January, 2000
Vol. 49, Number 1

Adams Outlet

News for Members Of Adams Electric Cooperative, Camp Point, Illinois

Coming TO A Mailbox NEAR YOU

Your New Electric Bill

Adams Outlet

www.adamselectriccoop.com

Office hours:
Monday-Friday
7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

To report an outage:
1-800-232-4797
Local calls dial direct:
(217) 593-7701

MISSION STATEMENT

"Adams Electric Cooperative is committed to exceeding the expectations of those we serve!"

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Editor
Candace Weeks

by Douglas Aeilts
General Manager

The new millennium brings changes to your electric bill

This issue of the Adams Outlet is devoted to explaining a new bill format that will be implemented by the Cooperative, starting with the February 1, 2000 monthly statements. This is the first of many changes being made to prepare the Cooperative and our members for electric utility deregulation.

The Cooperative uses the most efficient meter reading and billing system available – member self-read/self-billed. Even though it is the most efficient method, it also has many limitations. The previous monthly statement was too small, which hindered the amount of information that could be provided.

Electric utility deregulation will require a tremendous amount of education to allow Cooperative members to make informed decisions in the future. One part of the education process is to "unbundle" the current electric bill. A "bundled" electric bill includes generation, transmission, distribution, metering, billing and stranded costs all in one total.

Generation

This is the cost to generate or produce electric energy, measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh) at the power plant. In Illinois, an electric energy supplier will be called a Retail Electric Supplier (RES).

Transmission

This is the cost to transport, at high voltages (34,500 volts and higher), the electric energy from the power plant to the local distribution system.

Distribution

This is the cost to build and maintain the electric distribution system from the transmission network to the customer's point of use.

Metering

This is the cost to install and maintain an electric meter that measures the electric energy used by the customer.

Billing

This is the cost to maintain customer billing records, printing and receiving monthly bills and collecting and depositing the members payments.

Stranded Costs

These are the investments made in power plants that are uneconomical, or stranded, in a transition to a competitive environment (customer choice). In Illinois, the investor-owned utilities are required to call this a *Competitive Transition Charge*. Electric cooperatives can not calculate the *Competitive Transition Charge* as required by the state law, so our stranded costs will be added into the Cooperative's distribution charge. Customers will not be able to avoid these charges by selecting a different electric energy supplier or RES.

In the future, customers will have "choice" regarding the electric energy supplier (RES), metering and billing supplier. There are no plans to allow choice for transmission or distribution suppliers.

Adams Electric Cooperative has been providing all these functions for our member/consumers since 1938. In the future, the Cooperative will continue offering all of these functions, but the member will likely have choices for every function except for the distribution and transmission charges. All the electric service area will continue to be assigned to specific

investor-owned companies or cooperatives.

Within the next year, the Cooperative will be providing our Members an "unbundled" bill that will be printed on your monthly statement. It will illustrate how your previous month's bill would have been divided into the various "unbundled" categories.

To provide the necessary information on our monthly statements, the bill format needed to be enlarged to allow for more information and to start the customers education process. The Cooperative considered buying the equipment to print, fold, insert and mail the new larger billing statement, but our costs were not as low as companies that specialized in these functions.

The Cooperative has decided to outsource the bill printing and mailing functions to UtiliTec, a Utah company. UtiliTec specializes in bill printing for many companies, including utilities, which require high printing volumes on a regular basis. UtiliTec only prints data on the statement. They do not calculate bills or collect member information.

The only function that is changing is your monthly bill will be printed and mailed by UtiliTec from Utah. Our members will continue to read their own meters and calculate their own bills.

The Cooperative will continue to maintain and store all member/customer records. Member/customer records are considered to be confidential information and only released as allowed by law and as authorized by a member.

We will no longer be using the yellow two-way envelopes. There will be a separate envelope to use to return your monthly payments. Your monthly payments will continue to be mailed to the Cooperative.

Please read the other articles in this newsletter that will explain in more detail the new bill statement. As always, feel free to call our office if you have any questions. ■

Three convenient ways to pay your electric bill

Credit card

1 If you don't like the inconvenience of having to write a check every month to pay your electric bill, then check out our no check payment plan. It's called *Automatic Bill Payment*.

All you need to do is call the billing department by the 8th of each month with your meter reading and the amount due can be charged to your credit card. Credit cards accepted are Visa, MasterCard and Discover.

The Cooperative offers the Co-op Power Plus Low Interest Card and the Co-op Power Plus Rebate Card.

The Co-op Power Plus Low Interest Card offers a low variable interest rate while the Co-op Power Plus Rebate Card allows members to enjoy a 3% rebate when paying their monthly electric bills.

Members using the Co-op Power Plus Rebate Card can also earn a 2% rebate on other Adams Electric Cooperative products or services and a 1% rebate on all other purchases. Combined rebates are limited to a total of $100 per year.

Budget billing

Weather and usage patterns cause electric bills to fluctuate

2 every month. The budget-billing program is a way to average bill payments over the year.

Any residential member with a primary residence may join the Cooperative's budget billing plan. It allows a member to pay a flat monthly charge for a 12-month period.

To qualify, a member must have a satisfactory credit rating or furnish acceptable references. The member will receive a meter reading statement each month showing the amount of the budget payment. We ask that the member record the meter reading on the monthly statement, but pay only the budgeted amount.

After paying these 12 equal payments for your electricity, any adjustment due to any overpayment or underpayment of the actual bill for the past year will be rolled into the next 12 monthly payments.

In the event the member becomes delinquent in the budget payments, they will automatically forfeit their privilege and revert to regular billing.

Annual billing

This program is mainly for

3 camps, cabins and/or township buildings. The Cooperative will use the previous 12-months usage to determine an average monthly bill. Cooperative members are billed one time per year according to their average usage. The meter will be read at the end of the 12 months to determine the amount to be prepaid for the coming year.

If you have any questions or would like more information on any of these programs, please contact the Cooperative's office at (217) 593-7701 or 1-800-232-4797. ■

"Adams Electric Cooperative is committed to exceeding the expectations of those we serve!"

This is the mission statement that guides us when serving you – our member/owners.

The 21st century is bringing many changes to the electric industry. The billing department is one of the main arteries of the Cooperative. To better serve your needs, the Cooperative has designed a new electric bill format. This new bill format will let us give you more detailed information than ever before. You will receive your new electric bill the end of January.

UtiliTec Communications, based in Park City, Utah, will be printing and mailing the bill. You will still receive your bill at the end of every month, read the meter and figure the bill the same as before.

On page 5 is an example of what your new bill will look like. Listed below are explanations for each field: (Please note that this bill is for a single meter account.) ■

1. **Account Number** - Assigned member number.
2. **Name**
3. **Telephone Number**
4. **Map Location Number** - This is the number assigned to your location in the Cooperative map books. Please use this map location number when reporting an outage.
5. **Location Description** (i.e. Grain Bin, Farm #1, Well, etc.)
6. **Rate Code**
7. **Billing Date**
8. **Meter Number** - This is the number the Cooperative assigns your electric meter.
9. **Meter Readings** - The shaded areas are for the new reading and kWh's used and the white area will have the previous meter reading preprinted.
10. **Energy Charge** - You will use this area to record the dollar amount from your assessment book.
11. **Data Field** – This area shows any additional charges that may occur on your electric bill (EnergyWyse Loan payment, Security Light, Water Heater Credit, Appliance Contract payments, Power Cost Adjustment, Advanced Prepayments, previous balance, etc.)
12. **Days Service** – This area shows the number of days of service in previous billing periods.
13. **Total kWh** – This area shows past kWh's.
14. **Average kWh Per Day** – This area shows the past average kWh's per day.
15. **Cost Per Day** – This area shows the past average kWh cost per day.
16. **Average Temperature** – This area is set up for future use to show the past temperature average.
17. **Due Date** – Date bill is due.
18. **Total Amount Due** - You will use this area to total all charges.
19. **Your Energy Use** – Graph showing usage during the last 13 months.
20. **Message Field** – This area will be used to convey any important message or upcoming appliance sale at the Cooperative.
21. **Account Number**
22. **Due Date**
23. **Meter** – The meter number will be preprinted on your bill and you will need to fill in the current meter reading.
24. **Present Meter Reading** - You will record the present meter reading in this area.
25. **Name and Address Field**
26. **Amount Paid**

ADAMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

PO Box 247
Camp Point, IL 62320-0247
217-593-7701 or 800-232-4797
Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday
www.adamselectriccoop.com

For outage service or questions with your bill: 217-593-7701 or 800-232-4797

ACCOUNT NUMBER	NAME	TELEPHONE	MAP LOCATION NUMBER
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)

LOCATION DESCRIPTION	RATE CODE	BILLING DATE
(5)	(6)	(7)

METER NUMBER: (8)

PRESENT READING					0	(9)
PREVIOUS READING					0	
USAGE					0	

(10)

(11)

KWH COST COMPARISON	DAYS SERVICE	TOTAL KWH	AVG. KWH/DAY	COST PER DAY	AVG. TEMP
CURRENT BILLING PERIOD					
PREVIOUS BILLING PERIOD	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR					

DUE DATE (17)

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE (18)

YOUR ENERGY USE - Electric/kwh - usage last 13 months

(19)

(20)

AEC001

PAYING YOUR BILL: Please pay your bill by the due date. An unpaid bill becomes delinquent after the due date and will pay a 5% penalty.
LATE PAYMENT: Please use the second column of your Assessment Schedule if paying after the due date.
RETURNED CHECKS: Your account will be charged a $25.00 fee if your check is returned from the bank unpaid.

RETAIN TOP PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS

PLEASE PUT METER READINGS IN BLOCKS. RETURN THIS PORTION OF BILL WITH PAYMENT.

ADAMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

PO Box 247
US HWY 24 EAST
CAMP POINT, IL 62320-0247
217-593-7701

PLEASE INDICATE CHANGE OF ADDRESS/PHONE ON THE BACK OF THIS FORM

(25)

ACCOUNT NUMBER	DUE DATE
(21)	(22)
METER: (23)	
(24) 0	

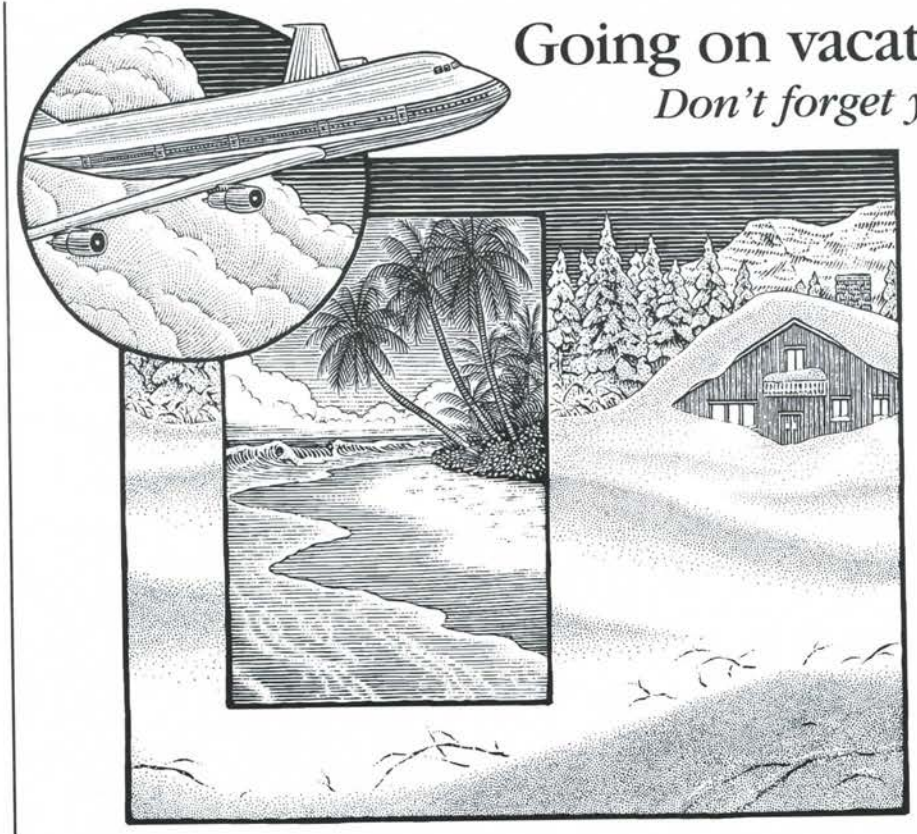
FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, YOU MAY PAY WITH CREDIT CARD. SIMPLY PHONE OUR OFFICE AT 1-800232-4797

ENTER AMOUNT PAID $ (26)

ADAMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
PO BOX 247
US HWY 24 EAST
CAMP POINT, IL 62320-0247

Going on vacation?

Don't forget your electric bill!

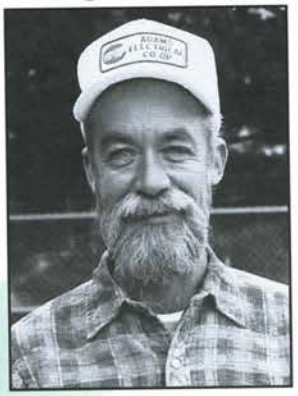


Most vacations are often planned weeks or months in advance. They seldom are spur-of-the-moment decisions. If you are going to be gone over the 8th of the month, please make sure your electric bill is paid before you leave. Either mail the payment by the 8th of the month or use the convenient drop box by the front door of our building.

If you plan to get away for three or four weeks at one time, call the office so we can estimate your electric bill. Vacation is a time for rest and relaxation, not a time to worry about late payment charges. ■

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Jim Krutmeier has been with Adams Electric Cooperative for eight years. Jim's first five years at AEC were spent as a Tree Trimmer and then in 1997 Jim became the Cooperative's Warehouseman. Keeping track of line inventory and maintaining the Cooperative's warehouse can be a challenging job, but one that Krutmeier handles extremely well. Jim also helps unload material trucks and helps other Cooperative employees when needed.



Jim Krutmeier

Jim and his fiancé, Kim, live at R.R. 2 Camp Point. Jim has two daughters, Brenda and Kelly and a son Jayme. He is also an extremely proud grandpa of two young grandsons, Cody and Austin.

An avid sportsman, Jim belongs to both Quails and Ducks Unlimited. In his spare time Jim enjoys spending time with his family, hunting, fishing, root digging and wood working in his shop, although according to Kim, this is not always the order in which Jim spends that spare time!

When asked what his favorite thing about his job was, Jim said that it was working with other employees and trying to help solve the problems that come along with the job of Warehouseman. ■

Friendly Reminder

When sending your bill in:

- *Include your meter reading on the remittance form.*
- *Do not tape or staple payments to remittance form.*
- *Remember to sign your check.*
- *Be sure the Cooperative's mailing address is showing through the return envelope window.*
- *If you have any questions about your bill, call the billing department for help.*

Cooperative Plans 41st Annual Contest!

An all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 16 - 23, 2000, will be awarded to two area students by Adams Electric Cooperative. Any high school sophomore or junior can enter the contest.

Contest Rules

All participants will be required to write a 1,000 word essay. A panel of three judges will evaluate each essay on the basis of content, accuracy, originality and neatness.

Eighteen participants could win a trip to Springfield on Wednesday, April 12, 2000, for "Illinois Rural Electric and Telephone Youth Day."

The Cooperative will make all arrangements for the tour which includes: the governor's mansion, state capitol, Lincoln's home, visiting elected officials and other interesting sites.

Washington, D.C. Trip

The two winners will travel by bus to Washington, D.C. where they will join 2,000 other students from across the nation. While in Washington, the young people will visit the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Printing and Engraving, U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, Supreme Court Building, Library of Congress, White House and many other historical places.

Two alternates will receive $50 savings bonds and be eligible for the Washington, D.C. trip if one of the winners is unable to attend. ■

Contact Candace Weeks at
Adams Electric Cooperative for more details.
Ph. 1-800-232-4797

The Homebuilder Association of Quincy & Quincy Mall

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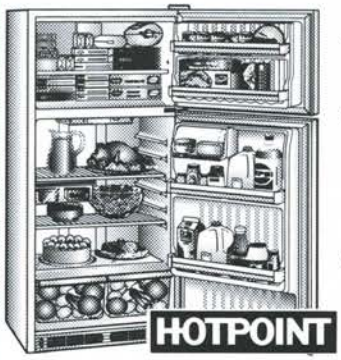
2000 Cabin Fever Weekend

Saturday and Sunday
February 19 & 20, 2000

January Savings!

Hotpoint Refrigerator



- Gallon door storage.
- 2 clear vegetable/ fruit crispers.
- Equipped for optional icemaker.

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$559.95

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- Regenerates only when needed.

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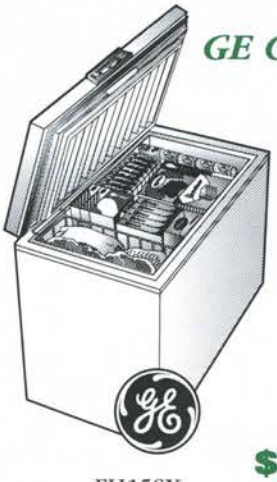
GE Chest Freezer



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- 2 storage baskets
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