

April, 1996
Vol. 45, Number 4

Adams Outlet

News for Members Of Adams Electrical Co-Operative, Camp Point, Illinois



Doug Rye at Quincy

**Reduce
energy bills
BEFORE
building
your house**

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Reviewing the Assessment Increase

See pages 2-3

Adams Outlet

Editor

David Stuva, CREC

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TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

1. Check your fuses and circuit breakers. Do the neighbors have electricity?
2. If the problem appears to be with the cooperative's lines, call the following phone number. Give your name and map number, which is found on the bottom of your electric bill.
3. For service outages, phone:
1-800-232-4797
Local calls dial direct:
(217) 593-7701
In an emergency, call:
Douglas Aeilts 593-7340
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by Douglas Aeilts
General Manager

Reviewing the Assessment Increase

The March 1996 issue of the Adams Outlet stated that the costs of doing business required the board of directors to increase the assessment schedules for the first time in 11 years. The



new assessments were effective April 1 and are payable with the May 1 bills. The assessment change included a \$4 per month increase in facility charge and an 8.75 percent increase in energy rates for the single-phase members.

The cooperative has received a few inquiries regarding the assessment increase. Some of the more frequently asked questions are as follows:

1. "I understand that the cooperative has fixed costs, but how could they jump 33 percent in one year?"
2. "The larger users of electricity should pay a bigger percentage of the increase than those who use very little electricity."
3. "I own a cabin and I am not there very often. I use very little power and feel I'm being penalized with this increase."
4. "As a member of the cooperative, I feel this increase is too much for people on fixed incomes who simply cannot afford it."
5. "Are all the cooperative's rates being increased proportionally?"
6. "How can the cooperative sell 4¢ electricity for electric heat and water heating? I use gas heat and I have to pay 12¢."

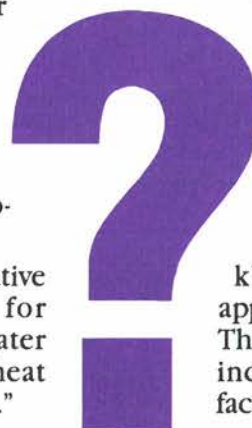
A little background on how assessments are developed

After establishing the fact that an assessment increase is necessary, the question becomes, "How is the assessment increase to be applied to the members of the cooperative?" All businesses have fixed and variable costs, and the cooperative is no exception. To determine which costs are fixed or variable and how the different costs should be applied, a Cost of Service Study is required. This study allocates the expenses fairly and determines the rate of return for each assessment schedule. This type of study is also required of investor-owned utilities by Public Utility Commissions.

In addition, the Cost of Service Study assigns the fixed expenses to the monthly fixed charge (facility charge) and the variable expenses to the energy charge (kWh charge). Currently, the monthly facility charge is significantly lower than it should be to cover the fixed costs.

Why increase the facility charge 33 percent in one year?

Since an assessment increase was necessary, the fairest approach was to spread the increase to the various parts of the assessment schedules that were not paying their fair share. The monthly facility charge was increased \$4 and the first 2,000 kWhs were increased approximately 8.75 percent. This doesn't mean that the increase of 33 percent in facility charge is because the



fixed costs went up that much in one year. It has been 11 years since our last assessment increase. But this does bring the fixed charges and energy prices more in line with what each cooperative member should pay on a monthly basis.

Shouldn't larger users pay more?

To place a higher percentage increase on the larger user of electricity would simply not be fair. The larger users are already paying the facility charges and the increased costs in the first 2,000 kWhs. They will be paying the maximum increase. The incremental costs to furnish the additional energy above 2,000 kWhs has not increased.

Does the larger facility charge penalize the small user?

The cooperative is not focusing on penalizing the cabin owners or the members who use small amounts of electricity. Facility charges are never a function of energy use but rather a function of energy availability. It costs the cooperative just as much to build service to a cabin or small user as it does to every other member. One of the basic principles of a cooperative is for everyone to pay their fair share of the costs.

It's too much for people on a fixed income to pay..

Some members on a fixed income may have a difficult time affording this increase. While this may be a problem, Adams Electric is a cooperative and the cooperative exists for the benefit of all the members and equitable assessments must be maintained.

With the increase in the facility charge and the first 2,000 kWh, the cooperative is ensuring that each one of the assessment

components is established fairly, with neither component subsidizing the other, or that no single group of members is subsidizing another.

Are all the cooperative's assessment schedules being increased proportionally?

The following assessment schedules were increased proportionally:

Schedule A—single phase—residential and farms

Schedule AH—single phase—Uncontrolled electric heat—residential and farms

Schedule B—three phase—small commercial

Schedule BH—three phase—electric heat—small commercial

Schedule E—single phase—two houses on one meter

Schedule F—single phase—non-residential—annual billing

The above assessment schedules account for 87 percent of the total revenue of the cooperative.

The following assessment schedules were not changed:

Schedule CHC—controlled heating and cooling

Schedule CAC—controlled air conditioning

Schedule A & B TOD—time of day—single and three phase

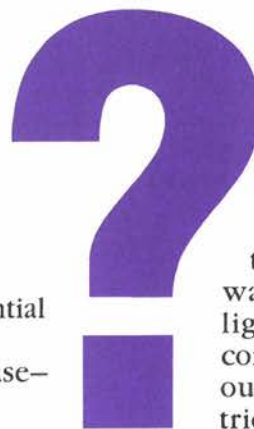
Schedule IR—irrigation

Schedule LP—large power

Schedule I—interruptible

Schedule ED & EDI—economic development and economic development interruptible

These assessment schedules had been increased or newly established since 1985, except for Schedule LP. The Cost of Service study illustrated that each of these assessment schedules were providing a higher rate of return on investment than the assessment schedules that were increased.



"How can the cooperative sell 4¢ electricity for electric heat and water heating? I use gas heat and I pay 12¢."

Every member who is on Schedule CHC for their electric heat and water heating is also on Schedule A for all other electric usage in their house. In other words, every residential member pays the same price for the electricity used for their refrigerator, freezer, stove, dryer, washer, water bed, television, VCR, microwave, computer, stereo, lights, hair dryer, water conditioner and any other outdoor or indoor electricity used whether they have electric heat or not.

The cooperative's power supplier wants to encourage winter time usage of electricity. The costs to provide the additional electricity for electric heat and water heating is minimal. Every kWh sold for electric heat and water heating helps maintain stability in the cooperative's other assessment schedules. Without Schedules CHC, CAC, A-TOD, B-TOD and I, this assessment increase would have been earlier and larger because each of these schedules help reduce the summer peak demand costs.

In addition, the type of fuel used to heat your house or your water is a very competitive market. Our electricity price for these appliances must be competitive with propane, natural gas and fuel oil. At 4¢ the price is competitive and all cooperative members benefit from each kilowatt-hour sold.

I would be willing to meet with you if you wish to further discuss the increase or answer any questions you have in more detail.



Schedule of Fees

Collection Fee:

If an electric payment is not received by the 8th day of the month, the member will receive a delinquent notice. If payment is not received and no arrangements have been made with the billing department, the cooperative will send an employee to the member's home to collect the amount due, which will include a \$30.00 collection fee. The electric service may be disconnected until the total amount due and all applicable fees are paid.

Returned Check Processing:

If a member's check is returned by the bank marked non-sufficient funds (NSF), Account Closed, or for any other reason, a notice will be mailed to the member and a \$15.00 returned check processing fee will be added to the member's account.

After the second NSF check, and \$15.00 returned check processing fee, a member will not be allowed to pay their account by personal check for one year.

New Connections:

A member desiring to be connected during regular working hours, will be required to pay a \$10.00 Connection Fee in addition to a \$5.00 membership fee. If connection is requested after regular working hours, the connection fee is \$70.00.

Reconnections:

Delinquent Electric Bill

If a member's electric service is disconnected because of a delinquent electric bill, they will be required to pay for all electricity used up to the date of the disconnection, plus a \$30.00 collection fee and \$40.00 reconnect fee. A meter deposit fee of \$200.00 is required before the service will be restored. If the reconnection is made after regular business

hours, 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, or on a weekend or holiday, the reconnect fee will be \$70.00

Reconnections:

Within 12 Months

If a member requests their electric service to be disconnected, and then wishes to have the same location reconnected within a 12-month period, they will be required to pay a reconnect fee of \$40.00. If the reconnection is requested after regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, or on a weekend or holiday, the reconnect fee will be \$70.00.

Meter Testing:

The electric meter, which measures the amount of electricity (kilowatt-hours) that you use, is a very precise and accurate instrument. All new connections receive a newly tested and calibrated meter.

A regular schedule of testing is maintained by your cooperative so that each meter is kept clean and in good working order. A member can request a meter test if they pay a \$35.00 deposit. If the meter is accurate, the cooperative will keep the \$35.00 to help defray the cost of the test. In the event the meter is not in the acceptable limit, the meter deposit will be returned to the member and an adjustment will be made.

Meter Reading:

Members of the cooperative are required to read their electric meter(s) monthly and send the meter reading(s) with the proper payment. If a member fails to read their electric meter(s) they are

subject to the cooperative's collection policy.

Meter Loop Breakers and

Meter Loop Repairs:

When an outage or trouble occurs in the meter loop or with the meter loop breakers, the cooperative will bill the member a \$35.00 trouble call fee, plus the cost of all required materials.

Other Trouble Calls:

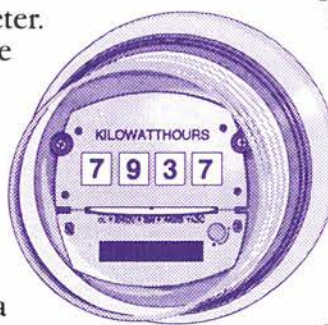
Where an outage or trouble occurs on the load side of the meter (member's side of the meter), the cooperative will bill the member a \$35.00 trouble call fee, plus the cost of all required materials. If the trouble call is after regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, or on a weekend or holiday the trouble call fee will be \$70.00.

All outages occurring on the cooperative's side of the electric meter will be repaired without charge to the member.

Anyone intentionally or negligently damaging cooperative property will be held responsible for the cost of repairing the damage or replacing the property.

Appliance Department Fees:

Adams Electrical Cooperative's appliance department has been in business since 1959 and is an authorized G.E. and Hotpoint dealer. We have three full-time service technicians and service all brands of major appliances. The cooperative charges \$35.00 for the first hour and \$30.00 for any hour after that. The cooperative doesn't charge mileage. Shop labor is \$30.00 an hour. ■



Designing for Energy Efficiency

An innovative seminar for homebuilders, heating and cooling contractors, architects and lenders was held Monday evening April 1. More than 185 people attended the three-hour Energy Efficiency Workshop at Peters Heating & Air Conditioning in Quincy.

The keynote speaker was Doug Rye from Mabelvale, Arkansas. He is a licensed architect and is founder of RyeNovators, a national network of trained energy experts. Doug has helped develop over 400 rental complexes and has been involved in building thousands of single family homes ranging from 480 square feet to 10,000 square feet. He conducts about 200 seminars annually.

During the presentation, Doug dispelled many myths concerning energy-efficient construction. The topics covered were energy efficient design, construction techniques, insulation, air infiltration, ductwork and high efficient heating and

cooling systems like geothermal.

"Too often homeowners are confronted with high energy bills that stem from the home's construction," Rye says. "The time to take action is before construction begins!"

In today's housing market, energy efficient construction can be the difference between high utility costs or a home that saves over 66 percent in energy consumption. According to Rye, that can mean a utility savings of \$25,000.00 or more on a 2,000-square-foot house over a 20-year period.

Besides developing the 31 principles of energy efficient construction, Rye is host of a syndicated radio talk show called "Home Remedies." The national call-in show is broadcast live on Saturday mornings and can be heard in 24 cities.



Doug Rye, left, host of the "Home Remedies" radio show, is famous for saying, "If you build a home and have high utility bills, it's your own cotton pickin' fault!"

Two local radio stations have expressed interest in carrying "Home Remedies."

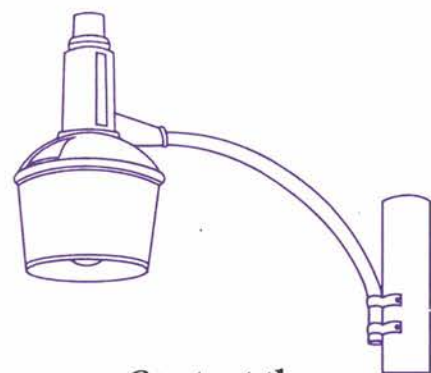
The Energy Efficiency Workshop was hosted by Nu-Wool Company, Peter's Heating and Air Conditioning and Adams Electrical Co-Operative. The workshop generated a lot of positive feedback from participants and several people suggested bringing Doug Rye back to Quincy for a homeowner workshop. ■

Security Lights are a Bargain!

There's nothin' for you to do or remember. We own, install and maintain the 100-watt high pressure sodium security light ... even furnish the electricity! The monthly rental charge is only \$7.14. That's less than 24 cents a night!

Occasionally, a member will rent a 100-watt high pressure sodium security light from the cooperative and run the usage through their meter. An example would be installing a light on a barn or a pole owned by the member. The \$2.00 monthly charge for a metered security light includes bulb replacement and any needed maintenance.

Adams Electrical Co-Operative has been installing high pressure sodium security lights since March 1, 1989. As mercury vapor lights go bad, they will be replaced with high pressure sodium security lights. The rental charge for security lights has not changed since April 1, 1985.



**Contact the
member service
department at**

593-7701 or 800-232-4797

**if you want
more information
on security lights.**

Cooperative Employees Receive Service Awards

Four employees and one director were honored for outstanding service to Adams Electrical Co-Operative during the 49th annual employee-director banquet, held April 13, 1996, at the Golden Windmill.



5 Years
Randy Rigg
Lead Technician



10 Years
Roger Herren
Director



15 Years
Joyce Bockhold
*Accounting/EDP
Assistant*



20 Years
Penny Padgett
*Administrative
Assistant*



25 Years
Daryl Douglas
*(Long-term
disability)*

Waterhemp Control in Corn and Soybeans

by Mike Roegge, Crops Educator, University of Illinois Quincy Extension Center

In two years' time, waterhemp has gone from a weed that nobody knew existed to one that in some areas is the most devastating weed on the farm. Very few farmers even knew waterhemp existed prior to 1994, yet in certain locales, waterhemp has become the dominant weed. Why the increase? How to keep it from spreading?

Waterhemp populations have existed for years in Illinois. However, as our herbicide programs changed, so did the weed spectrum. As a result, one waterhemp plant one year became thousands the next year and millions in the years after. Each waterhemp plant will produce about 100,000 seeds. With this sort of reproduction capability, the weed will certainly increase in population if given the chance.

This is one of the recommended control strategies for those locations where waterhemp has not "taken over the farm." Isolated patches should be eliminated prior to seed set. The waterhemp plant

is easily mistaken for pigweed, a weed that it is closely related to. The normal pigweed herbicides will not control waterhemp. The stem of pigweed has a pubescence, or fine hair. This pubescence covers the stem and leaf petiole.

In many fields where waterhemp has already established itself, a two-step approach for weed control in soybeans will be required. A pre-emerge herbicide applied at full label rate, close to planting (to allow for longer residual) followed by a post-emerge product applied at or before labeled weed size. Research has indicated that an acetanilide (Dual, Lasso or Frontier) or a DNA (Prowl or Treflan) applied at full labeled rates, close to planting, provide the most consistent soil applied weed control. However, in most cases, a post-emerge application of a diphenyl ether (blazer, cobra, status, reflex, tank mixed to provide more broad spectrum control) at or before labeled weed size will be necessary. Roundup can also be used with roundup ready beans. Scouting to determine post emerge application date cannot be overemphasized. It's hard to kill

knee-high waterhemp. Many producers and dealers report failures of waterhemp control by some of the most common post emerge ALS products.

In corn, atrazine works well. A combination of atrazine along with an acetanilide, such as Dual, Harness, Frontier, Lasso or Surpass, will provide good control. Bladex is a poor choice. If necessary, post applications of a phenoxy (2,4-D, Clarity, Banvel) will provide help.

In summary, control isolated patches before the weed becomes a real problem weed. Scout, scout, and scout some more. You just can't kill knee-high waterhemp. Problem fields will require a two-step approach. A pre-emerge soil applied herbicide followed by a post-emerge application. Don't put the pre-emerge products on too early. You want residual as long as possible, as waterhemp can emerge very late in the season. Don't put post-emerge products on too late. Follow label guidelines on weed size. Lastly, keep it controlled in corn. There are many products available in corn at reasonable cost. ■

CAC...The Coolest Thing to Happen Since Air Conditioning!

Controlled Air Conditioning

Rate: Only 8¢ a kWh!

A special submeter will be installed on your central air conditioner to measure the electricity used for cooling. During the months of June, July, August and September, all kWhs on the submeter will be billed at 8¢ a kWh. There will also be an additional \$3.00 monthly facility charge during the four summer months.

How The Program Works

A radio receiver will be installed on your house and connected to your central air conditioner. When load conditions indicate a peak usage period is approaching, a signal will be sent by Adams Electrical Co-Operative to the radio receiver on your central air conditioning unit. This signal will cycle your central air conditioning unit for short time periods of 15 minutes off and 15 minutes on.

Your central air conditioner will be controlled only when there is a peak usage--usually on

the hottest, most humid days of summer. In 1995, we interrupted only five days. The fan on your air conditioner will continue to run and the air will continue to circulate, so you probably will not even notice the central air conditioner is off.

Installation Costs

It will cost \$75.00 to go on the CAC rate. This includes the

radio-controlled switch, air conditioner submeter and labor. According to the National Electric Code, all central air conditioners must have an outside disconnect. If not present, Adams Electrical Co-Operative will install one for an additional \$25.00. Only central air conditioners can be controlled. Sorry, no window air conditioners qualify. ■

**For Details:
call
217-593-7701
or
800-232-4797**



Please send me information:

- ☐ Special rate for *Central Air-conditioners*
- ☐ Special rate for *Electric Heat*
- ☐ Monthly credit for *Electric Water Heaters*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Best time to call _____

Work Phone _____ Account # _____

Date _____ Map Loc. # _____

Clip and mail to:

Adams Electrical Co-Operative, Member Service Department,
P.O. Box 247, Camp Point, IL 62320, Phone: 1-800-232-4797





Just in time for Mother's Day!



HOTPOINT

Model HDA900XBA

Built-in dishwasher

- 5 cycles and 19 options.
- Pots and Pans & Water Saver cycles.
- 6-hour delay start option.
- Heated dry on/off option.
- Super upper rack with 2 cup shelves.

Just \$379.95



HOTPOINT by GE

Model DLB3400S

Large capacity 3-cycle heavy duty dryer

- Automatic dry control.
- 3 drying selections.
- Huge door opening for easy loading.
- Removable up-front lint filter.

Just \$309.95



HOTPOINT by GE

Model WLW3400S

Large capacity 6-cycle heavy duty washer

- 3 water level selections.
- 4 wash/rinse temperatures.
- Bleach dispenser.
- Self-cleaning filter.

Just \$379.95



David Stuva
Member Services Mgr.

Appliances can be seen at the Camp Point
Showroom between 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.,
Monday through Friday.

Adams Electrical Co-Operative
Your Full-Service Appliance Dealer Since 1959
phone: 800-232-4797



Robert Post
Service Technician

HOTPOINT