay anything for this inspection service. Your board of directors believes

that with this type of program, we can work together to make sure that everyone has the best possible service to deliver and uses electricity properly and safely. To find out more information on the farm wiring program, contact Director of Operations Bob Moseley, who will be happy to set up an inspection for you.

The second part of the program is Clark Electric Cooperative's loan program. After completion of the wiring inspection, if the farm is in need of updating to bring it up to code, which will allow for a safe and proper electrical system, the board of directors has made available a loan program that uses up to 80 percent of the capital credits of the member, with a maximum of up to \$10,000, for five years at 6 percent/year, (1/2 percent/month on the unpaid balance). For those members requesting \$10,000, but with less than 80 percent capital credits, loans may be approved on a case-by-case basis by the board of directors.

If the member is interested in the loan program after he has a completed inspection, the member needs to contact our office and talk to Director of Member Services John Knox, who will help you in getting this part of the program in gear.

## Delegates Needed

*Participate in your electric cooperative*



As a cooperative member you have the chance to go and represent your cooperative and the rest of your fellow members in two very important meetings. These meetings are the Dairyland Power Cooperative Annual Meeting and the Wisconsin Federation of Cooperatives Annual Meeting.

A very important part of belonging to a cooperative is participating in its functions, whether by attending the annual meeting, utilizing programs designed to help in your

energy consumption, or by participating in important meetings such as these.

If you would like to participate, please contact Tracy Nelson, administrative assistant, by March 16, 2001. Tracy can be reached by calling the cooperative offices at 715-267-6188 or at 800-272-6188.

### Dairyland Power Cooperative Annual Meeting

11 Delegates needed  
4 Alternates needed

**June 6, 2001**

### Wisconsin Federation of Cooperatives Annual Meeting

3 Delegates needed  
2 Alternates needed

**Nov. 11, 12, 13, 2001**



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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



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# Exploding Fossil Fuel Costs

*Are you ready to switch to GEOTHERMAL?*

With the increased prices, demand, and limited supply of natural gas, propane, and fuel oil this winter, we have seen an increased interest in switching to a geothermal heating & cooling unit. Are you ready to change your current system and enjoy the benefits of a geothermal unit? If you are, now is the time to contact Clark Electric Appliance & Satellite for an estimate on your home. System installations are booking up. Don't delay—call us to set up your home for the Econar geothermal system.

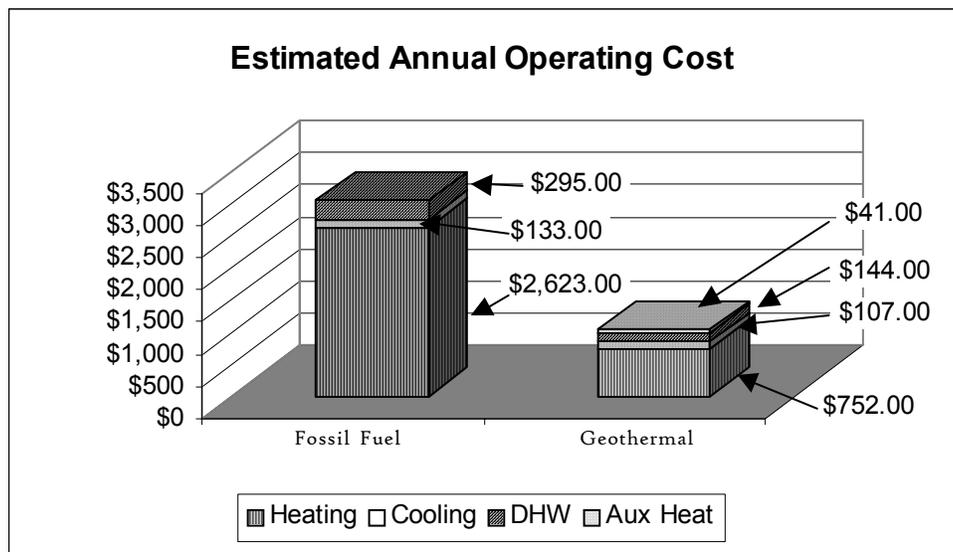
This winter, prices for propane were averaging around \$1.39-\$1.53 per gallon, fuel oil at \$1.19-\$1.25, natural gas at \$.88 to \$1.00 per therm. Why pay these high prices when with an Econar system and an electrical rate of \$.03 to \$.06 per kwh, you would save 60 to 80 percent of your current heating/cooling costs?

The Econar geothermal unit is both a heating and central air conditioning unit in one. When sized correctly, it produces 100 percent of your household heat with no need of an additional furnace. Attaching this system to your existing electric hot water heater, it will also save you up to 65 percent of the water heater's electrical cost.

The up-front cost of a geothermal unit may appear to be slightly higher than other furnace installations, but the benefits and the payback far outweigh the initial cost. This past winter, we have heard the horror stories of the high fuel bills that people were faced with. Rita Sladich, executive vice president of Clark Electric Appliance &

Satellite, has an Econar geothermal system in her home. While everyone was turning down thermostats to lower their fuel bills, adding blankets and sweaters, her family has been warm and comfortable. Why? Their average heating bill this winter has been \$50 to \$60/month, and it only increased approximately \$25 during the month of December with the extreme cold. The other benefit to having the geothermal system is that Rita only has ONE utility bill.

Call or stop in at Clark Electric Appliance & Satellite to find out more information about geothermal heating and cooling and how you can save on your heating and cooling bills while reducing your overall energy bills. You can call us at 267-6544, or use our new 800 number, which is 1-866-279-6544. Clark Electric Appliance & Satellite, Inc., is located on 111 East Miller St. in Greenwood.



## Property For Sale - Highway 29 Exposure



Serviced with 3-phase Electric Power from Clark Electric Cooperative

### Blue Chip Elevator

Feed Mill - Truck Terminal - Produce Barn - Auction Barn - Warehouse, the uses are unlimited. 5.59 acre site with well, holding tanks and a gravelled yard. 220,000+ cubic feet of available storage space. 130 X 60 X 16 ft. building and 85 X 60 X 21 ft. building, semi-trailer accessible. 24 X 82 ft. mill building, 3-25 X 80 ft. Harvestore silos, stainless steel horizontal mixer, elevator legs, holding bins, two Gigant grain cleaners, truck scales, and various conveyors.

Call Jim or Steve at Schiferl Realty  
715-223-4068

# Dig This Job

*Before digging there are a few things to do...*

Since spring is just around the corner, we thought it was very important to remind everyone about the “rules of digging.” You mean you didn’t know that there were rules? You know, making sure that you are doing what your significant other wants you to do, or that you have the proper tools! No, not those rules—our rules for digging.

It is law that if you are going to dig in or near any buried power line, you need to call **DIGGERS HOTLINE at 800-242-8511**. Diggers Hotline is a service that all utilities use to locate underground services. Local contractors are contracted out by the utilities to do their locating. Locating underground lines has two very important parts to it.

First and foremost is your safety. We do not want anyone hurt or killed by digging into the ground with a shovel or a backhoe and coming into contact with an underground line. Secondly, it is very costly for the homeowners when they damage our underground lines without having it located by calling Digger’s Hotline service. And there’s even a third possibility, depending on what type of line is damaged: If an outage occurs because of this, someone else could get hurt or killed because of a lack of service. Please call **Diggers Hotline at 800-242-8511** before doing any digging this spring.



## **Something else concerning digging**

*Clark Electric Cooperative will only identify those wires that are before the electric meter (our service wires). It cannot identify those wires that are owned by members that might go to a barn or shed, etc. But there is good news—Triple E locating service, which is the locator that we contract with to do our Digger’s Hotline request, will locate private facilities (wires) after the meter for a fee. You can call their office at 800-309-7867 for more information on contracting their locating services.*

## **Statement of Nondiscrimination**

Clark Electric Cooperative is a recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. In accordance with federal law and U. S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

The person responsible for coordinating this organization’s nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Richard Adler, General Manager/CEO of Clark Electric Cooperative. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discriminatory action, or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Administrator of RUS extends the time for filing. Identity of complaints will be kept confidential except the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture