The Prairie State Energy Campus is a 1,600-megawatt supercritical coal-fueled power plant currently under construction near Lively Grove, Ill. The Prairie State project, which broke ground October 1, 2007, will be supplied Illinois coal by an adjacent coal mine in southern Illinois.

The project is expected to create 2,300 jobs at the peak of development. Unit 1 is scheduled to go on line in August 2011 and unit 2 is scheduled for May 2012. It is one of the largest power plant construction projects in the United States.

Prairie State is being developed with 21st century technologies, making it among the cleanest U.S. coal-fueled plants. Emission rates will be approximately 80 percent lower than existing U.S. power plants. This new plant’s carbon dioxide emission rate will be approximately 15 percent lower than the typical U.S. coal plant.

“The new Prairie State Energy Campus represents the future of clean-coal technology and Illinois is proud to be leading the way,” U.S. Congressman John Shimkus (R-19th District) said. “This power plant is environmentally sound and will stimulate our state’s economy by providing hundreds of new jobs.”

“If we are to break our dependence on foreign sources of oil, we must capitalize on our domestic energy assets, and coal is our most abundant energy resource. This project will show that we can utilize Illinois coal, which is good for the environment and the economy,” said U.S. Congressman Jerry Costello (D-12th District).

Prairie State will deliver low-cost energy to more than 1.7 million families through a partner group consisting of utility groups in three states which includes Prairie Power, Inc.

Shelby Electric Cooperative is one of 10 member distribution cooperatives of Prairie Power Inc., an electric generation and transmission cooperative located in Jacksonville, Ill., participating in the Prairie State project. According to Robert Harbour, President/CEO of Prairie Power, “Our member cooperatives’ ownership share in Prairie State is part of our member cooperatives’ strategy to secure reliable, cost competitive electric energy for the future. Prairie State promises to be one of the most reliable, environmentally friendly and economical resources for electricity … today and into the future.”

For a virtual tour of the power plant or to express interest as a job applicant or vendor, please visit www.PrairieStateEnergyCampus.com.
Special Rates Still Available

Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) offers special rates in certain situations. Two of these rates will be offered in exchange for the member’s permission to allow SEC to practice load control during times of peak alert conditions.

SEC purchases power in advance to receive a better rate. When load conditions are high, SEC is notified by their power provider to reduce load. One way to reduce load without affecting the entire membership is through load management practices with qualifying members.

One such rate is the Qualified Heat Pump (QHP) rate. This rate is available to members with an air source heat pump or geothermal system. The member must purchase and install a sub meter which measures all kWh used by the qualified heat pump. A special rate is applied to those kWh, year round, in exchange for SEC’s ability to interrupt service to the unit’s compressor during times of peak alert. An additional $5 per month facility charge is applicable.

Another rate often utilized by members with a whole-house generator is the Residential Interruptible (RI) rate. This agreement allows SEC permission to interrupt power to the member’s service. When an interruption occurs, the generator automatically switches on and provides the power. When the interruption period is over, the power switches back to the electric service.

The Electric Heat rate is an option for members that utilize electric heat as their only heat source. In this situation, there is a discounted rate for use over 1000 kWh/month for December, January and February.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rate/Schedule</th>
<th>Facility Charge</th>
<th>Tier 1</th>
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<td>Next 500 kWh</td>
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</table>

If you have any questions regarding special rates, please contact Marla Eversole 1-800-677-2612 or meversole@shelbyelectric.coop

Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

Check your water heater thermostat. Many manufacturers set thermostats to 140°F, although most households only need a setting of 120°F. Each 10 degree drop in water temperature can save you between 3 percent and 5 percent in energy costs.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy
Have you made the switch to CFLs yet? Shelby Electric Cooperative wants to help! While supplies last, members may pick up one free 14 watt CFL at the office on Route 128 North, Shelbyville.

Replace a 60 watt bulb to start saving money and electricity. A 60 watt bulb, burning four hours a day, will cost about $0.78 per month. A 14 watt CFL (60 watt incandescent equivalent) burning the same amount of hours per month will cost about $0.18 per month! Multiply the savings (60 cents) by the number of bulbs replaced and it adds up. Plus, CFLs last approximately 10 times longer than the less efficient incandescent bulbs.

Shelby Electric Cooperative is also a recycling drop-off center for used (not broken) CFLs.

Lincoln Prairie Water Announces Phase III Construction

With Phases I, II & IV complete, Lincoln Prairie Water Company (LPWC) will begin Phase III construction this month. With 690 rural water customers already receiving safe, potable water, Phase III will add another 200 customers to its system.

Phase III will serve the following towns: Oconee, Ohlman and Wenonah and parts of the following townships: Rose, Tower Hill and Oconee in Shelby County and Audubon and Nokomis in Montgomery County. There is also two miles of line that goes through Pana Township in Christian County. Easements are still needed but LPWC obtained the needed 70 percent easements to receive funding and to let bids for construction.

If you are in those areas to be served and you have questions about Phase III, please call LPWC at 1-800-542-0705.

Scholarship Deadline Approaching

Applications can be obtained by visiting the Shelby Electric Cooperative website www.shelbyelectric.coop and looking under the “Our Community” menu tab or by calling Marla Eversole, Member Services Representative. The telephone numbers for the cooperative are 217-774-3986 and 1-800-677-2612. Applications may also be obtained from high school guidance counselors.

Three $1,000 scholarships will be awarded and winners will be notified in June.

March 16 is the deadline for receipt of completed applications for the 2009 Shelby Electric Cooperative academic scholarships.

OUTAGE REPORT

<table>
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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
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<th>SUBSTATION</th>
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<td>Velma</td>
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Shelby Electric Cooperative’s service territory in late January, but the cooperative escaped any major outage issues. The same could not be said for cooperatives in the southern part of Illinois, Missouri and Kentucky. Snow and ice create widespread damage, outages and the call for help.

Shelby Electric sent a four-man crew and equipment earlier in the week to help - SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative located in Eldorado, Ill. to restore power to its members.

“We originally had requests to send crews down to Kentucky who were also hit hard with ice and caused massive outages but we needed to first make sure our members’ power wasn’t affected by the sleet and snow we received,” said Operations Superintendent Terry Oldham.

“Once we were clear of any major outages our attention then shifted to southern Illinois, and when we knew they needed help we sent the first crew down at 3 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28.”

Linemen Brian Bunton, Roger Jones, Brad Wright and Apprentice Blake Knearem were already in southern Illinois helping restore power to SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative before a second crew, pictured above and led by Foreman Kris Koehler, was requested to help out Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative located in Dongola, Ill. Shelby Electric crews also assisted cooperatives in Kentucky and Missouri.

Even with rural electric cooperative line crews from several co-ops in the central portions of Illinois already helping out, another call for additional crews came from the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) located in Springfield, Ill. The AIEC coordinates these efforts through the cooperatives emergency work plan. When a cooperative is in need of additional assistance the emergency work plan goes into effect.

“We know what it is like to be without power and to try and get a devastated system back together from our own ice storm back in 2006. Those southern co-ops sent crews up to help us out so now we get to return the favor and get their members back on,” said Koehler.

“It is one of the great things about being a cooperative, we help each other out in times of need like this.”

Both crews were expected to be in southern Illinois for seven days.

As with any storm situation where you have downed electric wires and equipment, stay away from the damaged lines and always assume the wires are hot. Never, under any circumstance, do you want to touch a downed power line. If you discover a downed line, leave it alone and call your utility immediately.

At the time this story was sent to be printed, Koehler’s crew returned home after approximately seven days. The crew consisting of Bunton, Jones, Wright and Knearem were sent to Missouri to assist with outages there. Linemen Jerry Johnston switched out with Jones as the crew was heading to Missouri.