

Dangerous Activity

INVESTIGATION CONTINUES

Damaging Cooperative Property Costly

Vandals have been damaging Clark Electric Cooperative's property by cutting ground wires that are important to our system operation. During late summer and fall of 2002, many ground wires were severed in the northeast area of our electrical system in the townships of Colby and Sherman. Ground wires owned by Xcel Energy and Dairyland Power Cooperative were also damaged.

These ground wires on our system are needed when emergencies occur. They are used for the protection of our equipment and our system to shut down in the event of storm damage, accidents, or other emergency breakdowns of the

electrical system. If a line remains energized with the ground wires damaged, serious injury or death could occur to cooperative employees or members of the public. Employees rely on a well-grounded system when working on and around our energized lines.

Therefore, Clark Electric Cooperative announces a reward of \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone who has damaged or who damages cooperative property. This information will be kept confidential and can be relayed either to the cooperative management or the County Sheriff's Department. ■

Dick Adler
CEO/General Manager



Here's a pole with its ground cut. This can be a dangerous situation for our linemen and for others during a problem with the electric system.

Director Positions INFINITE HORIZONS...

Openings For The Following Areas

- 1) Dewhurst, Hewett, Levis, Pine Valley, Seif, Washburn, and Weston.
- 2) Butler, Eaton, Foster, Hendren, Mead, and Warner.

Please contact Dick Adler, CEO/General Manager, or John Knox, Director of Member Services, by Wednesday, February 26, 2003, so that nominations can be forwarded to the Nominations Committee. ■

Clark Electric Cooperative

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

10:00 a.m. Loyal American Legion Hall

...A BRIGHT FUTURE.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner





A "slinky loop," is being installed. This closed loop holds the fuel (water) that makes your geothermal system so efficient.



Save Energy and Money This Year

Are those winter heating bills giving you the winter blues?

Every year, homeowners watch as their propane and natural gas prices go up and down throughout the year. The worst part is that the prices always seem to go up during the winter months when you use the most gas. There is a way to stop this vicious cycle of paying these high bills, and it all starts here at Clark Electric Cooperative.

How can your electric cooperative reduce your gas bills? Your electric cooperative has great electric heat incentive rates, and combined with our regular low electric rates, you can't go wrong (Clark Electric Cooperative has one of the lowest rates in the state). Electric rates, unlike gas rates, are very stable and do not go up and down during the seasons. Now there is one more important part to saving on your heating and also your cooling bills.

A geothermal ground source heat pump is the key to saving you money. A ground source heat pump is the most efficient heating and cooling system around. The heat pump uses no fuel, such as propane or natural

gas. Electricity combined with high-efficient refrigeration equipment moves heat from one source to

another; this makes the heat pump the answer for you.

Clark Electric Appliance & Satellite, Inc., provides the expertise and knowledge in providing our members with the geothermal answers. The staff at Clark Electric Appliance & Satellite, Inc., will provide you with the information needed to make a helpful decision that will show how you can save on your energy costs for next year. While figuring out your savings, the staff will be able to size the proper unit that will heat and cool your house, providing you with many years of comfort and continued savings.

There are so many benefits to having a geothermal heat pump installed besides saving all kinds of money. A heat pump uses no fossil fuel, which means there is no combustion occurring in your house. No combustion means no lethal carbon monoxide can build up inside your home due to a furnace failure. Also,

with nothing burning, the air is cleaner and healthier. A geothermal system also allows the house to be a consistent temperature throughout, and because of this, your house doesn't dry out, so there is no need to add humidity.

There are many more reasons to consider having a geothermal heat pump installed in your house this spring or summer, but the best reason is that your electric cooperative stands behind these energy-efficient heating and cooling units. Come into Clark Electric Appliance & Satellite, Inc., today. Talk to Rita or Greg and they will be happy to assist you. Or you can call the office with more questions at 866-279-6544. ■



Greg Shaw & Rita Sladich work on plans for a new geothermal install, designed for "Your House, Your Comfort."

Increased Electrical Usage? Blame it on Winter

Every year during the winter months, we get calls from members concerned because their electric usage has increased. Almost everyone's energy usage increases during the winter, and there are many reasons for the extra usage...

- Christmas tree and holiday lighting has increased tremendously over the past 5–10 years. All the icicle lights and other decorative lighting are beautiful to see; however, with all the extra lighting comes the expense of operation. Because we receive our electric bill after the holiday season, we sometimes forget how many days and nights the lights were used. While it's true the miniature light bulbs so widely used now consume less electricity per bulb, there are many more bulbs per strand and more strands in use at most homes.

- In addition to the extra lighting during the holiday season, there is often more company visiting and children at home from school. This often means more baking, cooking, TV, video game and computer usage, lights, showers, and of course, laundry, especially if you have college kids at home for the holidays. This, like the holiday lighting, adds to our electric usage.

- One of the biggest increases in winter electric usage comes from the use of electric space heaters, heat tapes, and heat lamps. Do you have any? How often do you use them? Not only are they used in milkhouses, but often they are used in basements, garages, entryways, and other cold rooms in the house. While space heaters may be necessary to keep pipes or rooms from freezing, they can significantly increase the electric usage.

- Another item that is often overlooked in the winter is the use of engine heaters. It's not uncommon for someone to have an engine heater plugged in on several tractors, cars, or trucks, and they are often plugged in most of the night and day. Just one 1,000-watt heater used every day can easily add \$30 or maybe much more to your electric bill each month. The actual costs depends on the size (wattage) of the heater, whether the heater has a thermostat or not, and how long it is in use each day. An engine timer is recommended to reduce the hours the heater runs every day and to save you money.

- There are other reasons for increased electric usage in the winter. Furnace blowers run longer in colder weather, and heaters in livestock waterers may have been on for most of the billing period. We know that some people have heated water dishes for their pets, and the freezing weather makes the heating elements in the dish operate longer.

- A warm water bed can be cozy on a cold winter night, but water beds can be much more expensive to operate in the winter if they are in an unheated room and the bed is often left unmade. An unmade water bed in a cold room will work extra hard to heat up the entire room.



- In addition to all the extra items using electricity because of the cold weather, there can also be problems with bad wiring, bad appliances, leaking hot water pipes, etc. In this busy world we live in, the many ways we use electricity every day is forgotten until we look at the electric bill, which could be as much as four to six weeks after the usage.

We know it's easy to forget about all the different electrical items you may have used during the previous month. However, before calling us about any increased electric usage, please take a few minutes to think about what may have caused it. If you still have questions or concerns about your usage, please contact us. ■



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