

JUNE 2015



Highline Headlines

Volume 37
Issue 6

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Access Energy Cooperative is dedicated to exceeding members' expectations for safe, reliable, efficient service while being a good citizen in our communities.



**For after hours
emergencies call
800.452.7819
or 319.385.1580**

Get more details about
the 2015 Annual Meeting
by visiting our website.

about
Annual Meeting

www.accessenergycoop.com

Meet the 2015 Candidates

These members have been nominated to run for a seat on the board of directors in the upcoming election at your annual meeting August 4th. Be sure to vote!

DISTRICT I



Joseph Heckethorn



Bob Palm

DISTRICT II



Detra Dettmann



Larry White

DISTRICT III



Victor Pierrot



Shawn Rana



William Schurk

Annual Meeting of Members August 4, 2015

Follow the event on our Facebook page @AccessEnergyCoop
Win the **GRAND PRIZE** of \$500 (must be present to win)
Kids can win a bike from Bickels in Burlington.

Special Photo Contest



Win \$50 by sending us the best photo of our Annual Meeting of Members. Come to the Annual Meeting on August 4th, take some great shots, and send them to us to enter in the contest for the August 2017 calendar page.

Be sure to label them as a special entry for the August page. Contest rules will be the same as our regular photo contest. Visit our website www.accessenergycoop.com for rules.

NEW REBATE

Starting July 1, 2015 we are adding a \$100 rebate for heat pump water heaters.

Go to our website for a list of rebate requirements.



During a presentation on electrical safety, Gary Stevens from Access Energy Cooperative dresses up a student from Washington Elementary in Fairfield to demonstrate what type of clothing and equipment the linemen use to work safely.

Manager's Corner



General Manager/CEO Robert Swindell

We have a lot of construction activity going on this summer with five different contractors working throughout the system rebuilding almost two hundred miles of line. We also have our crews busy building and maintaining our facilities.

In addition to the improvements we are making, our power supplier, Northeast Missouri Electric Power Cooperative is in the process of making significant improvements to the 69 Kilovolt (KV)

system that provides transmission service to southeast Iowa. Northeast Missouri Power has about six miles of 69KV line under construction in Lee County to tie the Sawyer Switch Station to the new Lee Substation south of Wever. In combination with providing additional transmission service to the new fertilizer plant under construction, this new line, along with upgrades to the Sawyer Switch Station, will enhance our service reliability in Lee and Henry counties.

Northeast Missouri Power has also begun the franchising process through the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) for the construction of a 69KV line which will run between Floris and Selma, Iowa. The approximately fourteen miles of line will create what we call a "loop feed". The idea behind a loop feed is to allow us to re-route power from one line to another in the event of an outage. This greatly reduces outage time. A significant portion of the transmission system in Jefferson and Van Buren Counties which we serve is on a "radial feed". When we have an outage on a radial line, we are pretty much "up the creek without a paddle" until repairs can be made; meaning we do not have a redundant supply of power to take over until we can fix the problem. Once

again this new line will greatly improve the reliability of our system in Jefferson, Van Buren and Wapello counties by providing this redundancy. Land owners that may be affected have been invited to informational meetings conducted by the Iowa Utilities Board.

WIND POWER

Our power supply cooperative, Associated Electric Cooperative (AECI) recently announced the completion of the latest wind farm which will supply additional renewable power to Access Energy Cooperative and their other member systems in Iowa, Missouri and Oklahoma. The Osage County wind farm in Oklahoma consists of eighty four General Electric 1.74 Megawatt (MW) wind turbines and covers 8,500 acres. The addition of this wind farm will bring AECI's total wind generation to 750 megawatts.

PEAK ALERTS

Finally, as the temperature warms up this summer, don't forget to listen for Peak Alerts on area radio stations. Curtailing the uses of nonessential appliances and setting up the thermostat a couple of degrees during peak times helps lower the Cooperatives wholesale power bill which in turn saves us all money.

COOPERATIVE INFORMATION

Access Energy Cooperative
1800 W. Washington St., P.O. Box 440
Mount Pleasant, Iowa 52641

Phone: 319.385.1577 or 866.242.4232
Fax: 319.385.6873

Website: www.accessenergycoop.com

Facebook:
facebook.com/AccessEnergyCoop

Twitter:
twitter.com/AccessEnergyC

Email:
contactus@accessenergycoop.com

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Payments can be placed in the dropbox under the flag pole.

Visa and Mastercard accepted.

After Hours Emergencies call:
319.385.1580 or 800.452.7819

General Manager/CEO: Robert Swindell

Editor: Kimberly Brumbaugh

Assistant Editor: Cherity Wibben

Officers and Directors:

Jerry Barker	District 2	President	
Fred Hickenbottom	District 1	Vice President	
Joseph Heckethorn	District 1	Secretary	
Marvin Newton	District 3	Treasurer	
David Hollingsworth	District 1	Director	
Larry White	District 2	Director	
Ronald Campbell	District 2	Director	
Marvin Holtkamp	District 3	Director	
Victor Pierrot	District 3	Director	

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Questions or Comments?

As a member-owner of Access Energy Cooperative, assistance is available to you in resolving questions, comments or complaints about your electric service.

Access Energy Cooperative has trained representatives available to answer your questions and address any concerns you may have. Here is how you can contact our office: Access Energy Cooperative, PO Box 440, Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641 or call 319.385.1577 or toll free at 866.242.4232.

If your question is related to our service, rather than rates, and your concern is not resolved, you may request assistance by contacting the Iowa Utilities Board via letter at 350 Maple Street, Des Moines, IA 50319, or call 515.281.5979 or toll free 877.565.4450 or E-mail to iubcustomer@iub.state.ia.us.

Is On-site Generation For You?

If you're thinking about installing a solar or wind electric generation system for your home or business, take a look at the new Informational Guide for On-site Generation, distributed by the Iowa Utilities Board. It will help you walk through a detailed check list of questions and important considerations before financially investing in a system.

The guide prompts you to consider their energy-related goals, legal requirements, and insurance issues before installing on-site generation, and provides you with a list of information to gather and questions to ask during the process.

To download a free copy of the Informational Guide for On-site Generation, visit our website at www.accessenergycoop.com.

As they recommend in the Informational Guide, if your primary goal is to reduce your monthly electric bill, consider a free energy audit from Access Energy Cooperative to uncover potential energy efficient improvements. Implementing energy efficiency before installing a solar or wind system can save you money by reducing your overall energy or water consumption, which subsequently reduces the size of the distributed generation system you'll need to meet your energy needs. We also have rebates available for energy efficiency improvements you make.

Please contact our member services department before you start if you're thinking about installing an on-site generation system, including solar panels or a wind turbine. As a member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative, we're here to help you make informed decisions about how you use energy. Plus, to ensure your own safety and that of your fellow cooperative member-owners, you are required to notify your utility if you intend to install a distributed generation system and under Iowa law, an interconnection agreement must be in place.

ATTENTION Confinement Facilities

In attempt to reduce risks associated with the avian influenza and other potential risks associated with poultry production or other confinement facilities, please contact our office as soon as possible, and provide us with the biosecurity protocol for your facilities. You can call our office at 1-866-242-4232 or email your information to mktg@accessenergycoop.com. Thank you.



Photo Contest Winners

Cathy Kaska

Lunar Eclipse

Dave Schneider

Cold Day on the Shunk River

Wayne Davidson

Early Morning Sunrise

J. Borgomainerio

Wood

Tina Starnes

Indian Lake & The Kiss

Donna Wooldridge

May Flowers & An Iowa Sunrise

Beatrice McDowell

Corn Tunnel & Iowa Goldfinch

Marilyn Sheets

Tracks to the Sunset

Mary Adkins

Shimek Glow

Julie Johnson

Harvest Time

Watch for the 2016 calendar featuring these photos in your Annual Meeting packet to be mailed July 6th.

How Do Transformers Work?

If we were to ask you to describe Access Energy Cooperative's system, you might say, "Poles, wires and those round grey things." **Round** grey things? That is often the description given for transformers, the pieces of equipment crucial in converting electricity to a voltage that is safe for use in homes and businesses. So, how do they work? They transform the voltage of the electricity that passes through them.

Electricity loses voltage as it is transmitted, due to the resistance in wires and other components. As a result, higher voltages are used to offset these "line losses." At the power plant, generators produce electricity at very high voltages and use transformers to **step** up this voltage. Since the power plants are a **long** way, high voltages are necessary to survive the trip over the system to where it is needed.

Transmission lines connected to substations are brimming with transformers and other control gear. Here is where the transformers step down the voltage to safer, more manageable levels. Depending upon the distance involved to the furthest member and the amount of load served, distribution voltages can range from 7,200 to 24,900 volts. A couple more step-downs and the electricity arrives at your home at 440 volts.

Regardless of the shape and size of a transformer, they all work in the same manner. Transformers have two sides, a high-voltage side and a low-voltage side. In normal operation, electricity flows into the transformer on the high-voltage side, where it goes into a coil of wire usually wound around an iron core. As the electricity flows through this coil, it creates a magnetic field that "induces" a voltage in the other coil. Here is where transformation takes place. Each coil has a different number of turns. The greater the number of turns, the higher the voltage. The coil on the high side will have more turns than the one on the low side. As a result, the voltage induced on the low side is less. Then transformation occurs.

It is important to note that transformers work in both directions. Electricity flowing in on the low side is stepped up to the voltage of the high side. This is why Access Energy Cooperative educates members on proper connection of home generators. A generator feeding 220 volts into a residential transformer will produce whatever voltage the transformer is rated for on the other side, creating a deadly risk for our line crews and your neighbors. So please, connect your generators according to the manufacturer's recommendations, or give us a call at 866.242.4232 for advice.



Source: Tom Tate

Beat the Heat With Cool Products

If you are considering making some changes in your home this summer let us help you plan for saving energy.

HVAC SYSTEM

If you're making additions to your home or converting attics or basements into living spaces, a ductless heating and cooling system is a great option. A ductless system does not require adding pipes or ductwork to a home's existing system, making it a more affordable upgrade for many. Ductless systems tend to be more efficient, meaning homeowners will use less energy.

If making changes to your heating and cooling system doesn't seem like the right upgrade for now, consider installing a smart thermostat. These devices learn your behavior and adjust HVAC settings with a goal to help save you energy. Smart thermostats also have the capability to allow homeowners to manage energy use via a smart phone app.

If you are considering purchasing new appliances that will use less energy, your clothes dryer is a great place to start as dryers are big consumers of electricity. For example, dryers typically use around 900 kWh each year as compared to a

refrigerator, which uses around 455 kWh each year.

There have been big developments with dryers in recent years, and Energy Star awarded two standouts – the LG EcoHybrid Heat Pump Dryer and the Whirlpool HybridCare™ Heat Pump Dryer – the 2014 Emerging Technology Award.

Using heat pump technology, these dryers offer 40 percent in energy savings if operated on their most efficient settings and can save more than \$400 over the life of the dryer. If you are interested in purchasing other appliances or products, remember to visit energystar.gov and check out their "Most Efficient 2015" list to help you determine which products – from windows and HVAC systems to televisions and washers – are the most efficient for your home.

And don't forget that Access Energy Cooperative is your partner in energy savings. From interactive appliance calculators on our website to energy efficiency experts trained to help you make good decisions for your home, we've got your needs covered.

Source: April Lollar

Summer Storm Safety

No one knows electrical safety better than the experts who practice it every single day. Access Energy Cooperative encourages you to practice safety with these reminders for during and after a summer storm:

AVOID WIRES AND WATER When lightning strikes a home during a storm, the electrical charge can surge through pipes and utility wires. That means you can get zapped if you're touching water or any device that's plugged in whether it's a landline phone or toaster.

SKIP THE MAKESHIFT SHELTER During a storm, it's tempting to take cover under **trees**, picnic gazebo or golf cart, but in open-sided structures with no conductors to channel strikes, a bolt's path of least resistance to the ground could be you. On top of that, these structures raise your risk of a lightning strike because of their height.

PORTABLE GENERATORS Take special care with portable generators, which can provide a good source of power, but if improperly installed or operated, can become deadly. Do not connect generators directly to household wiring. Power from generators can back-feed along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including co-op line workers making repairs. It's best to hire a qualified, licensed electrician to install your generator and ensure that it meets local electrical codes.

FLOODED AREAS Stay away from downed power lines at least **ten** feet in every direction; and avoid walking through flooded areas. Power lines could be submerged and still live with electricity. Report any downed lines you see to Access Energy Cooperative by calling 800-452-7819 immediately.

ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT Never use electrical equipment that is wet. Water can damage electrical equipment and parts, posing a shock or fire hazard.

For a checklist to **assess** safety hazards around your home or to take a quick safety quiz, go to <http://www.togetherwesave.com/power-of-community/safety>.

Safety is our number one concern. To learn about our safety programs and tips, visit www.accessenergycoop.com.

Source: Laura Cook

Items on Utility Poles Are a Safety Hazard & Illegal

Although it may seem like a good **idea**, putting signs or other items on utility poles creates serious safety hazards. Staples, nails, and tacks used to hang signs—as well as the signs themselves—pose dangers to Access Energy Cooperative line workers who **must** climb poles to restore or to perform routine maintenance.

Posters or other objects (birdhouses, balloons, flags, a basketball **net**, and even tree stands) can create dangerous obstacles. The nails, tacks and screws left behind can snag utility workers' boots or puncture safety clothing, making lineworkers vulnerable to slipping or even electrocution.

In addition to being hazardous, tampering with utility poles can be costly. Posting signs or attaching other objects to utility poles is in violation of Access Energy Cooperative's electric tariff, section 19. Individuals are subject to disconnection and possible legal action can be taken.

Access Energy Cooperative encourages members to contact local zoning officers to inquire about where signage can be posted legally.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Circulate savings! Ceiling fans are a great way to keep cool during summer months and can even allow you to raise your thermostat setting about 4 degrees without affecting your comfort.

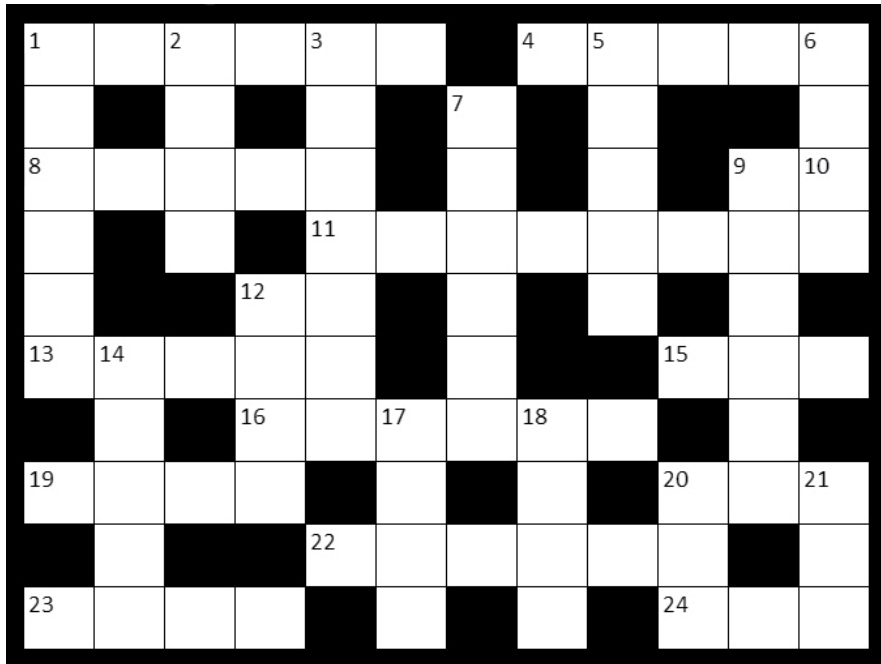
Source: energy.gov

Win A \$25 Bill Credit

Access Energy Cooperative members can win a \$25 bill credit by completing the crossword. Send your answers in by June 29, 2015, to: Access Energy Cooperative, Attn: Crossword Puzzle, P.O. Box 440, Mount Pleasant, IA 52641. Most of the answers are bold and highlighted elsewhere in this issue of the Highline Headlines. If more than one person answers all of the questions correctly by the deadline, a drawing will be held to determine the winner.

Name _____

Address _____



ACROSS

- 1 Attend this meeting to vote on directors
- 4 We have a guide that gives you information on these requirements
- 8 This prize is \$500 at the annual meeting
- 9 Opposite of off
- 11 Implementing energy efficiency before installing solar or wind saves you money by doing this to your overall energy needs
- 12 Male pronoun
- 13 Don't hide under this during lightning or a storm
- 15 Kids can do this about a bike at our annual meeting August 4th
- 16 Get a checklist to do this for safety around your home at togetherwesave.com
- 19 Hanging things on our poles causes danger for our linemen who _____ climb those poles
- 20 We have this kind of information guide for on-site Generation available
- 22 We added a new one of these for heat pump water heaters
- 23 It is not a good one of these to put anything on a utility pole
- 24 Stay this many feet away from every power line in every direction

Last month's crossword winner is **Danny Greiner of Brighton.**

DOWN

- 1 Our annual meeting of members is always in this month
- 2 We can provide assistance in planning for safety _____ grain bins
- 3 We have trained representatives to do this to your concerns
- 5 We do this for your board of directors each year at the annual meeting
- 6 Power plants are this far from where the power is used
- 7 Up a creek without one of these means you are in trouble
- 9 We have a new guide of information for this type of power generation
- 12 Beat this with cool products
- 14 Many of our transformers are this shape
- 17 Transformers do this to power up and down
- 18 Do this to downed power lines
- 20 Don't hang these on our utility poles
- 21 Past tense of win

Grain Bin Installation Plan for Safety

When you begin planning for a new grain bin, please contact Access Energy Cooperative. There may be transmission lines crossing your property near your proposed bin. We will provide assistance in planning for a safe environment for everyone working and living near grain bins. The State of Iowa requires specific clearances for electric lines around grain bins as shown in the drawing below. The clearances are required by The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) C2-2012 "National Electrical Safety Code," Rule 234f as adopted by the Iowa Utilities Board. We are required by the Iowa Utilities Board to provide this annual notice to farmers, farm lenders, grain bin merchants and city and county zoning officials. If you have any questions concerning the drawing, please contact Access Energy Cooperative by calling 866-242-4232 or Northeast Missouri Electric Power Cooperative's office at 573-769-2107.

Clearance Envelope for Grain Bins Filled by Portable Augers, Conveyors, or Elevators

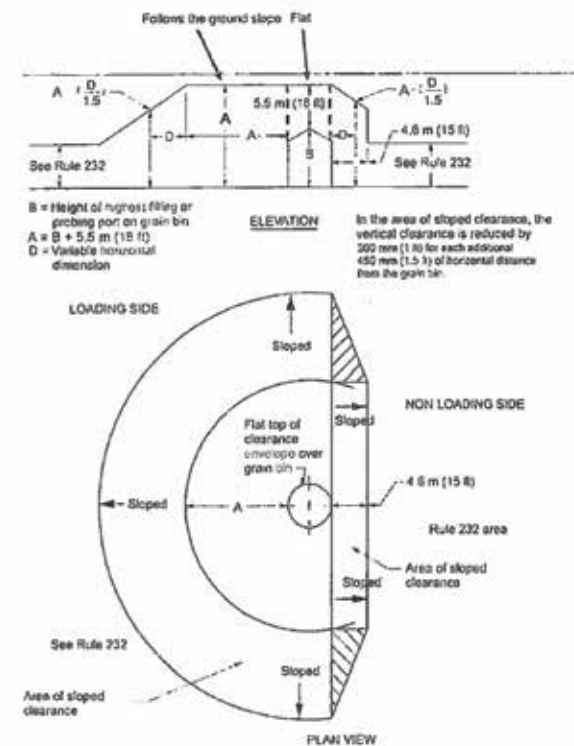


Figure 234-4(b)—Clearance envelope for grain bins filled by portable augers, conveyors, or elevators

SOURCE: American National Standards Institute (ANSI) C2-2012 "National Electrical Safety Code," Rule 234f, page 122

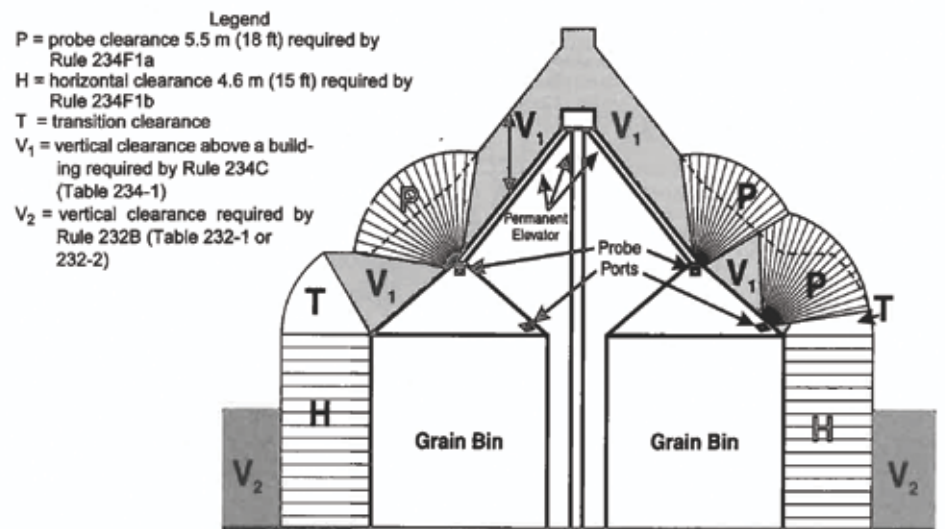


Figure 234-4(a)—Clearance envelope for grain bins filled by permanently installed augers, conveyors, or elevators