

Powerful Connections

September 2009

 Citizens Electric Corporation
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

System Improvements Underway



In recent weeks, some of you may have noticed orange insulating material covering electric lines along Highway 32 in Ste. Genevieve. In case you've wondered what Citizens' crews are doing, they are installing three-phase lines to accommodate two new circuits out of MASI substation.

MASI substation, located on the east side of the Ste. Genevieve Golf Course, was originally built to serve Mid-America Shredding Inc. (MASI). This substation has been inactive since MASI closed its business in 1996.

Citizens' crews are in the process of converting this existing 7,000 kVA single circuit substation to a 14,000 kVA community substation with four circuits. This is being done to give capacity relief to Zell substation #2 and to improve reliability for members in the Zell and River Aux Vase areas and along portions of Highway 32. The project is expected to be completed in early 2010.

Drivers should be aware that construction will be underway during the next few weeks along Route K in Perry County. Citizens' crews will be upgrading approximately three miles of single-phase lines to three-phase to give relief to a circuit serving the Biehle area. In addition, this

upgrade will improve electric service in the Highland area and members south along Route K.

Crews contracted by Citizens Electric are also working in Ste. Genevieve County from Highway 61 to Kinsey Road along State Route OO/DD. Approximately 2.6 miles of three-phase line is being reconducted and upgraded. The project is expected to be in construction for three months.



Please be on the lookout for orange signs indicating crews are working ahead. Slow down and be prepared to stop in order keep yourself and our linemen safe while they're working to improve electrical service for our members.

Five members will win \$50!

Your thoughts are worth more than a penny to us! We want to hear from you to ensure that we are meeting your expectations for service and electric reliability.

Watch for Citizens' member survey enclosed with your September electric bill for the chance to win \$50. Just complete the survey and return it along with your bill payment. Five entries will be drawn on November 2, 2009. For your convenience, you can complete the survey and enter the drawing online at www.cecmo.com. Entries are limited to one per membership.

Please note: Citizens' employees and directors (past or current) and their families are welcome to participate in the survey but are not eligible to win.

Citizens' Ste. Genevieve Office will be open September 8, but the downtown area will be closed to traffic due to the Tour of Missouri bike race. Streets will reopen in the mid-afternoon.

Our offices will be closed on Monday, September 7, in celebration of Labor Day.

Call 1-800-286-2251 for electrical emergencies.

Consumers must qualify for free audits

A few months back, we advertised that East Missouri Action Agency (EMAA) would conduct energy audits for Citizens' members even if their incomes exceeded state guidelines. EMMA has a long list of low-income clients who have requested free audits. Therefore, they cannot offer this service to anyone whose income exceeds their requirements. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our members.

Citizens Electric is exploring options of offering energy audits to our members who don't qualify for energy assistance or state-sponsored weatherization programs. We'll keep you posted as plans develop.

Safety Tips for Grain Storage Structures and Handling Equipment



Storage and handling of large volumes of grain or feed on farms are common in many areas. Automated equipment has made grain handling fast and easy, but grain storage structures and handling equipment create hazardous work areas. Farm workers should make sure they take the proper steps to put safety first to prevent injuries, illnesses and even death.

- Label grain bins to warn of entrapment hazards.
- Lock entrances to grain handling areas to keep bystanders and children out.
- Install ladders inside bins.
- Do not enter grain bins that are being loaded or unloaded. Flowing grain can trap and suffocate you in seconds.

- If it is necessary to enter a bin, shut off and lockout power before entering. Use a safety harness and safety line. Have several people available outside the bin to lift entrant out in case of an emergency.
- Wear NIOSH-approved dust-filtering respirators when working in and around grain handling areas. High amounts of dust and molds could be present and are extremely dangerous.
- Wear approved hearing protection when working around noisy equipment, aeration fans, dryers, etc.
- Be very cautious of grain that may have gone out of condition. Crusted grain may have cavities beneath the surface that can collapse, leading to entrapment and suffocation.
- Keep bystanders and children away from grain bins and grain handling equipment.

Inspections:

- Are ladders in good condition?
- Is lockout available for power?
- Is electrical equipment safe?
- Are overhead power lines near?
- Are approved respirators available?
- Are guards and shields in place?



National Farm Safety & Health Week
September 20-26, 2009



National Education Center for
Agricultural Safety (NECAS) –
www.necasag.org or 888-844-6322

Operating costs as important as purchase price

When it comes to buying electronics and electrical appliances, the long-term operating cost is as important as the immediate cost to purchase.

Just as you may read food labels for carbs, fat and sodium content, check out the labels on electrical devices to determine the watts, amps, voltage or horsepower.

Regardless of claims to be energy efficient, the wattage of the equipment determines the operating cost.

Since electricity is billed by kilowatt hours, you must determine how many watts the appliance uses before you can calculate its operating cost.

If you know watts: 1,000 watts = 1 kilowatt (kW). One kilowatt used for 1 hour = 1 kWh
If you know amps and volts: Amps X volts = watts
If you know the horsepower (HP): 1 HP is approximately 1 kilowatt (kW)

To calculate the approximate cost per month:

Determine the hours used per month: Estimate the average hours used per day and multiply that number by the number of days used during the month.

Calculate watt-hours: Multiply the hours times the watts

Convert to kilowatt-hours (kWh): Divide watt-hours by 1,000

Here's your answer: Multiply kWh by \$0.0978, Citizens' residential rate per kWh.

If replacing household appliances, look for ones that have earned the ENERGY STAR. They meet strict guidelines set by the EPA and U.S. Department of Energy and help you make an energy efficient choice.

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

A programmable thermostat allows the user to automatically regulate the home's temperature when they are asleep or away.

According to Energy Star, the average single-family household can save about \$180 per year by setting back the temperature by 8 degrees 10 hours during the day (up 7 degrees in summer), and back 8 degrees for 8 hours at night in the winter (up 4 degrees in summer).

Whether you install an Energy Star qualified programmable thermostat or manually adjust your thermostat following those guidelines, you will realize similar savings. Programmable thermostats are ideal for busy households that have a difficult time remembering to adjust the thermostat before they head out the door or go to bed.



Customer Charge

Energy Term of the Month

There are three components to Citizens' residential and small commercial electric bills: Customer Charge, energy charge and taxes (when applicable).

The Customer Charge is the base cost to have electric service regardless of usage. This amount is each member's share of the total cost to provide electricity to that rate class. This is not a new charge. It was bundled into the energy charge on Citizens' postcard bills until October 2007.