



TIPS From T.I.P.

Published By The T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

March 2020

Brooklyn, Iowa

Billing Dates to Change

In an effort to conform to new GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) standards that recently went into effect regarding revenue recognition, the Board of Directors and management of T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative have decided to change the billing dates which are currently the 20th to the 20th of each month (January 20th through February 20th usage, billed in March) to billing from the 1st to the last day of the month.

This transition will take place in May and June. What does this mean to you?

- The bill you receive at the beginning of May will be billed using the previous billing dates. (March 20th to April 20th)
- In mid-June, you will receive a bill for April 20th through May 31st usage (41 days) which will be due July 1st. To reflect the additional ten days in this billing period, the monthly facilities charge will be prorated. For example, rural residential customers will have a \$40.00 facilities charge for this billing period and then return to the normal monthly facilities charge of \$30.00. (This billing will begin to align the new billing dates.)
- After this transition, the billing dates will follow the calendar month and electric bills will be mailed out on or around the 10th of each month and will be due after 20 days on the 1st.
- **If you are enrolled in the Automatic Withdrawal (ACH) program, your payment will still be withdrawn on the 18th of each month.**
- **If you have scheduled your payment with your bank, you may need to adjust the date it is processed.**

This billing date change will enable the revenue to be recognized (or billed) for the same period the goods or services (kWhs) were used or rendered. Therefore, our monthly revenue will match the same period as our power costs and help eliminate large fluctuations in our ECA (energy cost adjustment) and line loss throughout the year.

To minimize the impact of the extra billing days on our members, your cooperative decided to implement

this during the time of year when we see the lowest kilowatt hour consumption. We appreciate your patience during this transition. If you have any questions, please call our office during normal business hours. (Monday-Friday, 7:30 am - 4:00 pm, Phone: 800-934-7976)

Welcome Back Legislative Reception



Pictured above from left to right (back): Directors Randy Upah, Ronald Hoffman, Jack Wilkinson and James De Smet. Front from left to right: Director Anne Axmear, Representative Tom Gerhold, Director Lee King and General Manager Dean Huls.

Nearly 200 directors, managers and employees from Iowa's electric cooperatives discussed priorities with more than 80 state legislators on January 14 during the annual Welcome Back Legislative Reception in downtown Des Moines. Other guests of honor included: Secretary of State Paul Pate, Iowa Utilities Board Member Nick Wagner and Iowa Department of Revenue Director Kraig Paulsen. The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, in conjunction with the Iowa Biotechnology Association, the Iowa Institute of Cooperatives, the Iowa Communications Alliance and FUEL Iowa, hosted the annual reception.

The event provided an opportunity to meet with legislators at the beginning of the state legislative session to discuss issues regarding the commitment to reliability, commitment to community and commitment to safety shared by Iowa's electric cooperatives.

T.I.P. Rural Electric

**Regular Hours 7:30 to 4:00 Weekdays.....641-522-9221
or Toll Free.....800-934-7976
After Hours (Outages & Emergencies Only) ..641-522-9223
or Toll Free800-934-7976**

website: www.tiprec.com

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

March TIPS from T.I.P.

DKM Manufacturing, Inc. Receives Rebate Check



Pictured above left is Cole Calkins, Staking Technician/Member Service, and Don Murtha, Owner/Operator of DKM Manufacturing, Inc.

Don Murtha received a rebate check in the amount of \$8,230 for updating the lights in his manufacturing facility to energy efficient LED lighting.

Momentum is Building Conference



More than 200 building industry professionals and Iowa electric co-op staff attended the 2020 Momentum is Building conference held February 6-7 in West Des Moines.

Sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa, the conference promotes residential energy efficiency building concepts and provides valuable CEU training for electricians, plumbers and HVAC professionals. This year, 20 vendors and exhibitors attended the conference to share new trends and products related to residential energy efficiency. The conference also served to educate the next generation of professionals as several construction students from Indian Hills Community College and Iowa Central Community College attended.

Chapman Metering Testing Meters this Spring

As spring comes closer, we will again have Chapman Metering testing our meters on a portion of our system. This year they will be working on our Tama, Chelsea and Vining substations. You will be seeing their vehicle in these areas with our “Sub-Contractor for T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative” sign on the side.

As part of our reliability plan, T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative will have 10% of our meters tested annually. If you have any questions, please call our office.

2019 Audit Completed



Each year your Cooperative is required to have an audit of its books by a Certified Public Accountant to check that proper accounting practices are followed.

The 2019 audit was completed in January by the firm of CliftonLarsonAllen LLP of Cedar Rapids. Pictured above from left to right: Andrew Moen and Ming Wu.

Legacy Power Line Inc. Update



With the mild winter we’ve been having, Legacy Power Line has been working through the roadways and ditches. They are getting close to finishing the Holbrook area with the cutover to the new line and then will retire out the old single phase line and move south to the North English project. There they have been working hard to get all of the poles set for the next crew to come in and string the new line.

SBS Inspections Inc. Testing and Treating Poles this Spring



Spring has arrived again and T.I.P. is continuing our pole testing, treatment, and replacement program. We test and treat our 1,700 miles of overhead line over a ten year period, or approximately 170 miles per year. We have hired SBS Inspections Inc. from Olathe, CO, again this year. Our overall average of poles rejected has dropped from 10% the first time through, 2% the second time through, to only 1.35 % the third time through.

Around the end of March or early April, SBS Inspections Inc. will start testing and treating poles in the **outlined** areas above which include Keokuk County in all or parts of English River, Liberty, White Oak, Cedar, Warren, Benton, Steady Run and West Lancaster townships; and in Iowa County in English and Fillmore townships. These men dig a hole about 18 to 24 inches deep and about 12 inches out from the pole. After exposing the wood, the poles are inspected and treated with a wood preservative, and then the hole is backfilled and the dirt tamped into place. This groundline treatment of wood preservative should extend the pole's life at least another 10 to 20 years.

SBS Inspection crews will be using pickups and 4-wheelers which will be marked with "Sub-Contractor for T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative" signs.

By changing out the rotted poles that are beyond saving and by other poles being given a groundline treatment of wood preservative, we will be able to provide you with even more dependable electric service in the future.

Energy Use Survey

Please be aware that T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative, in conjunction with our power supplier, Central Iowa Power Cooperative, is conducting a survey of a random sample of our residential members this spring. This survey asks about your home, your appliances, energy efficiency measures, and your opinions about energy use and related topics.

Only a small portion of our residential members will receive a copy of the survey in the mail. If you receive a survey, we ask that you take 10 minutes to complete it and return in the postage-paid envelope provided or complete it on-line at the web address found on the questionnaire. T.I.P. will be randomly drawing for a chance to win one of four \$25.00 electric bill credits from all survey respondents. We appreciate your help!

30 Year Service Award



Pictured above is Dean Huls, General Manager, (left), presenting Joe Kriegel, Brooklyn Line Foreman, with an Appreciation Certificate for 30 years of service. In addition to the certificate, he received a monetary gift.

T.I.P. would like to thank Joe for his dedicated service.

What to do if You Don't Receive a Bill

Occasionally, members report that they do not receive their electric bill or they have mislaid it. If this happens to you, please contact our office and request a duplicate bill or you can look at your bill online by going to www.tiprec.com and click on SmartHub. Failure to receive a bill does not relieve one of paying on time.

Moving? Don't forget to notify your Cooperative.

March 20th Youth Tour Application Deadline is Fast Approaching

Last month we announced that T.I.P. will be sending a student who is currently in their sophomore, junior or senior year and have parents or guardians who are members of T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative, to Washington, D.C., June 18-25. This is an all-expense paid trip which gives the student a chance to learn more about electric cooperatives, American history and the U.S. government. They also have the opportunity to visit with their representatives in the House and Senate, and see the sights around Washington, D.C.

To apply go to our website at www.tiprec.com and at the top of the homepage click on the second Youth Tour rotating tile and it will take you to several Youth Tour links to check out, one of which is an application and a short questionnaire to fill out and send to our office. You may also call our office and request an application. The deadline to apply is March 20, 2020.

2019 Patronage Dividend Allocation

Your patronage dividend is one of the primary benefits of being a member of your non-profit rural electric cooperative. Our goal is to provide you with electricity at a price that is as close to cost as possible.

Upon approval by your Board of Directors, T.I.P. members who had electric service during the year 2019 will receive a patronage dividend assignment. Your portion of this assignment is based on the amount of electricity you purchased from the cooperative in 2019. (If you had multiple services with T.I.P., these are included in the allocation amount.)

The patronage dividend allocation notice will be printed on current members' electric bills that will be mailed in April. Those who were members in 2019 who no longer have electric service with T.I.P. will receive a notice in the mail. The allocation has no cash value and cannot be used towards payment of electric bills.

If a member is deceased, the member's heirs need to contact the cooperative's office to discuss payment options. If you were a member and have a change in address, please keep the cooperative informed. This will ensure any future patronage checks will be mailed to you correctly.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Placing hot food in the refrigerator makes the appliance work harder than necessary, using more energy. Allow food to cool down before you place it in the fridge.

Winter Moratorium Ends April 1st

FOR THOSE MEMBERS WHO ARE ON ENERGY ASSISTANCE and have a past-due electric bill - please remember that you need to contact the Brooklyn office **before April 1, 2020**, to make payment arrangements to avoid disconnection of your electric service.

Non-Discrimination Statement

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or any other USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request a form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov."

NOTICE:

The Brooklyn office will be closed on Tuesday, March 24th from 8:00 a.m. till Noon for an all-employee safety meeting.

T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative is online at www.tiprec.com and check out the cooperative's Facebook page



Pay Your Bill by Check, Debit or Credit Card. Log on to www.tiprec.com and Click on Rapid Pay or log into SmartHub or Call 888-999-0275.

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TIPS from T.I.P. is published monthly for members of T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative, 612 W. Des Moines St., Brooklyn, Iowa 52211.