



Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



RATE CHANGES BEING DISCUSSED

By Jay A. Porter, PE,
Chief Executive Officer

Our board of directors and leadership continue to review and implement rate changes

resulting from the most recent cost of service study. This process is done every two to four years to ensure that our rates continue to be fair and equitable for cooperative members in all rate classes. Rate studies are comprehensive in scope and contain a good deal of detailed information; they show us when individual rate classes are not generating revenues sufficient to cover our costs.

Here's a quick overview of rates under review:

- We have simplified the existing renewable rate.
- The rate study shows that an increase in irrigation rates is needed. The recommendation was to phase in these irrigation rate increases over a four-year period. Irrigation rates will be billed monthly for every month of the year, rather than prior practice of not billing energy over the winter months.
- Time-of-day rates may be adjusted. Changes could include a seasonal date change for on-peak services.
- The electric space heating time-of-day rate may be brought into line with our interruptible dual fuel rate.
- The facility charge for commercial service three phase needs to increase to be consistent with similar time-of-day rates.

Member feedback consistently tells us that you prefer smaller incremental rate adjustments to larger but less frequent changes. Under consideration is a small increase in the facility charge for all rate classes, including approximately

5 cents per day for residential and seasonal members. This slight increase in the facility charge will soften the rate increase that our financial forecast indicates will be necessary in 2018 or 2019.

Final decisions on individual rates have not yet been made. It is likely that most or all rate changes would be implemented early in the second quarter of 2017. ACEC members can expect much more detailed rate information in the next few months.

2017 Rules & Regulations

Each year, Adams-Columbia reviews and publishes its rules and regulations. This rather detailed document outlines how ACEC's board believes we should operate

the cooperative in the best interest of the membership and the cooperative as a whole.

Among the changes for 2017 are references to standards for connection of electric facilities to our

system, the adjustment of charges for work done, and line extensions to reflect changes over the past year or two. Also included is a clarification of wording on how we handle receipt of checks with insufficient funds, establishment of deposits, and the disconnection of service where a medical condition exists.

ACEC's 2017 rules and regulations document is available on our website at www.acecwi.com. There's a convenient link on our homepage. If you have any questions, please contact us at 800 831 8629.

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ACEC EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative is proud to announce its 30th Annual Educational Scholarship program. Scholarships are awarded in all fields of study and are available to adults and children of ACEC member families; non-guardian grandchildren of ACEC members are not eligible. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of need and excellence in academics and community service activities.

This program adds no cost to the members' electric bill. It is funded entirely from unclaimed patronage capital.

ACEC members enrolled in adult educational programs are encouraged to apply. Application forms and other information can be found exclusively on Adams-Columbia's website at www.acecwi.com.

The deadline for returning completed applications is Friday, February 10, 2017. Please be prompt in returning your scholarship application. Scholarship applications will not be accepted after the deadline date. Completed applications cannot be sent in electronic form or as attachments to e-mail messages.

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10, 2017.**

RELIABILITY REPORT: A GOOD YEAR IN 2016

**By Gerry Schmitz,
Senior Electrical Engineer**

Thanks, in part, to another year with few major storms, system reliability at Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative was quite good in 2016. During the year we recorded 89,502 Member Hours Out (MHO). This is an increase from 2015 when we recorded 74,001 MHO, but is much less than 2011 when storms had a large impact and resulted in a record 612,677 MHO.

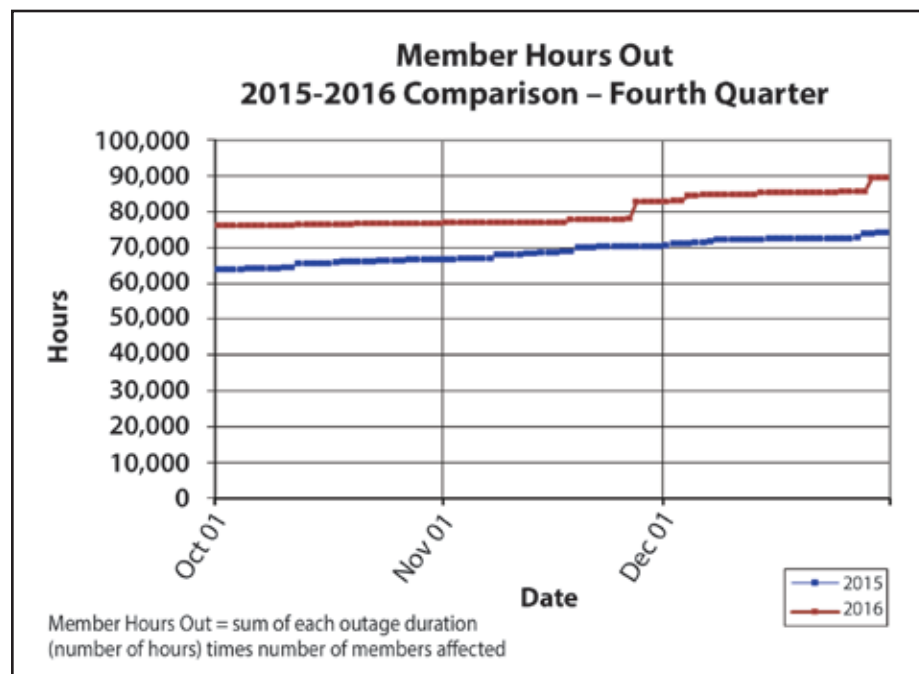
In the 4th quarter of 2016, ACEC members experienced 13,575 MHO. That compares to 10,504 MHO in the fourth quarter of 2015 and 6,457 MHO in the final three months of 2014. Longtime readers of this report know that we regularly use MHO as a benchmark for system reliability.

Informally, we also keep track of the percentage of time that power is available. In December 2013, power was available to ACEC members 99.97 percent of the time. In December 2014, the number was 99.98 percent available. In 2015, power was available 99.98 percent of the time. Consistent with recent years, in 2016 power was

available 99.97 percent of the time.

Trees and power lines are not a good mix, especially in the midst of significant weather events. That was the case on November 18 and 19 when all of southern Wisconsin endured winds in excess of 40 miles per hour. During that two-day period, ACEC recorded only six

power outages attributed to the wind. At such times we are reminded of the cost-savings and convenience benefits that come from an aggressive and effective line clearing program implemented over several years. This two-day wind event is reflected as a slight vertical rise in the accompanying graph.





Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative is excited to announce our new, members only program! We know it's important for you to save money on your energy bills, so we would like to introduce ACEC Energy Pros – Home Energy Assessments! A Home Energy Assessment is the first step to saving energy and money. Learn how you can save up to 30% on your energy bills and qualify for incentives for home improvements! Call us today at 1(800) 831-8629 for additional information, including cost of service.



Homeowner Interview

Our professional will explain the components of your assessment and answer any of your questions.



Blower Door Test

This test determines the airtightness of your home. The perfect test to see where that cold draft is coming from.



Heating & Cooling Appliance Inspection

The heating and cooling system is the single largest power user in your home. Testing functionality is crucial.



Infrared Gun Examination

The infrared gun measures variations in your home's temperature via colors on it's screen. It's the perfect test to detect proper insulation.



Exhaust Fan Testing

Without proper ventilation carbon monoxide and moisture can build up and cause harm to you and your home.



Water Heating Evaluation

This test will determine the best way to save energy and money with your water heater!



Insulation Inspection

Detecting areas with insufficient insulation will help control unnecessary heat loss.



Inspection for Radon, Mold, & Carbon Monoxide

Each of these are a major hazard and have been linked to serious health concerns. Regular testing is important.



Combustion Safety Inspection

This test checks for gas leaks and ensures dangerous fumes are vented properly.



Detailed Report of Findings, Including Recommendations

After our trained professional has completed the thorough testing of your home, you are presented with a detailed report of findings, including recommendations. We also have great financial incentives for improvements made to your home after the assessment!



Did you know?

According to the US Department of Energy, making the recommended energy efficient upgrades after a Home Energy Assessment can save anywhere from 5-30% on your monthly energy bills!



ACEC Calendar Photos

February



Adams County

Member photo by Denise Lesniak

Denise Lesniak's family owns a hobby farm in the Town of New Haven in southern Adams County. They bought it about five years ago as a place to get away from the big city. Previous owners left behind farm machinery, including this classic steel-wheeled hay mower. It caught her eye one day while taking a walk in the woods.


Green Lake County

Youth photo by Addison Lenz

Addison Lenz is a 7-year-old first-grade student at Markesan Elementary School. She began taking pictures for her Cloverbud 4-H project for the Green Lake County Fair. Addison loves birds and is good at identifying them at the feeder. It took several hours of patient bird watching to capture this image.



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www.acecwi.com

Jay A. Porter, PE—CEO
Keith Wohlfert—Editor

Friendship Service Center

401 East Lake Street • P.O. Box 70
Friendship, WI 53934-0070
Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 7:30 – 4:00

The Friendship Service Center is located in the Village of Friendship, in Adams County. From Highway 13, travel east three blocks on East Lake Street. Lake Street is also marked as County Highway J.

Adams–Columbia Electric Cooperative maintains operations facilities in Pardeeville and Wautoma. These facilities are not open for general business; however, drive-up payment stations are available at both locations. ACEC employees will meet with cooperative members in Pardeeville and Wautoma by prearranged appointment only.