

December 2024

THE AMP

YOUR MONTHLY CONNECTION



Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

OUR MISSION:
PROVIDING SAFE, RELIABLE ELECTRICITY

OFFICE:
22458 HIGHWAY 2, PO BOX 70
BLOOMFIELD, IA 52537
OFFICE HOURS: MON. - FRI. 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
PAYMENTS BY PHONE: 800-927-5341
OFFICE: 641-664-2277 / 800-607-2027
WEBSITE: WWW.SIE.COOP

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF TROUBLE:
*CHECK FOR BLOWN FUSES OR TRIPPED BREAKERS AT THE METER POLE.
*CHECK WITH NEIGHBORS AND ASK IF THEIR ELECTRICITY IS OFF AND IF THEY HAVE REPORTED THE OUTAGE. IF NOT, CALL SIEC AND REPORT THE PROBLEM 24 HOURS A DAY AT 641-664-2277 OR 800-607-2027.

SERVICE CHARGES:

- BILL COLLECTION \$ 50.00
- DISCONNECT \$ 50.00
- POSTING \$ 50.00
- RETURNED CHECK \$ 30.00
- RECONNECT \$ 75.00
- TRIP CHARGE \$ 50.00
- METER TAMPERING \$150.00

MANAGEMENT:
GREG PROCTOR, CEO/GM
ROSS HUNTER, COO/SYSTEMS ANALYST
LINDSAY SMITH, OFFICE/ACCOUNTING MGR
KELLY MOORE, HR MGR

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
DARRELL DOWNING, PRESIDENT
TRAVIS HARRIS, VICE PRESIDENT
EARL TRACHSEL, SECRETARY
DAVE YAHNKE, TREASURER
SUSAN KNAPP
JASON WELLS
RYAN DAVIS
ALAN BODKINS
JAMES SCHOOLEY

Meter Testing to Start in December

Southern Iowa Electric Co-op has contracted Border States to conduct our annual distribution system meter testing. Border States representatives will access private properties to perform these tests, which will involve a brief power interruption. Vehicles will be clearly marked with the company's name and a magnetic "Southern Iowa Electric Co-op" identification sign. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office at 641-664-2277 or 800-607-2027.

FEBRUARY 20-21, 2025
SHERATON WEST DES MOINES WEST DES MOINES, IA
MOMENTUM IS BUILDING
WWW.MOMENTUMISBUILDING.COM
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN ONLINE!
CONTACT YOUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING
SPONSORED BY IOWA COOPERATIVES FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Iowa-based builders and contractors are invited to learn about energy efficiency technologies at the 2025 Momentum is Building (MIB) Conference, scheduled for Feb. 20-21, 2025 at **The Sheraton West Des Moines**. A major draw for electricians, plumbers and HVAC professionals is the opportunity to earn up to **12 CEU credits** at the conference. For more information on the conference or to register, visit www.momentumisbuilding.com, or you can contact SIEC and ask for Crystal.

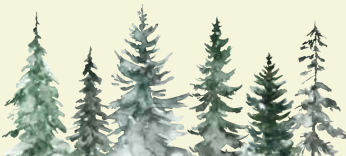
CHECK YOUR HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Before decorating, check each light strand for broken sockets, frayed cords or faulty plugs.



Keep your holidays merry. Use only holiday lights that have been safety tested and have the UL label, and always unplug lights when replacing a bulb. For more safety tips visit:
safeelectricity.org/public-education/tips/electrical-safety-tips-holidays
#HappyHolidays
#MerryandBright #SafeElectricity

SIEC's office will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24th and 25th, as well as Wednesday, January 1st for Christmas and New Year's. We would like to wish our members a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!



Defined electric service areas protect rural Iowans

By Leslie Kaufman, executive vice president and general manager of Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives

At the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, we are constantly monitoring issues that could impact the people and rural communities served by Iowa's electric cooperatives. Our state's 2025 Legislative Session will begin on January 13 and IAEC will prioritize efforts to ensure Iowa's law regarding defined service areas is not undermined. I'd like to explain why this law has been so crucial to our mission to serve co-op member-consumers.

What are defined service areas?

In Iowa, your location determines which electric utility will serve you. This regulatory protection is called defined electric service territory and the State of Iowa wrote Senate File 1258 into law almost 50 years ago to efficiently ensure that every square foot of our state has an electric utility obligated to provide service upon request.

Why do Iowa's electric cooperatives support defined service areas?

Electric co-ops are committed to safeguarding defined service areas because they protect rural Iowans by supporting affordable electric rates, fostering a resilient electric grid and encouraging economic development. Defined service areas provide a high degree of certainty to Iowa's electric cooperatives which allows us to confidently make long-term investments in power generation to maintain affordable rates, finance major grid upgrades to ensure resiliency and utilize new technologies to enhance service. Electric co-ops can also be proactive in maintenance and vegetation management to improve reliability for the homes, farms and businesses we serve every day. Additionally, defined service areas allow electric co-ops to robustly support economic development efforts in the communities we serve, which retain and create local jobs and provide needed services and tax revenue.

Any efforts to remove or weaken Iowa's defined service areas could result in higher electric bills and decreased reliability for Iowans. This issue is non-negotiable for Iowa's not-for-profit electric cooperatives, which are mission driven to power lives and empower communities by providing electricity that is safe, reliable and affordable.

Since the 1990s, several states have deregulated their electric utilities, but the hopes that competition would result in lower rates and improved reliability have not materialized. In fact, according to a 2023 *New York Times* investigation, "Deregulation has resulted in increased rates/fees in every state where it has been introduced." The report goes on to conclude that "On average, residents living in a deregulated market pay \$40 more per month for electricity..." This outcome is unacceptable for the Iowans we serve.

We invite you to learn more about this issue at www.ProtectRuralIowa.com where you will also find links to research and studies on deregulation. Your locally owned electric cooperatives are working hard to safeguard defined service area protections that have benefitted Iowans since 1976.

Green Power for Members

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative and our power supply partners of NE Missouri Power Co-op and Associated Electric Co-op (Associated) are continually making changes to make our power generation and delivery to our members as environmentally friendly as allowed by cost-effective measures. For example, Associated has been a leader in incorporating wind energy and other renewable energy into the generation power supply mix. Associated currently has 1,240 megawatts of wind generation in the portfolio representing 17% of member load in 2023. Also, the hydro power allocation represents 5% of the members' energy needs bringing the renewable resources to 22% of the total power supply mix for 2023. At the distribution cooperative level, SIEC is providing for our members the option of a Renewable Choice Program (RCP). The premium for the RCP is added to the amount you are already paying for electricity. Renewable energy is sold in 100-kilowatt hours (kWh) blocks or 1-megawatt hour (MWh) blocks for industrial with a 6 month commitment. The cost for the RCP is \$0.258 per 100 kWh block, or \$2.58 per 1 MWh block per month for the time frame of January 1 through June 30, 2025. This means for each 100 kWh block purchased, \$0.258 will be added to the current electric bill, or for each 1 MWh block purchased, \$2.58 will be added to the bill. If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact Lori McAllister at 800-607-2027 or lmcallister@sie.coop.