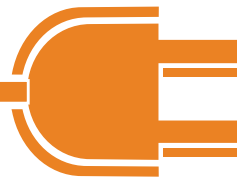


Clark Energy Lines

A publication of Clark Energy Cooperative, Inc., proudly serving our members since 1938.



Are we ready for this...again?



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Whether you follow the predictions of the Farmers' Almanac or the rings on the woolly worm, no one knows what the winter of 2010 will bring. To help you be better prepared in the event of weather-related outages, please read the articles on pages 32D and 32E inside.



www.clarkenergy.com

Contact Us



CLARK EC OFFICE LOCATIONS

2640 Iron Works Road,
Winchester 40391
28 Bible Camp Lane,
Frenchburg 40322
170 Halls Lane, Stanton
40380

OFFICE HOURS
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.,
Monday - Friday

OFFICE PHONE NUMBERS
Winchester - (859) 744-4251
Frenchburg - (606) 768-2383
Stanton - (606) 663-4330
Toll Free - (800) 992-3269
Emergency - (800) 992-3269
Fax - (859) 744-4218

Website:
www.clarkenergy.com

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William P. Shearer -
Clark, Fayette, Bourbon
Chairman

Steve Hale - *Powell*
Vice Chairman

O.H. Caudill - *Montgomery,
Bath, Bourbon*
Secretary-Treasurer

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Dewey Hollon - *Powell,
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Gale Means - *Powell*

James Phelps - *Menifee,
Montgomery, Bath*

Bobby Russell - *Madison*

From the President's Desk



Clark Energy files for base rate adjustment

It's been the kind of year an electric co-op might like to forget.

It began with a historic ice storm that knocked out power for one in three Kentuckians. Although crews restored electricity relatively quickly, they spent months putting lines and poles back to pre-storm conditions.

The economic downturn of 2008 continued into 2009, straining everyone's budgets. Clark Energy Cooperative saw firsthand some of the pain caused by those financial difficulties as we worked with members struggling to pay their bills, as well as watching factories and businesses close their doors. Unfortunately, the upcoming year most likely will continue to provide challenges for the cooperative, the economy, and cooperative members.

Clark Energy submitted its official filing requesting a rate increase with the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) on November 18, 2009. Although rates have risen as a result of pass-through charges from our power supplier, this is the first time that Clark Energy Cooperative has filed for a base rate increase in 17 years. The requested rate adjustment would increase rates an average of 9.5 percent. Again, this is an average and will vary among the different rate schedules.

The rate adjustment approval process will take approximately six months to complete. The Kentucky PSC and Attorney General will review the rate adjustment request, financial documentation, and cost of service study before making a formal ruling. Our members will not see rates adjusted on their electric bills until early to mid-summer.

Many times in the past in this column, I've informed you about the many challenges that face the electric utility industry and steadily rising costs of producing and distributing electric energy. Since I became CEO in March of 2005, I have focused on making



Paul G. Embs
President & CEO

the cooperative operate more efficiently. We have reduced operating costs where possible and done our best to absorb the additional expenses without having to increase our rates. In the past few months it has become apparent that these costs are too much for us to continue to absorb and still meet our financial obligations and provide you with reliable service.

These are trying times for all of us. While Clark Energy cannot change the impact of the economy on the utility industry, we will continue to work diligently to provide the best service possible for the dollars you spend.

Thank you for your continued support.

Clark Energy directors achieve credentials in today's electric utility competencies

Clark Energy directors Jim Phelps (left) of Menifee County and O.H. Caudill (right) of Montgomery County have been awarded the Board Leadership certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).



The NRECA Board Leadership certificate recognizes individuals who continue their professional development after becoming a Credentialed Cooperative Director. In order to achieve this honor, directors must have completed courses in changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills, and have a working knowledge of the cooperative principles.



Clark Energy's offices will be closed on Thursday, December 24, and Friday, December 25, for the Christmas holiday and Friday, January 1, for New Year's Day.

In the event of an emergency, please call (800) 992-3269.

Be prepared before a winter storm strikes

Snow and ice storms are an unwelcomed part of the winter season and they can lead to downed power lines and outages. Stay tuned to weather forecasts and be prepared in the event one does strike and outages occur.

Have the following items ready:

- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- Battery-powered or hand-crank portable radio to receive emergency information.
- Extra food and water. Have high-energy food, such as dried fruit, nuts, and granola bars, and food requiring no cooking or refrigeration. Don't forget a manual can opener.
- Extra medicine and baby items.
- First-aid supplies.
- Heating fuel. Refuel before you are empty. Fuel carriers may not reach you for days after a winter storm.
- Emergency heat source such as a fireplace, wood stove, or kerosene heater. Make sure you use properly to prevent a fire and the space is properly ventilated.
- Fire extinguisher, smoke alarms, and carbon monoxide detectors. Test alarms once a month to ensure they work properly.
- Extra blankets.
- If someone in your home is dependent on electric-powered, life-sustaining equipment, prepare for a back-up or make other arrangements.
- A non-cordless telephone that will work until power is restored.



What should you do during a power outage?

- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible. An unopened refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours. A full freezer will keep foods frozen for about 48 hours.
- If you are using a generator, connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator. Do not connect the generator to the home's electrical system. It could electrocute an unsuspecting utility worker.
- Make sure your generator is placed outside for proper ventilation. Do not use one in an attached garage.
- Turn off and unplug all unnecessary electrical equipment and appliances. If you have an electric heating system, lower the thermostat. This will prevent power surges when the power comes back on and transformers from being overloaded, resulting in another outage.
- Check for damage to the electrical structure outside your home. If there is damage, turn off the main breaker until repairs can be made.

Sources: www.redcross.org; www.noaa.gov

How to report an outage

Please perform the following procedures if you should experience an outage in your home or business:

- Check your breaker or fuse box to see if the problem is in your home. Mobile homes also have a breaker under the meter on the pole.
- If the problem is not a fuse or breaker, please call Clark Energy at (800) 992-3269. We are available 24 hours a day, 7 days per week.
- In cases of major outages or heavy telephone traffic, you may be reporting your outage to an automated outage reporting system. The outage system process is as follows:
 1. The automated attendant will pick up the line and greet the customer.
 2. Simultaneously, the interactive voice response (IVR) is searching our customer database using the phone number supplied by caller ID to see if the number is in our customer database. In order for your number to be recognized, it must be the same one listed on your Clark Energy account. If your phone number is recognized, the automated attendant greets the customer and asks if he/she knows the cause of the outage. If so, the member is asked to leave a message.
 3. If the member calls from a phone line that is not recognized in the database (one that is different than one on the account), he or she is asked to enter the number that is listed with the account.
 4. Members who do not have a phone number attached to their customer record are asked to leave a message.
 5. Clark Energy's dispatcher is continually reviewing the messages left on the IVR to see if there are any public safety issues or clues to the cause of the outage.
 6. The customer record is posted on the screen of the IVR and also sent to the outage management system to be analyzed.
 7. When the member's service has been restored, the IVR can automatically call the member, if requested, to verify that service is on or the dispatcher on duty may call personally.
- If someone in your home is on a life-support system, call and inform our office so that we may note it on your account.
- Turn off all unnecessary appliances during an outage to prevent an overload when your power is restored.
- To further protect your appliances and electronics, we recommend the use of surge protection equipment.

Tune in

Clark Energy partners with several local radio stations to provide information and restoration updates in times of major power outages. If you lose power, tune in to the following stations:

WIVY 96.3 FM
WKCA 97.7 FM
WCYO 100.7 FM
WLKS 102.9 FM
WSKV 104.9 FM
WQXX 106.1 FM
WMST 106.9 FM
WKYN 107.7 FM

WMST 1150 AM
WLKS 1450 AM
WBFC 1470 AM

Stay updated on the Web

During major outages, if you have access to the Internet from work or the home of friends or family, visit www.clarkenergy.com to check on the progress of power restoration. We make every attempt to update the site as often as possible.



2010 Citizen-Scholar Scholarship Program

Clark Energy Cooperative is offering 16 \$1,000 scholarships in a program designed to enhance the education and resulting careers of students in our service area. Scholarships will be awarded to students attending traditional institutions or vocational/technical training. Awards will be paid to accredited schools both in- and out-of-state.

Participation Requirements:

1. Applicant must be at least a senior in high school at time application is made. College and non-traditional students are also welcome to participate.
2. Applicant must be enrolled in or planning to enroll in an accredited education or training institution. Funds will also be awarded to students attending out-of-state schools.
3. Applicant or applicant's parents/guardians must have a residential or business account with Clark Energy and account must be registered in one or both names. In the event the applicant's parents or guardians reside in separate households served by different cooperatives that offer scholarship programs, the applicant's address listed on the transcript will serve as the primary service area.
4. The winning candidates will be recognized at the annual meeting planned for May 2010.
5. Scholarship funds will be paid to an accredited education/training institution beyond the high school level upon notification by the scholarship recipient. All funds requested, whether in full or partial payments, must be made within two years or the remainder of funds is forfeited, unless prior arrangements have been made.
6. Students applying for Clark EC scholarships must have a minimum 2.5 GPA and be in good standing. An official transcript must accompany the application.
7. Entries will be judged on the following: Essay – 45%; School/Community Involvement – 30%; GPA – 25%. A panel of judges not employed by Clark EC will review the applications and judge the essays.
8. The applicant cannot be a member of the immediate family (reside in same household) of an employee, manager, or director of Clark EC or Clark Propane Plus. Previous winners are not eligible to apply. However, previous applicants that were not awarded a scholarship may submit an application and essay.
9. Applicants must make a typed essay response of 500-1000 words on: "If you could go back and change one day of your life, what would it be and why? What would the outcome be?" Good grammar and spelling are judged heavily.

The deadline for applying is Friday, March 5, 2010, at 3 p.m. Mailed applications must be post-marked on or before March 5, 2010.

For an application, please visit our Web site at www.clarkenergy.com and click on "My Community." If you prefer, you can obtain an application in your school counselor's office or call our office at (800) 992-3269.

Program can help many Kentuckians weatherize their homes

If your house is too cold or your utility bills are too high, you may qualify for free help.

Low- to moderate-income Kentuckians are eligible for aid from the Weatherization Assistance Program, which sends trained inspectors and crews to evaluate and help improve the housing conditions of people at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. A family of four with an income of \$44,100 or less, for instance, would qualify.

The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and administered by the Kentucky Housing Corporation. The actual home energy audits and repairs are performed by 22 local Community Action agencies around the state, as well as by the Louisville-Metro government.

Help is available for those who live in single-family dwellings, multi-family dwellings, or mobile homes.

"Any household in Kentucky, whether they own or rent, should contact their local Community Action Agency and apply for weatherization service if they think they fall within the income limit of 200 percent of the poverty guideline," said Patrick Flowers, Weatherization Program manager for the Kentucky Housing Corporation. "The financial benefits they will experience through energy savings and the improved comfort of their homes are both immediate and long-lasting."

Those eligible for the program receive advice on ways to significantly lower their monthly energy bills. Weatherization workers can also repair or replace defective heat systems, add insulation, perform air-sealing work to eliminate drafts, and install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

The program's mission is to help families save money on their utility bills, not to beautify their homes or improve "curb appeal." Window and door replacements are done only if a computerized energy audit performed on the dwelling proves the replacements are needed to save energy.

Large-scale repairs such as roof replacements aren't within the program's scope.

For additional information about the program, please visit www.kyhousing.org.





Youth Tour Applications Available

Applications for the 2010 Rural Electric Youth Tour are now being accepted by Clark Energy Cooperative. Eight semifinalists will be chosen to represent their respective schools and Clark Energy at the Frankfort Youth Tour in April. Four students will then be selected from this group to represent Clark Energy on an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, DC, in June 2010. The Clark Energy delegates will travel with other cooperative sponsored youth and Kentucky co-op employed chaperones to Washington, DC, where they will tour landmarks of the Capital City and learn more about how government works.

Included on the tour will be visits to Monticello, Capitol Hill, Smithsonian Institution, Arlington National Cemetery, Washington Cathedral, National Holocaust Museum, Library of Congress, U.S. Capitol Building, the White House, and many more places of interest.

Participation requirements:

1. Student must be enrolled as a junior in high school or currently hold the status equivalent to junior in home-based schools or academies at the time application is made.
2. Applicant's parents or legal guardians must have a residential or business account with Clark Energy and account must be registered in one or both names.
3. Applicant must submit a typed essay of 250-500 words on "Why I Should Be Clark Energy's Delegate to Washington, DC."
4. Entries will be judged on sincerity of essay content. Correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation are essential. It is not required that essay meet KERA portfolio guidelines.
5. Judging and selections will be made by persons in the communications and/or education professions not employed by Clark Energy.
6. The applicant cannot be a member of the immediate family (reside in same household) of an employee, manager, or director of Clark Energy or Clark Propane Plus.
7. A copy of applicant's parents' or legal guardians' Clark Energy electric bill must accompany the essay and application for verification of service.

The deadline for applying is Friday, March 5, 2010, at 3 p.m. Mailed applications must be postmarked on or before March 5, 2010.

To obtain an application, please visit www.clarkenergy.com and click on "My Community," see your school counselor, or call Clark Energy at (800) 992-3269. For additional information on the Rural Electric Youth Tour, please visit www.kaec.org or www.youthtour.coop.

Since 1952, more than 40,000 high school students have visited Washington, DC, as a part of the Rural Electric Youth Tour.