

Construction schedule balances new projects, maintenance

Work continues on lines, substations

Balancing a schedule filled with new construction projects and ongoing maintenance work will keep Corn Belt Power transmission, electrical maintenance and general maintenance crews busy throughout the fall and winter seasons.

Reconductoring existing transmission lines is an important part of Corn Belt Power's strategic plan for reliability. The reconductoring process shortens spans between poles, provides adequate ground clearances, modifies design to accommodate landowners and installs larger capacity conductor in lines that are more than 50 years old.

The Humboldt transmission crew is currently reconductoring a 12-and-a-half-mile section of line from the Thomas C. Conner Substation to the Sherwood Switching Station in Calhoun and Carroll counties. The Hampton transmission crew is reconductoring 12 miles of line from Bristol Junction to the Rockford Tap in Butler and Floyd counties. The Emmetsburg transmission crew continues work on a 10-and-a-half-mile reconductoring project from Ayrshire to MidAmerican Energy's Emmetsburg Tap. Completion is expected this fall.

Several new substations and switching stations are underway due to growth in member distribution cooperatives' systems:

- **The Fern Substation and accompanying six-and-a-half-mile Fern Tap** – Located near the junction of Highways 20 and 14, these facilities were completed in August and serve the Grundy County Heritage Center, a member of Grundy County REC.

- **Radcliffe Switching Station** – This substation, now under construction in the Jewell/Hubbard area, will increase reliability in the territory served by Midland Power Cooperative.

- **Pelican Switching Station** – Located near the east side of Lower Gar Lake in Dickinson County, this new facility will increase reliability in the service territory of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative (ILEC). Named after the new Pelican Ridge housing development, the switching station will undergo construction starting this fall.

- **Vernon Substation and six-and-a-half-mile Vernon Tap** – Located east of Graettinger, the new facilities will be constructed this fall to serve the expansion of Daybreak Foods, a member of ILEC.

- **Range Substation** – Located in the northeast corner of Milford and named for Corn Belt Power and ILEC Director L. Kirby Range, this substation will be built this fall with completion in 2007. The substation will serve a new housing development around Lower Gar Lake.

- **Hummel Substation and one-and-a-half-mile Hummel Tap** – These facilities will be built west of Superior to serve a new ethanol plant on ILEC's lines. Construction will be completed in 2007. This substation and tap will be named after three generations of former ILEC directors: Ed, Dean and Dan Hummel.

- **Hobarton-Whittemore line** – This six-and-a-half-mile transmission line will add reliability in the area. After the route selection process is completed, construction will start in 2007.



At Left | Corn Belt Power electricians install a transformer at the Fern Substation. This new substation, located near the intersection of Highways 20 and 14, serves the new Grundy County Heritage Center, a member of Grundy County REC.

Cooperatives to promote energy efficient lighting

More rural Iowans will be saving energy lighting their homes later this year thanks to a fall promotion sponsored by several of Corn Belt Power's member systems. "Change a Light, Change the World" will promote energy efficiency and the use of compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).

These co-ops will be joining Iowa investor owned utilities, municipal utilities and other RECs in an instant rebate program that allows their members to buy CFLs from local retailers and receive discounts immediately upon purchase. The instant rebate program, coordinated by the Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation (WECC), will take place in October-November.

Corn Belt Power members participating in the WECC program are Butler County REC, Humboldt County REC, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, Sac County REC and Webster City Municipal Utilities. Grundy County REC will also offer a CFL rebate program.

Compact fluorescent bulbs provide the same light output but use one-fourth the energy of traditional incandescent bulbs. They also burn cooler and last many times longer. "Change a Light, Change the World" is a national effort to encourage Americans to buy the bulbs and reduce energy use.

Co-op objectives of the CFL program include:

- Increase member energy efficiency awareness
- Provide members a low cost, easy way to participate
- Position the cooperative as a supporter of energy efficiency
- Document CFL bulbs installed and potential energy savings

Benefits of WECC's program include economies of scale for bulb pricing and program administration. WECC directly negotiates with bulb manufacturers, such as GE, for lower cost CFLs and with regional retailers for bulb sales. WECC now coordinates the delivery of its program among over 100 utilities in Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio. These utilities combine their program dollars to leverage discounts and incentive dollars on more than five million CFLs each year.

In Iowa, over 550 retail stores (such as Ace Hardware, True Value, Do It Best, Hy-Vee, Menard's, Shopper's Supply and independent hardware stores) are signed up to sell bulbs this fall. Each bulb is eligible for a \$2 instant rebate (12 bulbs maximum per customer, as long as supplies last).

The Web site www.iowachangealight.com will be active during the campaign (site will be up beginning in October). The site will feature a participating store locator, names, logos and Web site links for all participating utilities and links to national CFL information.



Above | In October last year, the USDA Rural Development presented Kossuth County and Corn Belt Power with a \$300,000 check to help fund the Kossuth County Nature Center. Projects such as this will receive funds from the combined Franklin REC/Corn Belt Power USDA revolving loan fund.

Rural development funds combined for larger impact

Franklin REC's USDA Rural Development \$778,000 revolving loan fund has joined with Corn Belt Power Cooperative's \$3 million fund to increase the size and service area the programs serve. Both funds were created with an investment from USDA Rural Development. The new joint fund will be administered by Corn Belt Power.

"We are working hard to keep the funds revolving to provide more financing opportunities for rural Iowa businesses," says Lisa Shimkat, development finance director, Corn Belt Power. "With this merger of loan programs, the Rural Development funds will reach rural Iowa with a broader scope. The combination of funds will create a bigger pool of resources for supplementing rural projects within a larger region. We are committed to making rural Iowa more competitive for business growth."

Franklin REC sought to combine funds with Corn Belt Power in order to expand the availability of its loan funds and increase the amount of rural economic impact in the region. The consolidation will allow Franklin REC's funds to expand from serving three counties to serving 32 counties across North Central Iowa.

USDA Rural Development has helped create over 100 revolving loan funds across Iowa.

These funds represent over \$47.7 million that is available to help support economic development.

SAVINGS WITH A TWIST



- Use up to 75% less energy.
- Last up to 10 times longer.
- Save at least \$27 in energy costs over the life of each ENERGY STAR® qualified bulb.

Limit 12 light bulbs per customer.

BULBS

\$2

CASH BACK PER BULB

While supplies last. Offer available to Iowa customers of participating electric utilities only.
© 2006 Focus on Energy IMA-4008-0706



www.iowachangealight.com
800.339.6856



Wisdom roof damaged

High winds gusting up to 75 miles per hour ripped a 20-foot-wide triangular section off the southwest corner of Wisdom Unit 1's seventh floor roof at about 9 p.m. August 1. Water poured into the plant which was operating at the time. Six windows were also broken during the storm. The hole in the roof was covered with a tarp and repaired by August 16. The old tar and aggregate roof was replaced with a rubber membrane.

News in brief

Low reservoir levels lead to less hydropower

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports that drought continues to tighten its grip on the Missouri River basin. Tributary contributions to the river in central Missouri have dropped to extremely low levels due to lack of rain and much-above-normal temperatures.

Because of low reservoir levels due to the drought, the main stem power plants are expected to produce nearly 40 percent less hydropower this year. To make up for the lower generation in July, the Western Area Power Administration, which markets the power produced by the dams, had to purchase more than \$2.7 million worth of electricity to meet its contract obligations to utilities throughout the upper Midwest.

With no relief in sight from the dry conditions, Oahe reservoir is expected to reach a historic low level about August 11, surpassing the record set in August 2004. It is forecast to drop nearly two feet below the record elevation of 1,572 feet, ending the month at 1,570.6 feet.

The six main stem power plants generated 767 million kWh of electricity in May, only 78 percent of normal because of lower pool levels and reduced releases from the dams. The forecast for energy production in 2006 is 6.3 billion kWh, compared to the average of 10 billion kWh.

Coal cars derail at Wisdom Station

Five railcars full of coal derailed August 10 at Wisdom Station. A widened section of the track allowed the rail car wheels to fall between the tracks. All five railcars remained upright after derailling.

With the assistance of the IC&E Railroad, the cars were pulled back on the rail following the incident. Repairs to the damaged area of the track were completed in about a week.

Home Energy Savings Guide printed with local contact information

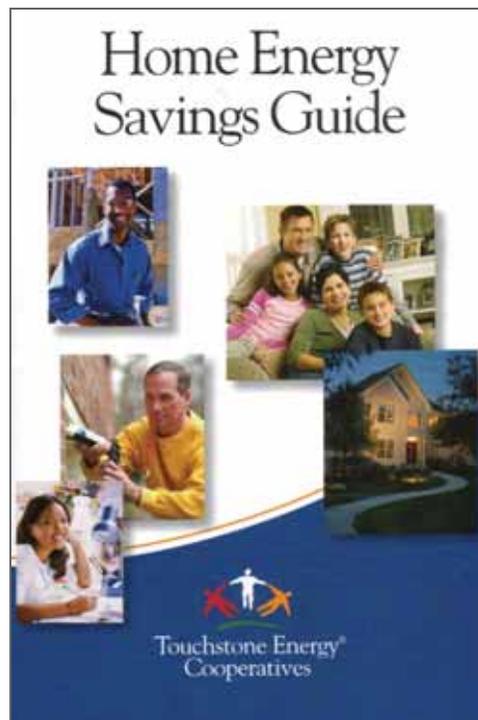
Corn Belt Power and its member cooperatives have produced a brochure that offers tips on how to keep home energy costs down.

Titled the "Home Energy Savings Guide," the brochure was created by Touchstone Energy and has local contact information included for each member cooperative.

Energy tips focus on controlling energy use by examining windows, air infiltration, refrigeration, heating and air conditioning, water heating, lighting and other electric appliances.

The brochure includes information on how to choose a contractor and what minimum standards should be considered for proper home insulation.

Corn Belt Power coordinated the printing of the publication. Each cooperative has a supply of the brochures to distribute to its members.



Above | A tornado that hit the Neal 4 power plant 20 years ago on July 28, 1986, destroyed the plant's coal handling equipment and blew away 75 percent of the turbine building roof. The facility was brought back on line 300 days later.

Neal 4 marks tornado date

July 28 marked the 20th anniversary of the tornado that destroyed a portion of the Neal 4 power plant south of Sioux City, Iowa.

At about 7:45 p.m. July 28, 1986, a tornado skipped across the Missouri River from Nebraska, hitting the Neal 4 plant.

The then-600-megawatt plant, placed online just seven years earlier, suffered massive structural damage to its coal handling facilities and warehouses, and lesser damage to the generator and turbine building.

Only one employee was injured.

Company officials said at the time it was believed to be the first direct tornado hit on a power plant in the history of the U.S. electric utility industry. Despite the massive damage, repairs were made to the plant and the facility was brought back on line 300 days after suffering \$25 million in damages.

Reduce heating costs this winter

You can save 10 percent or more on your heating and cooling energy bills by reducing the air leaks in your home.

One of the quickest dollar-saving tasks you can do is caulk, seal and weather-strip all seams, cracks and openings to the outside.

Check areas around windows, doors, electrical outlets, plumbing and ceiling fixtures.



Corn Belt Power Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Published monthly for the employees and associates of Corn Belt Power Cooperative.

Watts Watt, the official publication of Corn Belt Power Cooperative, is published monthly by Corn Belt Power Cooperative, 1300 13th St. North, Humboldt, Iowa 50548-0508.

www.cbpower.coop

Copyright 2006

Dale M. Arends, Executive Vice President and General Manager

Kathy D. Taylor, Editor; Vice President, Corporate Relations; CCC



The power of human connections

James Wellik, director, Prairie Energy Cooperative, shows what is meant by the Touchstone Energy value of commitment to community by helping his sons Mark and Jared show their sheep at the Hancock County Fair. He says, "I enjoy working at community functions and the fair allows me to spend with time with my two sons."

Touchstone Energy Co-op Values | Integrity | Accountability | Innovation | Commitment to Community



Corn Belt Power Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1300 13th Street North

Humboldt, Iowa 50548-0508

Jerry Kohlhaas, apprentice electrician, attaches a conductor to a switch.

PRSR STD

U.S. Postage

PAID

Humboldt, Iowa

Permit No. 32

