



CLARKE REC Headlines

The official publication of Clarke Electric Cooperative



SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED

Volume No. 80 No. 6 | June 2020



The co-op office will be closed Friday, July 3. We wish all our members a safe and healthy holiday weekend!

NOTE: The Clarke Electric Cooperative office continues to be closed to the public. Please call (800) 362-2154 for questions about your bill or other co-op services.

Save the Date: 80th Annual Meeting Sept. 14

Plan now to join Clarke Electric Cooperative in celebrating the 80th Annual Meeting of the Membership Sept. 14 at the Clarke County Event Center. Due to COVID-19, we are exploring ways to keep our distance from each other and ensure the meeting is safe for you to attend. As the date draws near, we will keep you informed of any changes to the venue or format of the meeting in this newsletter, on our website or Facebook page. 31-05-02-05

Looking Out for You: April Outages

Equipment failure: 6	Storm, ice, snow: 2
Ice on trees: 5	Trees: 1
Maintenance: 4	Customer Caused: 1
Unknown: 3	

 **CLARKE**
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Safety Driven • Energy Smart • Community Invested
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

P.O. Box 161 1103 N. Main
Osceola, IA 50213-0161
www.cecnet.net

June 1 Marked Return to New Normal

WE ALL WANT THE BEST FOR the people in our lives – our family, friends, community and others. That includes you, our member-consumers. It's why we make safety a top priority at Clarke Electric even as the safety we practice took a new form when the COVID-19 pandemic emerged in the U.S. The pandemic has been a game changer for everyone; and Clarke Electric was no exception. In mid-March, we closed the office to the public and encouraged employees to work remotely. We placed our linemen in individual trucks to work on non-safety sensitive jobs when it was practical.

Now we are implementing our Return to Work plan. On June 1, staff resumed a "new normal" way of conducting business. Our plan calls for office personnel to return in three waves, while the line department will continue to drive individually to work sites and resume functions while practicing social distancing and wearing face coverings when practical. The lobby will remain closed through June and we will re-evaluate that decision at that time.

During all of this, our commitment to keep the power flowing and the lights on has not changed. Our

member-consumers, employees and communities are our priority as well. We will continue to talk about updates to our plan in the newsletter, on our website and on Facebook as decisions are made, sometimes very quickly. We appreciate your patience and understanding with our business modifications to help us try to sustain a safe environment for everyone.

We encourage our member-consumers to call in with questions about services and payment arrangements if necessary. We know families have been impacted by loss of jobs, illness and the limited movement within our communities. We are working with our statewide agencies and government entities to lessen the burden regarding your energy bill if you have been affected by COVID-19.



DAVE OPIE
General Manager



The cooperative conducted its most recent board meeting via Zoom conferencing to perform business as usual in an unusual platform.

Reading pays! We have hidden two of our members' account numbers in this issue. If you find your member location number, call during June to have \$10 deducted from your monthly energy account.

Benefits Beyond Savings

T'S NOT OFTEN THAT A PLUMBING

contractor enters a home to replace a furnace that could easily be on exhibit in a history museum.

But that's exactly what happened when, in January, Peggy Bedier's 50-plus-year-old Lear-Siegler oil burning stove conked out and needed to be replaced.

"I had two plumbers out here and both of them told me it couldn't be fixed," Bedier said. "One of them said he wanted to put it in his shop as a conversation piece. Of course, at the time, I was mad because it quit. But I told him he could have it. The poor thing was just worn out, even though it still looks good on the outside. The plumbers told me it was too far gone."

Bedier, who lives in rural Ellston on her husband's longtime family farm, estimates the fuel oil stove was installed about 50 years ago. A tank on the outside of her home needed to be filled two to three times a year in order to get through the cold months. A later addition to the house that added bedrooms and a bathroom for Bedier's children as they were growing up included electric baseboard heat.

"I cleaned out the inside three or four times, but by late November, I knew I couldn't use it anymore," she said. "So at night, the dog and I were sleeping in a comfortable bedroom with heat, but in the daytime, it was pretty cold in the rest of the house."

A new mini-split heat pump was installed for Bedier in February that will provide her much more efficient heating as well as cooling that would replace her window air conditioner unit.

"Certainly there are both safety and health benefits to removing a combustible furnace that used oil," said Joe Hejda, Manager of Smart Electrification for Central Iowa Power Cooperative, the power supplier for Clarke Electric. "That's why you don't see these much anymore. With her new system, she should see her bill go down noticeably and her home comfort increase, especially in the summer. This is a perfect example of why we promote beneficial electrification.

It's more than electric vehicles and geothermal. It can provide solutions that create benefits beyond savings for all types of members."

Clarke Electric Cooperative Manager of Member Services Jason Gibbs helped Bedier take advantage of rebates for her new system.

"I got a rebate of \$650 back and it's wonderful," Bedier said. "I've got three grandkids and a step grandchild graduating from high school this year, so this money will go to them."

In his visits to Bedier's home, Gibbs came to understand the fixture the stove had become to the house and the family.

"Peggy showed us picture after picture of first her kids and then her grandkids sitting on the old stove as if it was a piece of furniture," Gibbs said. "I guess, for many years it was and I'm sure some of them will miss it. However, her new mini-split heat pump is sleek, takes up less space, requires less maintenance, and will heat and cool her home for a lot less money."

"I'm just so happy to have this done," Bedier added. "If I'd had any idea that this was going to happen, I would have done it in the fall. But you never know. I got more years out of it than I thought I would."



Peggy Bedier next to her Lear-Siegler oil burning stove.



The new mini-split system.



Energy Smart: Reduce Energy Use During Peak Hours

PEAK HOURS ARE THE BUSIEST times for Clarke Electric Cooperative, since many people are using electricity at the same time. In addition, it costs your co-op more to generate electricity when demand soars during peak periods – and the cost of your electricity also may rise. By simply using less electricity during peak periods, you can help save your co-op – and yourself – money. Here's how you can help during peak hours, which generally are on the hottest summer days between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m.:

- Shift household chores and activities away from peak periods.
- If you have air conditioning, turn the

thermostat up when you are gone and at night. Cool only the rooms that you are using.

- Use the most energy-efficient appliances you have. Your microwave oven uses less energy than your stove.
- Look for the ENERGY STAR® label when buying new appliances.
- Be aware of your energy consumption, and try to get in the habit of using energy efficiently year-round.

Use the energy you need, but use it wisely! You'll help your co-op avoid building expensive new power plants – and that, in turn, will help keep your electric rates stable.

Grain Bin Notice

F YOU'RE CONSIDERING BUILDING A NEW GRAIN BIN, REMEMBER

that it's important to first contact Clarke Electric Cooperative.

Your cooperative will provide assistance in planning for a safe environment for everyone working and living around grain bins. The State of Iowa requires specific clearances for electric lines around grain bins, with different standards for those filled by portable and permanent augers, conveyors and elevators.

The drawings on this page show the specific clearances required for both scenarios. If you have any questions, please Clarke Electric.

According to the Iowa Electric Safety Code found in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 199 -- 25.2(3) b.: *An electric utility may refuse to provide electric service to any grain bin built near an existing electric line which does not provide the clearances required by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI)C2-2017 "National Electrical Safety Code," Rule 234F. This paragraph "b" shall apply only to grain bins loaded by portable augers, conveyors or elevators and built after September 9, 1992, or to grain bins loaded by permanently installed augers, conveyors, or elevator systems installed after December 24, 1997.* (As adopted by the Iowa Utilities Board)

Clarke Electric Cooperative is required by the Iowa Utilities Board to provide this annual notice to farmers, farm lenders, grain bin merchants, and city and county zoning officials. If you have any questions concerning clearance regulations, please contact the cooperative.

Disclaimer: These drawings are provided as part of Iowa electric cooperatives' annual public information campaign and are based on the 2017 Edition of the National Electrical Safety Code. To view the actual drawings, refer to that publication. Every care has been taken for the correctness of the contents for these drawings. However, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and its member cooperatives accept no liability whatsoever for omissions or errors, technical inaccuracies, typographical mistakes or damages of any kind arising from the use of the contents of these drawings, whether textual or graphical.

Co-op Resumes Disconnects for Non-Payment; Contact Us for Payment Arrangements

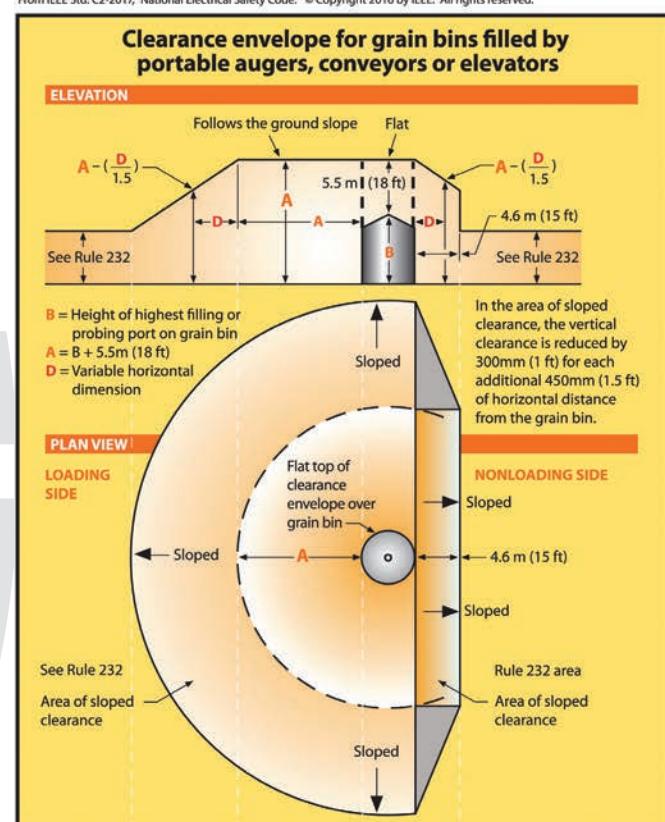
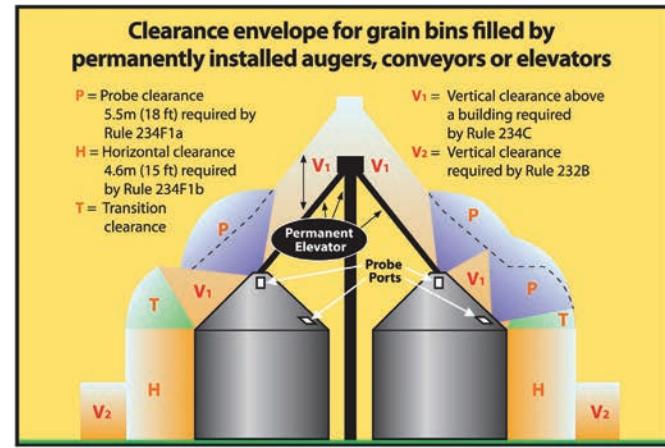


KIM GRIFFIN
Billing Specialist

I N CONNECTION WITH THE MAY 27 EXPIRATION of Governor Kim Reynolds' proclamation that eased restrictions and permitted the reopening of some businesses, Clarke Electric resumed its disconnection procedure due to nonpayment.

Conditions and requirements for resuming disconnects were set by the Iowa Utilities Board and established a phased-in approach to disconnections and give customers time to contact a community action agency or other organization for available assistance if needed. In addition, the phase-in will allow member-consumers who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and who may not be familiar with the disconnection process time to enter into a payment agreement with Clarke Electric. 54-03-02-02

The deadline to apply for Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has also been extended to June 30. This program can



help you meet the cost of your winter heating bills.

If you have fallen behind on your electric bill payments due to COVID-19 or any other reason, contact the cooperative or the Iowa Department of Human Rights, (515) 242-5655 for more information on making payment arrangements.



We are happy to work with you to make sure your account is current and avoid any interruption in service. Give us a call today, (641) 342-2173.

2019 Central Iowa Power Cooperative Power Supply Report

F 2018 WAS A GROUNDBREAKING year for Central Iowa Power Cooperative, then 2019 was a year of executing on strategy. The organization rolled up its sleeves and got to work implementing new strategic priorities along with new generation projects designed to partially replace output from one of CIPCO's primary sources of energy, the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC), set to close in October of 2020.

These new generation projects fall right in line with CIPCO's goal of providing a diverse, 24/7 energy portfolio. In particular, progress continued on Wapello Solar, a 100 MW facility on 850 acres in Louisa County, from which we will purchase 100 percent of its output. Developed by Clēnera, LLC, Wapello Solar is Iowa's largest solar project. In 2019, worked with the developer as they obtained zoning approvals and secured a generating certificate from the Iowa Utilities Board. We expect Wapello Solar to come online in late 2020. In addition, an \$85 million repowering project is taking place at the existing Summit Lake Generating Station in Creston. The modernization project for the 70-year-old plant will add 55 MW of efficient natural gas-fired reciprocating engines to CIPCO's portfolio, while retiring the old steam engines. Significant work took place throughout the year, with Creston transmission crews rerouting substantial lines in preparation for the Summit Lake North substation deconstruction and rebuild. Demolition work for phase one is complete. The new engines are expected to be in place and operational in late 2020.

Clarke Electric Cooperative and CIPCO strive to provide safe, affordable and reliable power to our consumer-members across the system. In addition, the



implementation of the Low Voltage New-To-Replace-Old (NTRO) program in 1986 and the expansion of it in 1995 includes over 845 miles of rebuilt line. NTRO, along with sound operating and maintenance programs, helps ensure our power supply system attains the high degree of reliability our consumer-members expect and deserve.

Financial strength is integral to our success and has led to strong credit ratings, stable rates that are now the lowest among G&Ts in the Midwest, and access to borrowing capital to complete system upgrades and enhancements cost effectively.

The unexpected early closure of DAEC underscores the important actions taken over many years to manage risk and position CIPCO to withstand the loss of a vital generation resource. As a result, CIPCO has managed through this period of change by adjusting its future resource strategy while maintaining stable or declining rates as new cost-effective resources are secured.

Returning patronage capital is a fundamental component of the cooperative business model. CIPCO remains dedicated to sound financial practices that allow margins to be returned to its members in the form of patronage. During 2019, CIPCO returned patronage totaling

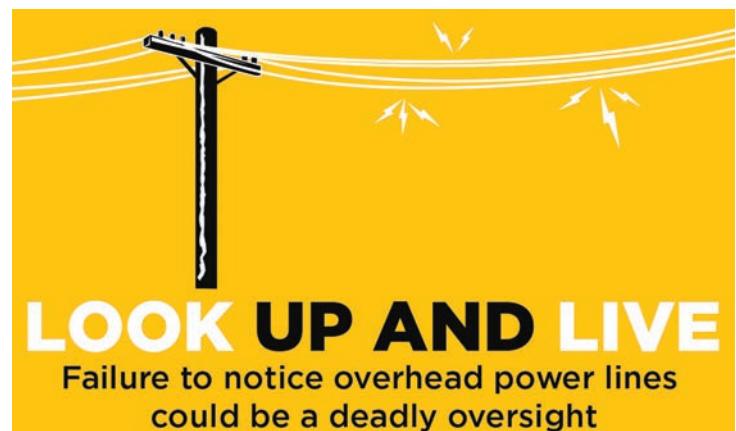
\$400,597.59 to Clarke Electric Cooperative.

In today's energy-conscious world, CIPCO and Clarke Electric Cooperative are committed to ensuring consumer-members use energy wisely and utilize available options to reduce excess energy consumption. As a result of these efforts, CIPCO and its member systems issued energy-efficiency rebates saving approximately 13,233,348 million kWh. In comparison, the average house uses nearly 11,000 kWh a year, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. That includes 358,469 kWh savings for Clarke Electric Cooperative members.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve on both the local board of directors and the CIPCO board of directors. I am proud to say, as a result of decisions made in 2019, Clarke Electric Cooperative's consumer-members, as well as the entire CIPCO system, will be well-served now and into the future.



RANDY ROUSE
**CIPCO Board of
Directors**



CLARKE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

PO Box 161, 1103 N Main, Osceola, IA 50213-0161

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

www.cecnet.net

Board of Directors

Randy Barnard, New Virginia
Larry Jackson, Clio
Larry Keller, Osceola
Kyle Kelso, Weldon
Cody Miller, Thayer
Randy Rouse, Corydon
Ed White, Osceola
Bill Willis, New Virginia
Lydda Youmans, Indianola

David Opie, General Manager

Office Hours: Mon - Fri 7:30 am - 4 pm

Outside Depository Available 24 Hours

641.342.2173 | 800.362.2154