

living with energy

IN IOWA



Southern Iowa
Electric Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

SEPTEMBER 2017

How might on-peak demand impact your bill? ▶ See Page 4 for details on a new estimating tool

Solar eclipse, co-op style!

We gathered to watch
day turn into night



Changes
announced for
**heating bill
assistance
program**

Does your
home need
more insulation?

Co-op historian
says even today,
**every voice
makes a
difference**

Visit our website at www.sie.coop

Are your grain bins ready for harvest?

Harvest season is fast approaching and SIEC strongly encourages you or your electrician to check your grain bin electrical services before harvest season to be sure they're in proper working order.

Planning ahead will help eliminate delays during the harvest. Please contact the cooperative to schedule any assistance you or your electrician need in getting your equipment ready.

Always be aware of overhead lines when working around grain bins. Have a safe harvest season! ⚡



Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Our mission is to serve our members and community by safely providing reliable and environmentally responsible power and other services efficiently and at a competitive price to benefit members and improve the quality of life in the areas that we serve.

Office: 22458 Highway 2, P.O. Box 70,
Bloomfield, IA 52537-0070

Phone: 641-664-2277 or 800-607-2027

Phone Payments: 800-927-5341

Report Outages: 800-607-2027

Call Before You Dig – Iowa One Call: 800-292-8989

Website: www.sie.coop

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Closed Saturdays, Sundays and holidays

Management

Greg Proctor, CEO/General Manager
Jo Altheide, CFO/Economic Development
Ross Hunter, Systems Analyst

Board of Directors

Darrell Downing, President	Travis Harris
Paul Wells, Vice President	Beth Sullivan
Joy Evans, Secretary	Earl Trachsel
Dave Yahnke, Treasurer	Ben Koellner
	Fred Zeitler

What to Do in Case of Trouble

- ▶ Check for blown fuses or tripped breakers.
- ▶ Check with your neighbors. Ask if their electricity is off and whether they have reported the outage. If not, call Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc., and report the problem 24 hours a day: 641-664-2277 or 800-607-2027.

Service Charges

ACH (Electronic Payment).....	No Charge
Bill Collection.....	\$50
Meter Tampering.....	\$150
Overtime Service Call.....	\$150
Disconnect.....	\$50
Posting.....	\$50
Returned Check.....	\$30
Reconnect.....	\$75
Trip Charge.....	\$50

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

How might on-peak demand impact your bill?



On-peak demand is the amount of power needed to supply every electrical device running in your home within a 1 hour interval during the on-peak hours. SIEC has a new tool for our members to use to help estimate your demand.

Look for the new **Demand Calculator** on our website – it's easy to use! By selecting appliances from the calculator that you might be using in a 1-hour period during the on-peak hours, you can measure the demand impact on your monthly bill. This allows you to better understand how to shift or stagger usage of appliances during the on-peak hours.

Remember, on-peak demand hours are from 7-8 a.m. and 4-8 p.m., Monday thru Friday. The rest of the week (and on weekends and holidays) there's no on-peak demand charge. If you want to give the calculator a try, visit www.sie.coop and click on the top banner. Once you're in the Demand Calculator, you'll see the customer related fixed charge is set at \$43. The energy usage for the month is calculated at 1,200 kWh @ .1109 cents, which represents an average household's monthly electric use. With the calculator, you can turn various appliances on and off and be able to see how those changes will affect your total monthly bill – if you use them during on-peak hours.

When the new demand rate took effect on Sept. 1, your energy charge

went down. If you're an average member, you use approximately 1,200 kWh a month. If you take 1,200 kWh times the old energy charge of .1148, the result would have been \$137.76 for energy on your bill. However, on the new rate of .1109, your energy charge will be \$133.08; for a savings of \$4.68. This may not seem like a lot, but that \$4.68 will help offset some, it not all, of the new demand charge. **Two-thirds of our members will see a decrease or no difference in their bills with the new rate structure.**

You may be wondering how you can lower your demand charge too. We have a few ideas for you. For example, you might consider installing a water heater timer if you have an electric water heater. Just set the timer to turn your water heater off from 7-8 a.m. and 4-8 p.m., Monday thru Friday. If you're interested in this option, we have Intermatic Electronic Water Heater Timers available at our office for \$68.

Another way to save on demand is to install a programmable or smart thermostat. Again, all you need to do is program the thermostat to turn off during the on-peak hours, Monday thru Friday only.

SIEC is committed to educating and helping our members through this transition to residential demand. Please contact our office at 800-607-2027 if you have questions or concerns. ⚡

REMINDER

Need help with heating bills?

The 2016-2017 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) can help qualifying low-income homeowners and renters with a portion of their primary heating bills. For details on this program, see Page 14 of this issue. ⚡



Live Line electric safety demos were a hot topic at the Davis County Fair



A big thank you goes out to Steve Hancock from Corn Belt Energy Cooperative for setting up the Live Line Electric Safety display at the Davis County Fair this year. It was **hot**, but that didn't slow us down! We brought out the tents and fans to cool off our audiences while they learned what to do – and what not to do – when it comes to electricity and staying safe.

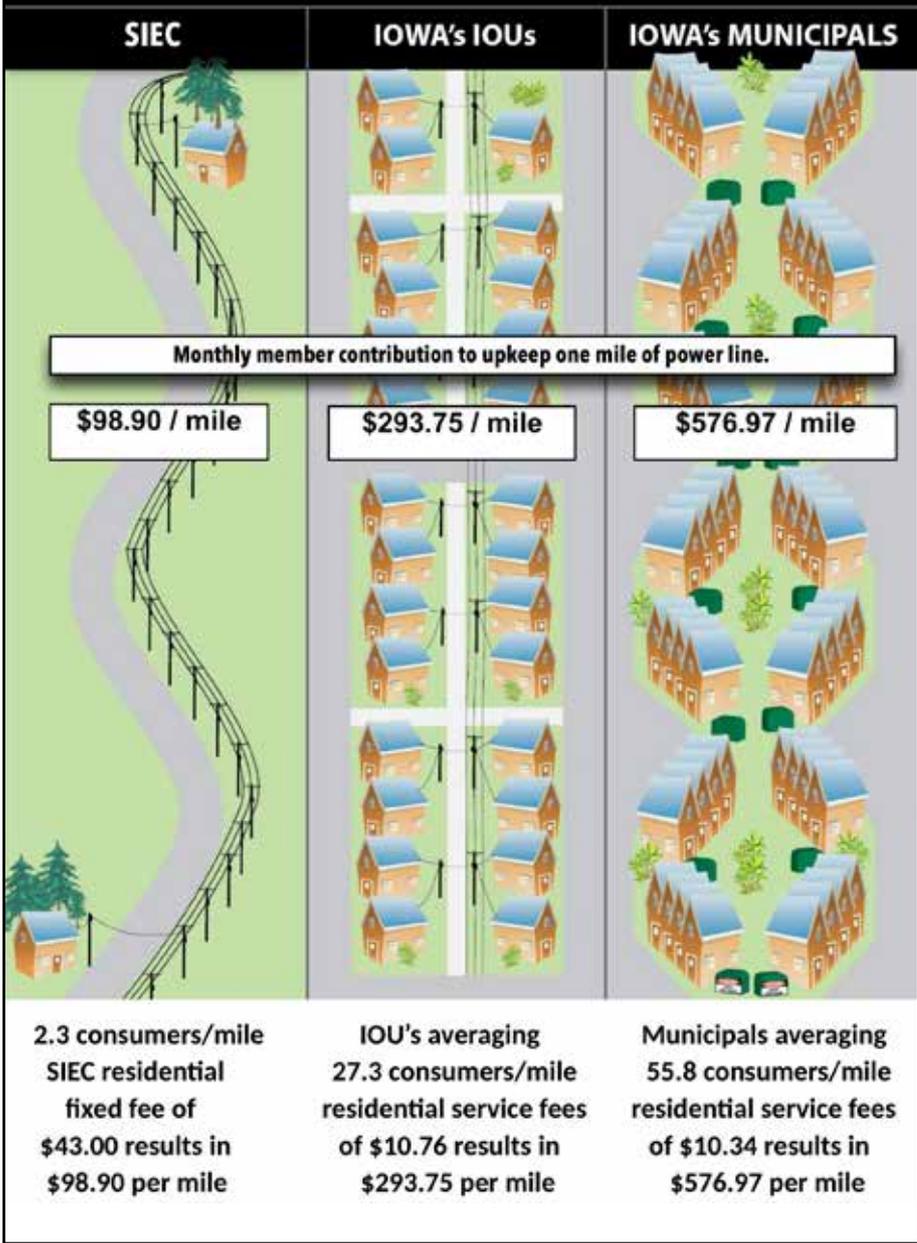
Steve's presentations covered many safety points, such as the difference between an insulator and a conductor, what happens when there's an outage at your home, the importance of ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) receptacles and extension cords, and knowing what to do to stay alive if there's a downed power line.

During his demonstrations, Steve showed all the safety gear linemen must use and wear to stay safe around the live electric lines they work with every day. Of course, everyone's eyes got big when Steve showed what contact with a live 7,200-volt electric line looks like! It's not something anyone will soon forget and definitely gave all in attendance a new respect for electricity. Always remember: Look up and stay safe.

The Davis County Fair Live Line demos were sponsored by SIEC and the City of Bloomfield. We had many positive comments from folks who watched the presentation, so hopefully we can get Steve back for next year's fair! ⚡

Did you know?

Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative serves an average of 2.3 consumers per mile of distribution power lines, while Iowa's investor-owned utilities (IOUs) average 27.3 consumers per mile. This is trumped by municipalities in Iowa; they serve 55.8 consumers per mile.



EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

Win a 7,000-lumen LED tripod work light!

If you're the lucky, randomly chosen winner at one of Iowa's electric cooperatives this month, we'll send you a \$120 Husky Twin-Head Work Light that will provide all the light you need for any home, garage or shop project. Check the contest rules and complete the entry form by Sept. 30, 2017, at the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website: www.livingwithenergyiowa.com. ⚡

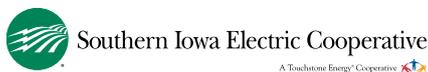


SIEC's Board of Directors would like your thoughts on *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine

Do you receive value from reading SIEC's edition of *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine every month? Whether your answer is YES or NO, we'd like to hear from you!

Please give us your feedback by Sept. 30, by any one of the following methods:

- Return this form with comments to SIEC, P.O. Box 70, Bloomfield, IA 52537.
- Call us at 800-607-2027.
- E-mail us at lmcallister@sie.coop.
- Message us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/SouthernIowaElectric/>). ⚡



CALL BEFORE YOU DIG
IT'S THE LAW!

IOWA 811 ONE CALLSM

800-292-8989

No Posting on Poles, Please!

- ✓ Driven in nails can tear a lineman's glove.
- ✓ Objects can get in the way of climbing poles to repair equipment.
- ✓ We will remove any signs or objects we find on the poles to keep our linemen safe.



Keep equipment far away from OVERHEAD POWER LINES.

If your equipment makes contact with a power line:

- Stay on the equipment unless, in a very rare case, it's on fire.
- Call emergency and utility services.
- Warn others to stay away.
- Do not leave equipment until a utility professional has told you it is safe to do so.
- If equipment is on fire, jump clear of it with your feet together and without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Continue to "bunny hop" with your feet together to safety.

Safe Electricity.org **Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative**
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