



# Powerful Connections

May 2009

 Citizens Electric Corporation  
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

## Growing our system to meet electric demand



Even when the sky is clear and your power is on, Citizens Electric is monitoring, maintaining and upgrading its electric system to ensure that your lights come on whenever you flip the switch.

Several large projects are underway or planned for this year in order to serve growing electric loads and build contingency within our system. These upgrades are all part of CEC's four-year work plan. They include improvements to Valley View, Edgemont, MASI, Silver Lake and Riverview substations.

In some areas small three-phase power lines are being replaced with larger conductors in order to meet increased demand. Miles of single-phase high-voltage conductors are also being replaced with three-phase high-voltage conductors. Construction is also underway to create circuit ties to provide other sources of power in the event a substation transformer fails.

Later this fall, Operations' personnel plan to rebuild MASI Substation which was previously dedicated to an industrial customer. This facility will now become a community substation which will substantially improve reliability in the areas of Zell, River Aux Vase and a portion along Highway 32 in Ste. Genevieve County.

## Powering our future

Through Citizens' membership in Wabash Valley Power Association (WVPA), we are investing in generation to power our future. WVPA's most recent acquisition is Holland Energy LLC, (pictured on the right) a natural gas-fired combined cycle plant in Beecher City, Illinois.

Along with Hoosier Energy, WVPA purchased this 627-megawatt power plant from Tenaska Power Fund, L.P. for \$383 million. This additional generation will help meet the power needs of the two generation and transmission (G&T) cooperatives' consumer-owned electric cooperatives. Furthermore, it will increase electric supply reliability and help manage costs for cooperative consumers. The plant's clean operations fit well with WVPA's existing coal, natural gas and renewable resources.



## Free weatherization kits available



Even though "Old Man Winter" is gone for the season, now is the time to seal and insulate your home and properly maintain your electrical equipment.

While quantities last, weatherization kits are available in CEC's local offices. Kits include latex caulk, electric outlet and switch sealers, a window insulation kit, poly foam weather-stripping, a compact fluorescent light (CFL) and a furnace filter whistle.

Keep your cool this summer by weatherizing your home. It's a three-step process: plug up air leaks, increase insulation and have your air conditioning system professionally inspected. Your air conditioner will show its appreciation through lower electric bills this summer.



## Energy Efficiency

### *Tip of the Month*

- Keeping your dryer's lint filter clean speeds up drying time and reduces the risk of fire.
- Periodically inspect and clean the exhaust duct to prevent clogging.
- Make sure the hose is properly connected from the dryer to the vent outside. If it is not connected, warm humid air can escape into your home and cause your air conditioner to work harder.

## Citizens Electric achieves National Safety Accreditation

For the past 24 years, Citizens Electric has achieved National Safety Accreditation, an honor that reflects our commitment to safety every day. Accreditation is valid for three years.

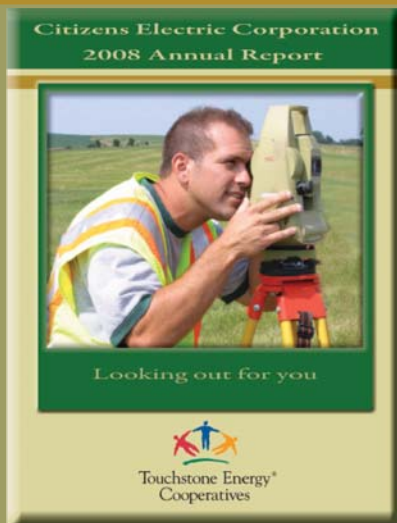
The Rural Electric Safety Accreditation Program (RESAP), administered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), is a peer-review safety and loss control evaluation of electric cooperatives. It is an organized analysis of a system's safety and loss control program that measures overall effectiveness.

In order to become accredited, a system must have an average score (observation and application) of at least 70. Scoring elements include written policies, training, community education, use of safety equipment, communications and vehicle maintenance.

This year, CEC scored a 96, which demonstrates management's commitment to maintain high safety standards for the protection of our employees and the communities we serve.



"Providing safe, reliable power is our top priority," says CEC Safety Director Dennis Winkler. "We work hard to make sure our employees are well-trained to work around electricity, so they will return home safely to their families every night."



### CEC 2008 Annual Report available

The report includes a review of 2008 activities, financial statements, statistics and news about generation investments. View the report online at [www.cecmo.com](http://www.cecmo.com) or pick up your copy at your local Citizens Electric Office.

## Energy Term of the Month

### Cap-and-trade

A cap-and-trade system is where the government sets a limit, or cap, on the total carbon dioxide emissions allowed within the country. Permits are auctioned off for the right to emit a certain amount of pollution into the atmosphere.

Power plants that produce fewer emissions than allowed by law can sell, bank or trade their permits, whereby older, less efficient plants are forced to buy credits, install scrubbers or shut down. Companies that exceed pollution limits could face stiff fines. This system will significantly increase the cost of electricity nationwide.

## Don't post signs on utility poles

Signs and other materials attached to utility poles can create dangerous, even life-threatening situations for professionals who maintain your electricity, communications and other services. For safety's sake, spread the word that utility poles should be kept free of any type of advertising, banners or signs.

The ankle straps and climbing hooks used by line workers to climb poles can become snagged on staples and nails embedded in poles. In addition, foreign objects can tear utility workers' clothing and damage personal protective equipment used to guard against electrical contact.

Pounding staples and nails into utility poles also degrades the quality of the wood, making poles more vulnerable to decay and instability.

While utility poles may seem like a great place to advertise a garage sale or community activity, they should be considered "Off Limits!" Signs, banners and balloons can create a hazardous risk for utility workers, distract drivers, and possibly violate local ordinances.



**Our offices will be closed on  
Monday, May 25,  
in observance of  
Memorial Day.**



**In case of an electrical  
emergency, please call  
1-800-286-2251.**