



Light Reading

April 2007

South Central
Indiana REMC

"Member owned and operated since 1939"

What's inside ...

- Cooperative activities offer future savings for members
- PURPA Public Hearing
- Four SCI REMC Board Directors being Elected
- Discover the Value of Co-op Membership
- New Meters to be Installed

WINNER!

Lena Ooley of Martinsville won \$50 in February's Hidden Number.

Don't forget to look for the account number hidden in one of this month's stories. If it's yours, call us. You'll win \$50!



Cooperative activities offer future savings for members

Hi! I'm Kevin Sump, your CEO here at South Central Indiana REMC, and our goal is to provide reliable service to our members at the lowest possible cost.

We have several exciting programs currently in the works that will ultimately provide our members with added value and savings.

We are proud to announce that the Touchstone Energy Co-Op Connections card, which provides discounts for local and national retailers, will soon be provided to all of our members.

Additionally, we are installing new automated meters (AMRs) that will provide not only the efficiencies of easy remote reading from our office, but also allow us to connect and disconnect service from our facility. These meters will provide our engineering department with valuable data that will allow us to pinpoint voltage information that may cause 'blinks' and analyze our members' usage more efficiently. The cooperative will also save considerable dollars in time managing with the AMR units. In the near future we will also be able to offer optional off-peak rates and a load control program.

With the fluctuating cost of natural gas and other resources, electricity is still the better value. We appreciate our members and remain committed to providing excellent service at the lowest possible cost. At SCI REMC, we're looking out for you!



Kevin Sump is entering his nineteenth year as CEO of SCI REMC

Members invited to attend **PURPA Public Hearing to be Held**

Interested in renewable energy? Energy for the Envirowatts® program comes primarily from methane gas produced from landfills. This premium green power can be purchased in 100 Kilowatt-hour blocks, up to a maximum of 1,000 kWh per month. Each block will cost \$1.00 per 100-kWh block, in addition to the regular residential retail rate. Contact SCI REMC at 800-263-7362 for more information.

Sites to Surf

The following sites can provide more information on some of the story topics included in this month's issue:

For Co-op connections card and Energy tips touchstoneenergy.cooperative.com/public/index.html

For more information on PURPA: www.oe.energy.gov/purpa.htm

For more information on AMR: www.twacs.com/index.html

Electric utilities across the nation are preparing to respond to the Energy Policy Act of 2005's (EPAct) amendments to the Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act (PURPA).

PURPA was intended to encourage the conservation and efficient use of energy resources and to encourage the development of alternative power supplies capable of displacing the inefficient use of oil and natural gas by electric utilities.

The Board of Directors for South Central Indiana REMC has established a position

diversity, and fossil fuel plant efficiency.

Net-metering is a method of metering a home or business that has the ability to generate some or all of its power requirements.

Time-based metering and communications is an option of selecting a time-based rate schedule under which the rate charged by the cooperative would vary during different time periods and reflect the variance, if any, of the utility's cost of generating and purchasing electricity at the wholesale level.

Distributed Generation interconnections: the term "interconnections" means a service to an electric consumer under which an on-site generating facility on the consumer's premises is connected to the local distribution facilities.

Fuel source diversity is intended to minimize dependence on one fuel source and ensure that electricity is generated using a diverse range of fuels and technologies.

Fossil fuel plant efficiency is a standard to increase the efficiency of fossil fuel generation to conserve fuels. (Hidden number 1006014.) This standard applies to generation facilities.

Comments may be presented orally or in writing at the hearing, or written comments may be delivered to the office of South Central Indiana REMC at: 300 Morton Avenue, Martinsville, Indiana 46151. The public may contact Stacey Sauer at the REMC at 765-342-3344 or 880-264-7362 for further information.



statement regarding PURPA and a public meeting will be held at 1:00 pm on May 24, 2007 at the 4-H Building, located at the Morgan County Fairgrounds in Martinsville, to receive public comment on its proposed policies.

The purpose of the meeting is to allow public input from SCI REMC's consumer-owners of the proposed standards which include: net metering, time-based metering and communications, distributed generation interconnections, fuel source



Nominations to be accepted by petition

Four Directors being Elected

Board nominations for South Central Indiana REMC are being accepted for candidates in districts 2, 4, 6 and 8.

The candidate petitions will be available beginning April 18th. Candidates must submit the petition complete with 30 signatures from members residing in their district by the close of business on July 17, 2007.

SCI members will elect directors by mail-in ballot. Election results will be announced at SCI's annual meeting at

Mooresville High School on September 15. Nominations will not be accepted from the floor during the meeting.

The primary duties of a board director is to approve policies for the daily operation of the co-op, determine and approve budgets and work plans, setting rates and fee schedules for electric service, entering into power supply contracts, and executing loans for mainte-

nance and capital improvement projects. More information can be found on our website at www.sciremc.coop.

Director candidates cannot be employed by the REMC, or affiliated with a competing enterprise or business selling electricity or

related supplies to the REMC. If you are interested in running for the board, please call the office to confirm that you do live in one of the districts up for election and to request a petition.

“Allow your voice to be heard; apply for a board seat.”

Rex Franklin, President,
SCI REMC Board of Directors

“It's through membership that you have a voice and a vote,” states Rex Franklin, President of South Central Indiana REMC's Board of Directors. “We encourage you to speak through your membership...allow your voice to be heard by applying for a board seat.”

To confirm you district area location, call Stacey Sauer at 765-342-3344 or 800-264-7362.

Discover the Value of Co-op membership!

The SCI REMC member discount card previously introduced to our members in 2005 has gone national!

To help build member loyalty, Touchstone Energy created **Co-op Connections**, a member benefits card that offers co-op members discounts at participating retail businesses. Local businesses have special decals in their windows, so cardholders can easily recognize where the Co-op Connections card is accepted. In addition, Touchstone Energy continues to establish discounts with a variety of national businesses, hotel chains and rental car companies. Among those are Meineke Car Care Center (25 percent off lifetime mufflers); Alamo Rent-a-Car (free upgrade); and Choice Hotels International (10 percent discount on eight hotels). Your new Connections Card will be mailed to you in May, 2007 in lieu of the *Light Reading* Newsletter.



No Cost Tip

Turn off lights and appliances when not in use. Don't forget your computer - it can use as much energy as a refrigerator. Most new computers have "sleep" settings.

Low Cost Tip

Use compact fluorescent bulbs instead of incandescent ones. If every American home changed out just five high-use light fixtures or the bulbs in them with ones that have earned the ENERGY STAR, each family would save about \$60 every year in energy costs, and together we'd save about \$6.5 billion each year in energy costs and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions from more than 8 million cars.

Added Cost Tip

Some Cost Tip

Install floor and ceiling insulation: It's recommended to have a minimum of an R-30 - R-38 insulation in the attic and R19 insulation in the sub-floor.

New Automated Meters to be Installed for SCI REMC Customers

Beginning in late May or early June, South Central Indiana REMC will be installing a new automated meter reading (AMR) system that will use wireless radio transmitters to remotely read customer meters and then transfer the data to our office. The benefits to our members include:



Conversion of current meters to AMR units will occur beginning in late May or early June.

- ◆ Lower meter reading costs
- ◆ Enhanced customer convenience
- ◆ A reduction in operational costs
- ◆ Call resolution improvement; billing questions will be handled more quickly due to availability of more frequent meter readings
- ◆ Reduction in the duration of power outages

Automated systems can easily take readings daily or even

hourly on request. This improves long-term and short-term planning, allowing engineering to manage fluctuating usage more easily and allowing our customer service representatives to provide faster response to member's inquiries.

You will receive notification approximately one week prior to us changing out your meter to let you know we will be in the area. You will lose power for a short time and will have to reset your electronic appliances once the task is completed. We apologize in advance for the inconvenience.

If you have any questions about the project, please contact Phil Mattison, Director of Engineering, at 765-342-3344 or 800-264-7362.

Security Solutions
for Home or Business
Starting as low as \$199 installed
Call Angie @ 800-222-7362 Extension 2

Touchstone Energy
SCT Services, LLC

We're There When You're Not

Here when you need us ...

South Central Indiana REMC

Office

**300 Morton Ave.
Martinsville,
Indiana 46151**

Hours

**Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

Phone

**(765) 342-3344
(800) 264-7362
24 hrs / 7 days**

Fax

(765) 342-1335

Web site

www.sciremc.coop

E-mail address

askus@sciremc.com

**Call before you dig
(800) 382-5544**

**Have a question,
comment or
concern for us?
Call, write, e-mail
or visit our office.**

**REPORT A POWER
OUTAGE**

1. Call 1-800-264-7362, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
2. Provide the address and telephone number of the outage location.
3. Tell us, if you know, how the outage occurred: tree or line down, ice, etc.
4. Don't hang up! If you reach an automated answering service, please leave a message.