

living with energy

IN IOWA

Southern Iowa
Electric Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

MAY 2017

You have five chances to win our favorite water-saving showerhead! ▶ See page 5

Is it time to make your home smarter?



Visit our website at www.sie.coop

Take a realistic view when replacing windows for energy savings

Something's fishy about this month's recipes

Discover 101 ways to save energy and money at your place

Use caution when burning ditches

It's that time of year when many of you may be burning off the weeds and grass in your ditches. This burning helps clean up things, but it can also cause problems if a fire is allowed to burn around SIEC's poles, anchors, guy wires and underground cabinets.

Burning too close to SIEC's property not only can cause a lot of damage, but also can be dangerous and create electric service problems. Anyone involved may be invoiced for damage they cause to SIEC property.

To avoid damage to SIEC property, electric service problems and danger to yourself and others, *please* be careful where you burn! ⚡



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.siec.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/Key Accounts Manager
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.

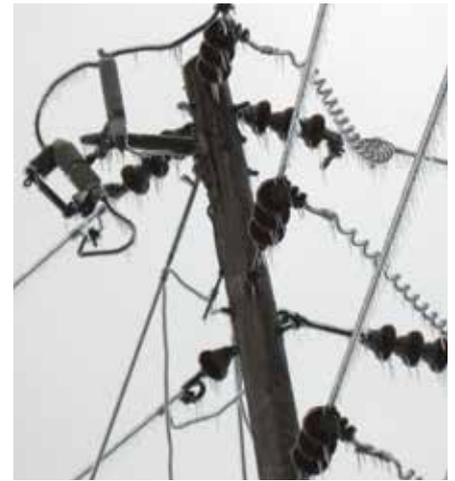
Reliability is our daily priority

We know that our member-owners' satisfaction with Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc., is directly related to the reliability and affordability of the services we provide. The cornerstone of our business model is providing service that meets or exceeds your expectations, which is why reliability is one of our top priorities. In fact, reliability is one of the four key pillars of our overall mission to provide power that is safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible.

Recently, your board of directors and co-op staff filed our annual reliability report with the Iowa Utilities Board for the 2016 calendar year. Each year, maintaining a reliable system takes hundreds of hours of planning, maintenance, inspections and system upgrades. Equally important is our commitment to balancing reliability and affordability with member expectations, which requires a mindset of continuous improvement and looking ahead to anticipate your future needs.

Reliability isn't something that happens by chance. Throughout the year, our distribution and transmission infrastructure – which includes such things as poles, wires, transformers and substations – is subject to many perils. On any given day, ice storms, high winds, tornadoes, squirrels, birds and even errant drivers can interrupt electric service and cause a power outage. We're constantly preparing for the things we can control on our system, such as planned and routine maintenance outages – and also for unexpected outages that are often beyond our control. We set high goals for the reliability and accessibility of the power we provide to you.

Our annual reporting falls into two categories: the Reliability Plan and the Reliability Report. The Reliability Plan is designed to address what your cooperative is doing to prevent outages on your system, such as tree trimming, animal contact reduction programs and lightning outage mitigation



programs. The plan also includes an inspection and maintenance plan, details about how we track and monitor interruptions, and how your co-op plans to communicate its plan with member-owners.

The Reliability Report is designed to show past performance by reporting on three core measures: the System Average Interruption Duration Index, the Customer Average Interruption Duration Index and the System Average Interruption Frequency Index. We include these three indices for each of the past 5 years, and they're calculated both including major events and excluding major events. We use these data points to come up with an Average Service Availability Index, a reliability index commonly used by electric utilities throughout the U.S.

Now that we've crunched the numbers and analyzed the data, how did we do? We're pleased to report that SIEC's overall reliability rate this past year was 99.99 percent. As we look at our results, we're proud that we've performed well, because we know that you count on us to provide reliable and affordable electric service to your homes and businesses.

Looking ahead, we're already planning for your future needs, anticipating the service expectations of the communities we serve. You'll see this in action as we work in your neighborhood and across the 1,677 miles of line we maintain to provide you with extremely reliable service. ⚡

We're seeing double: Youth Tour winners selected

The 2017 Iowa Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., trip winners were selected from contest interviews held in March at Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative's office in Bloomfield. Students were scored for their knowledge on rural electric cooperative history, ambitions, speaking ability, appearance and poise/personality.

This year's contest winners are Lauren Starnes and Lindsey Starnes, twin sisters who are both juniors at Van Buren High School! They're the daughters of Scott and Stephanie Starnes of Riverside.

Lauren and Lindsey each will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to our nation's capital, along with 36 other students from Iowa and about 1,700 students from around

the country. They'll have an opportunity to visit with Iowa's senators and representatives, spend a day on Capitol Hill, explore the Smithsonian museums, take a cruise on the Potomac River and make new friends from around Iowa and across the nation.

Congratulations, Lauren and Lindsey! We can't wait to hear all about your trip at our Annual Meeting in September! ⚡



Lauren Starnes



Lindsey Starnes

Notice: Pole and meter testing will begin soon

Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative takes pride in the reliability of the electric service that we provide to our member-owners. A portion of this achievement can be attributed to an aggressive system-wide maintenance program that includes an annual pole inspection completed on a 10-year cycle.

For 2017, SIEC has procured the services of Ram Utilities LLC to complete this task in the Roscoe and Davis Substation areas. The process of pole inspection requires that a representative from Ram Utilities physically tests every pole within the designated substation area. As a result, in many cases it's necessary to enter onto private property to complete the test. Personnel will be required to have the appropriate identification and will be making an attempt to contact landowners before or at the time of the inspection.



SIEC also has hired Chapman Metering to perform our required annual meter testing on our distribution system. Again, this will mean that a representative from Chapman Metering will enter onto private property to complete the meter testing. There will be a momentary outage as the meter is being tested. Chapman Metering will be in a van with their name on the side and have a magnetic "Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative" sign on it too.

If you have questions or concerns in regards to pole or meter testing, please contact our office at 800-607-2027. ⚡

Win our favorite water-saving showerhead!

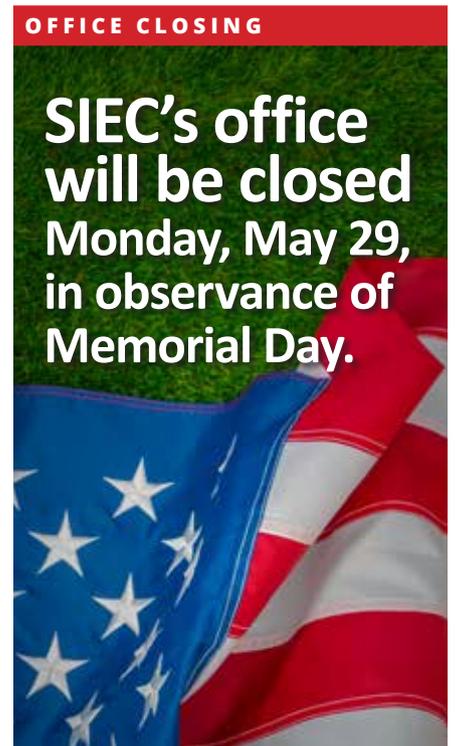
Many water-saving showerheads give you a chill, because the needle-like jets of warm water only hit a small area



of your body, while the drafty air in the shower surrounds the rest of you. The Delta 75152 solves that problem. The secret is the company's water-amplifying design that sculpts droplets into a unique wave pattern and offers three times the coverage. The result feels like a traditional shower. For more details, go to www.deltafaucet.com.

To enter this month's contest for one of five Delta 75152 showerheads, go to the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com. Please complete the entry form no later than May 31, 2017. ⚡

SIEC's office will be closed Monday, May 29, in observance of Memorial Day.



SIEC attends REC Day on the Hill at Iowa Capitol

More than 200 cooperative supporters, including a representative from Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, traveled to Des Moines on March 22 to advocate on behalf of Iowa's not-for-profit electric cooperatives. It was a day full of activity, starting with the reading and passage of House Resolution 14 on the house floor, which commemorated the important role of Iowa's electric cooperatives as it pertains to economic development and improving the quality of life for rural Iowans. Later that morning, cooperative representatives were present as Gov. Branstad signed SF 331 into law, which will streamline energy efficiency reporting for electric co-op staff and allow them more time to serve member-owners. The bill passed unanimously in the Iowa House and Senate.

The co-op attendees then convened for a briefing where they received updates on state and federal legislative issues. In the afternoon, co-op representatives met with their local elected officials during a dessert social held at the Capitol rotunda. The advocates educated legislators on several issues important to Iowa's electric cooperatives, including the safety of line personnel as they work on the side of roadways in accordance with the state's "Move Over" law, as well as expanding property tax exemptions for geothermal heating and cooling systems.

"This annual visit to the Iowa Capitol is an excellent opportunity to personally meet with our elected officials and provide them with a local co-op perspective on issues that are important to our business," said SIEC general manager Greg Proctor. ⚡



Several electric cooperatives set up informational displays at the event.

The earth saves me money.



I had a ground-source heat pump installed at my home. Now I pay half as much to heat and cool my home, and heat some of my water for free.

I try to help 'save the earth.' Now it's returning the favor.

Visit www.TakeControlAndSave.coop to find out how you can start saving energy and money too!

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SIEC's Lori McAllister talked with Rep. Mary Gaskill during REC Day on the Hill.