



## Capital Credit Retirements

We are working on the process for retiring capital credit allocations for the years 1956 through 1965 and 17 percent of the 2007 allocation.

If you were a member of record during one or more of those years and are eligible to receive a refund we plan to have the credit applied to your electric bill dated October 5, 2008. It will be a separate line item on your bill labeled as Capital Credit Gen Retirement.

## Visit Our Website

Visit the Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative website at [www.lyon-coffey.coop](http://www.lyon-coffey.coop) for news, photos, information.

## CARE to Make a Difference

Support member-owned renewable energy through Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative's new "green" power program, Cooperatives Advancing Renewable Energy (CARE). By paying a little extra on your monthly electric bill, you can help develop local sun and wind energy resources. For more information, call us at (620) 364-2116.

## Security Deposits May Be Required

If you have been late paying your electric bill more than twice in the last 12 months, you will receive a letter informing you that you are now required to pay a security deposit or to increase the amount of your security deposit on your electric account(s).

Each month, it is essential to monitor delinquent accounts, generate reports, make phone calls and trips to collect, disconnect and reconnect delinquent accounts. This is necessary to recoup the costs of disconnecting and reconnecting members multiple times. The cooperative is held responsible by all co-op members to do everything we can to protect the cooperative from losses, so we must recoup this cost.

The Lyon-Coffey Electric Rules and Regulations state: "The cooperative may at any time after application for service, upon five days written notice, require a deposit to guarantee payment of bills for utility service rendered if: (c) The customer fails to pay an undisputed bill before the delinquency date for three billing periods within the past 12 months."

Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative charges the average of two months bills or a minimum amount of \$250 for residential or general

service small consumers.

Once a deposit is charged to an account, it is not refunded until 12 payments are made on-time or the account is disconnected permanently. After 12 months of on-time payments the security deposit will be applied to the member's electric bill.

Electric bills are due upon receipt. They are considered delinquent if not paid by 5 p.m. on the 24<sup>th</sup> of each month. We have a drop box outside both the Burlington and the Emporia offices for after-hour payments. If you drop your payment off the evening of the 24<sup>th</sup> we still consider that an on-time payment and those payments are posted before penalties are applied. If you mail your payment and it doesn't arrive at the co-op until the 25<sup>th</sup> it is a delinquent payment even though it is only one day late.

Sometimes members think that if they pay the delinquent penalty amount then it doesn't affect their credit to be a few days late. This is not the case. Not only are you charged the penalty amount but it also is recorded on each account if the payment was late. Protect your credit history and avoid being charged a security deposit by making sure your electric bill(s) is paid on-time.

# An Autumn Harvest of Safety

This harvest season is an opportune time to be proactive in exploring potential safety hazards and taking action to eliminate those that may exist so that accidents can be prevented.

Lyon-Coffey Electric offers the following recommendations to help avoid tragic accidents in the farming communities:

- Each day review all farm activities and work practices which will take place around power lines to remind workers to take precautions.
- Know the location of power lines and keep farm equipment at least 10 feet away from them.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of a grain truck. It can be difficult to estimate distance and sometimes a power line is closer than it looks. When moving large equipment or high loads near a power line, always use a spotter, or someone to help make certain that contact is not made with a line.
- Always lower portable augers or elevators to their lowest position level – under 14 feet – before moving or transporting them. Variables like wind, uneven ground, shifting weight or other conditions can combine to create an unexpected result.
- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting larger modern tractors with higher antennas.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path!
- Don't use metal poles when

breaking up bridged grain inside and around bins.

- As in any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness and dust and dirt contamination.
- Use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.

It's also important for farm equipment operators to know what to do if the vehicle comes in contact with a power line.

Staying inside the vehicle unless there's a fire or imminent risk of fire, is generally the best course of action. If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path and electrocution is the result.

Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the electric utility arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off.

If there is a threat of fire or other risk, the proper action is to **jump – not step** – with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Continue to hop or shuffle to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

Once you are away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment. Many electrocutions occur when the operator dismounts and, realizing nothing has happened, tries to get back on the equipment.

## How Long is a Kilowatt-Hour?

Quantities designated by familiar measure, such as the foot, pound, or cup, are easily appreciated because they can be seen.

Not surprisingly, few people can appreciate the quantity described by the measure called a kilowatt-hour (kWh). The commodity is invisible.

In order to visualize a kWh, let's relate to the amount of work done by a person.

In the home, a person would have to beat a batter mixture at an incredible speed, steadily, for 10 hours, to generate energy equal to one kWh.

A person working steadily with a hand pump for one hour can pump 4,000 gallons of water out of a 25-foot well. A one kWh motor running for one hour, pumping out a 25-foot well, will pump 10,000 gallons.

A person shoveling a foot of snow off a driveway 10-feet wide does about 23 pounds of work per shovelful (assuming one cubic foot of snow equals six pounds per shovelful). The person would have to clear a driveway two miles long to generate energy equal to one kWh.

Imagine a 150-pound person climbing a 1,000 foot flight of stairs. They would have to climb the stairs nearly 18 times to generate enough energy equal to one kWh.

Using these comparisons, it becomes obvious that electricity is still by far, one of the best bargains in anybody's budget.