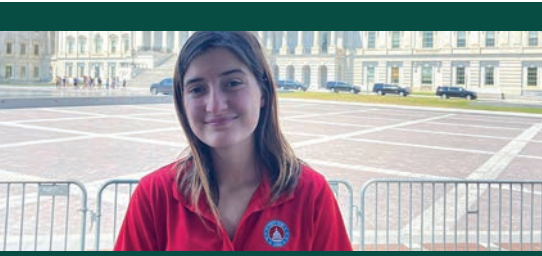




CLARKE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Safety Driven • Energy Smart • Community Invested

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Volume 84, No. 7 | July 2024

HEADLINES

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED

COMMUNITY INVESTED

Report of the Nominating Committee

The Clarke Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting of the Membership is right around the corner. In preparation, the cooperative enlists the help of a nominating committee to select candidates to run as opponents against incumbent directors.

Directors in District 6 and the two at-large districts will be on the ballot this year. The 2024 Nominating Committee members are:

District 6: Kyle Kelso and Jason Boyer

At-Large Districts: Gary Alley, Larry Jackson, Frank Riley and Steve Reynolds.

The Nominating Committee is tasked with seeking

candidates in each district in the election who are willing to serve on the board. The committee follows the guidelines set forth in the by-laws to select at least one candidate to run against the incumbent when possible. If the district is open, they will select two candidates when possible. District 6 director Marni Kelso has announced she will not seek another term.

The election will be held in conjunction with the Clarke Electric Annual Meeting of the Membership Tuesday, Sept. 10. If you are interested in serving as a director candidate, please call the cooperative before July 21: (800) 362-2154.

Save THE Date!

ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, Sept. 10
1103 N. Main, Osceola

3:30-5:30 PM: Drive thru FREE chicken dinner from Cater 2U2

5:30 PM: In-person business meeting in the co-op warehouse

If you're planning to attend, please register by scanning the QR code at right, calling the cooperative at (641) 342-2173 or emailing clarke@cecn.net so we can plan the number of meals needed. Please register by Sept. 3.



Every member who attends the drive-thru will receive a gift. Cash prizes will also be given out during the business meeting. Must be present to win.

Stop by and see us at the Iowa State Fair!
Aug. 8-18

OFFICIAL SPONSOR




Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives
of Iowa

Visit our booth in the 4-H Exhibits Building on the southwest end of the fairgrounds. We'll have plastic hard hats and suckers for kids (while supplies last), a safety selfie station and lineworker gear to try on!

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

Sounding the Alarm: Fed Policy Threatens Reliability

Those of us who work in the electric utility sector are deeply concerned how federal energy policy is threatening electric reliability for the families, businesses and communities we serve. It's time to sound the alarm and raise awareness of how these misguided mandates will negatively impact our country.

In April, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its final Power Plant Rule, which includes four major environmental regulations. One regulation under Section 111 of the Clean Air Act (also known as the Greenhouse Gas Rule) will limit emissions from existing coal and new natural gas power plants. The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) stands with the Iowa Attorney General, the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) and the Iowa Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) in opposing these regulations on the grounds that they are unlawful, unrealistic and unachievable.

The EPA's Power Plant Rule requires existing coal and natural gas generation facilities to deploy carbon capture and sequestration at a level that is not yet achievable or commercially viable. The other three regulations in the rule impose additional burdensome requirements on legacy coal ash sites.

Specifically, the Power Plant Rule will force the early

closure of "always available" electric generation sources and limit the construction of new natural gas plants as our nation's economy will require more electric generation in the years ahead. These new standards will impact electric utilities' ability to economically and reliably replace lost coal generation.

With the Power Plant Rule, the EPA is overreaching its legal boundaries, disregarding practicality and endangering national energy security. **These new mandates jeopardize affordable and reliable electricity by forcing the premature closure of "always available" power plants while also making it harder to permit, site and build critical new generation facilities.** As electric demand increases each year, replacing dispatchable electric generation sources like coal and natural gas with intermittent power sources like solar and wind is a recipe for disaster. We support an "all of the above" electric generation strategy that prioritizes reliability.

Iowa's electric utilities are not alone in our concern. In filing joint comments on the proposed EPA Power Plant Rules back in 2023, Iowa's OCA and the IUB expressed the following opposition to the mandates:

"The proposed rules are rushed, the record does not meaningfully consider the impact of this truly essential

service, and EPA myopically pursues a narrow goal at the expense of larger societal benefits like life, heat, and jobs."

National utility trade associations – including the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) – and a coalition of 27 attorneys general, including Iowa Attorney General Brenna Bird, have filed separate lawsuits in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, petitioning for review of the EPA's Power Plant Rule and to stay the rule while the Court decides the motion.

Additionally, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) has noted this growing capacity shortfall which has resulted from the reduction in reliable electric generation and the increase in electric demand. In its 2024 Summer Reliability Assessment, NERC warns that there is an elevated seasonal risk for several regions of the country, including parts of the Midwest. This means there is potential for insufficient operating reserves in above-normal peak conditions. And

in 2023, NERC listed energy policy as the highest significant risk to grid reliability.



CHUCK SODERBERG

Iowa's economy can't succeed without reliable electricity, and the EPA cannot ignore growing reliability challenges at this critical time for our nation's energy future. The EPA must follow the law and set realistic standards based on technology that has been adequately demonstrated and is achievable. 22-30-01-01

Federal energy policy has now become a major threat to electric reliability and it's time to take a stand and sound the alarm to protect the Iowans we serve.

For more detailed information and updates from the NRECA on the EPA Power Plant Rule, visit www.electric.coop/issues-and-policy/epa-power-plant-rule.

Chuck Soderberg is the retiring executive vice president and general manager of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives

Looking Out for You: May Outages

Lightning: 12

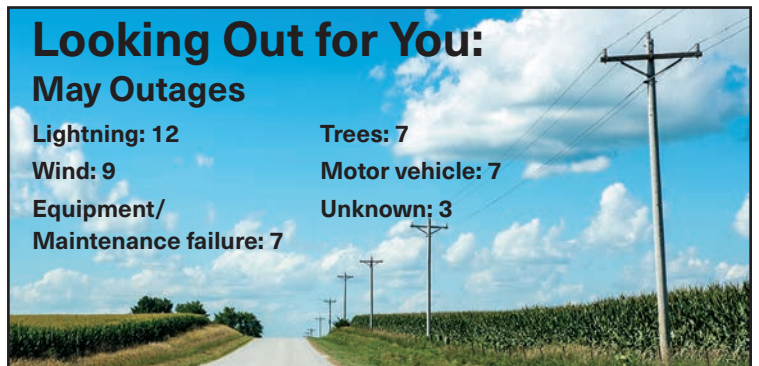
Wind: 9

Equipment/
Maintenance failure: 7

Trees: 7

Motor vehicle: 7

Unknown: 3



Contact Us Before You Build a New Grain Bin

If you're considering building a new grain bin this spring, remember that it's important to first contact Clarke Electric Cooperative.

Clarke Electric 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.

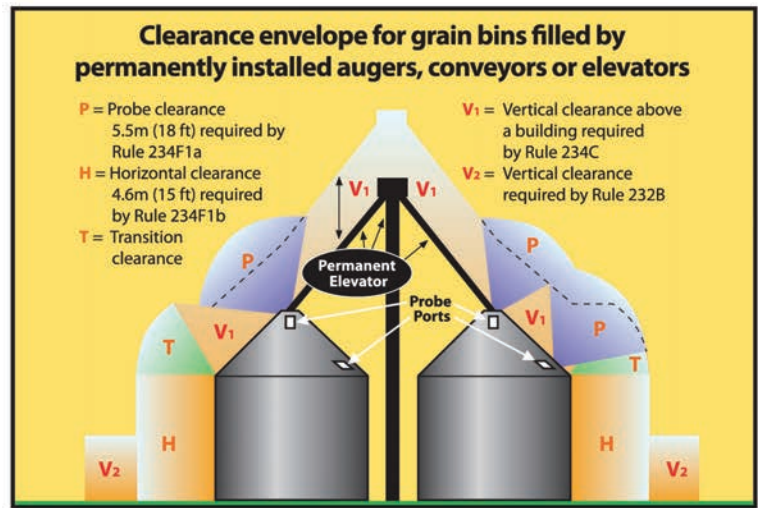
The drawings on this page show the specific clearances required for both scenarios. If you have any questions, please call Clarke Electric at (800) 362-2154.

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*

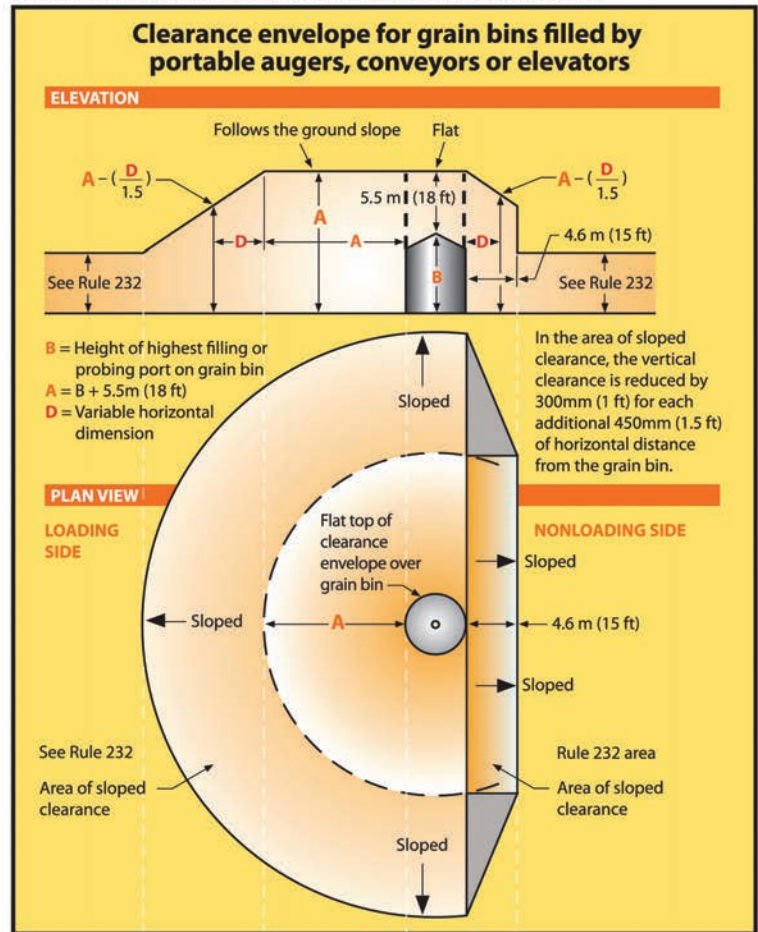
built after September 9, 1992, or to grain bins loaded by permanently installed augers, conveyors, or elevator systems installed after December 24, 1997. (As adopted by the Iowa Utilities Board)

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.



From IEEE Std. C2-2017, "National Electrical Safety Code." © Copyright 2016 by IEEE. All rights reserved.



From IEEE Std. C2-2017, "National Electrical Safety Code." © Copyright 2016 by IEEE. All rights reserved. The IEEE disclaims any responsibility or liability resulting from the placement and use in the described manner.

PLEASE NOTE
The pay-by-phone number has changed and is now
(855) 940-3811

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU? @ cecnet.net

- Statewide outage map
- Leased Light Program
- SmartHUB
- Rebates & Online Forms
- Operation Round-UP
- Call Before You Dig
- Email newsletters
- RECare

Facts About the Meter Exchange Now Underway

Clarke Electric Cooperative has begun the process to exchange all service meters with updated, third generation digital meters.

All members were sent a mailed postcard notification that Clarke Electric will need access to their property, without entering the home, to perform the exchange.

Unfortunately, it isn't practical to schedule a time to do the exchange as we systematically move from one service to another to minimize the trips made to each area. 45-23-06-01

Members should expect a brief interruption in service during the changeout.

Contractors will knock on the door prior to performing any work. We appreciate your patience and understanding while we deploy the new meters. We work for you!

- Strengthens our service reliability
- Allows for you to have access to daily reads of electric use on SmartHub
- Provides power outage and restoration notifications
- Sends data over cellular network
- Do not need to enter home
- May cause brief interruption in service (less than 10 seconds) during installation
- CEC or its contractors must be on-site to perform exchange
- 3rd generation meter replaces 2nd generation meters installed in 2012
- The upgrade is needed to continue receiving meter data for billing

QUESTIONS? CALL (800) 362-2154

Weldon Receives Funds from Operation Round-Up

The City of Weldon can purchase a generator for its community center thanks to Clarke Electric members who give to the co-op's Operation Round-Up fund.

The generator allows the center to function as a vital emergency hub for the community in times of need.

To learn more about how you can round up your bill to

benefit communities, visit cecnet.net/operation-round-up.



Manager of Member Services Jason Gibbs presents the Operation Round-Up check to Weldon Mayor Kolton Dudney.

Fantz Attends Youth Tour



Brianna Fantz was selected to represent Clarke Electric on this year's Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C., June 15-21. While there, she joined students from other Iowa electric cooperatives to tour the sites, learn about the cooperative business model, meet with Iowa's congressional leaders and more.



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
(641) 342-2173 | (800) 362-2154
cecnet.net

OFFICE HOURS

Mon.-Fri.: 7:30 AM - 4 PM

Summer Hours (May 6-August 22)

Mon.-Thurs. 7 AM-4 PM, closed Friday
Phones answered Mon.-Fri. 7 AM-4 PM

Outside depository available 24/7

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Ed White
Vice President: Randy Rouse
Secretary: Marni Kelso
Treasurer: Lydda Youmans
Asst. Sec./Treasurer: Randy Barnard

Directors
Larry Keller
Cody Miller
Zach Robinson
Natalie Rydl

GENERAL MANAGER

David Opie

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.