

# FORWARD PROGRESS

*Insights on Ameren Illinois' Energy Action Plan for the Future*



## AMEREN AMONG NATION'S TOP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UTILITIES

For the fourth time, Ameren Corporation has been named to the prestigious list of Top Utilities in Economic Development in 2019 by *Site Selection* magazine.

About 3,300 energy companies from across the country were evaluated on many criteria, including innovative programs and incentives to attract and expand businesses and create new jobs. The complete list appears in the September 2019 issue of *Site Selection* and online at [www.siteselection.com](http://www.siteselection.com).

"The investments Ameren Illinois has made to modernize the state's electric and natural gas infrastructure are among the key reasons why more companies are choosing to expand their operations here," said Chairman & President Richard J. Mark. "Increased energy reliability gives companies confidence that they can grow while holding down operating costs."

In fact, Ameren Illinois' strong energy delivery infrastructure — and industrial electric rates that are 26% below the national average — were credited as key factors in Mueller Water Products' recent decision to build a new foundry in Decatur.

## TEACHING TOOLS DRIVE HOME DANGERS OF DOWNED LINES

New drivers will hit the roads with a better understanding of the dangers of downed wires, thanks to a new vehicle safety initiative from Ameren Illinois. Working with the Illinois High School and College Driver Education Association, Ameren Illinois recently distributed a new downed power line and vehicle safety module to more than 550 driver education instructors across Illinois.

The project was inspired by a 2017 incident involving Jordy Curtis, then a student at Unity High School in Tolono. During a storm, strong winds blew power lines down onto Jordy's car. Not knowing better, she exited the vehicle and ran to safety. Luckily, the lines were de-energized or Jordy could have been severely



injured or killed as she exited the car. After partnering with Ameren Illinois to share her story, four of Jordy's classmates knew to stay in their car when confronted with a similar situation a few months later.

Along with a compelling video featuring Jordy, Ameren Illinois' new module features a quiz, infographic and other learning materials. View the video and other educational materials at [AmerenIllinois.com/DriverEd](http://AmerenIllinois.com/DriverEd).



## FARMER SAFETY TAKES CENTER STAGE

Accidents involving farm equipment making contact with electric lines and natural gas equipment increase during harvest season. To help prevent these potential tragedies, Ameren Illinois shared safety tips for farmers as part of National Farm Safety and Health Week September 15-21.

In addition, Ameren Illinois once again brought energy awareness to the Farm Progress Show, held August 27-29 in Decatur. Along with tent displays highlighting safe digging, Ameren Illinois worked with the Drain Tile Safety Coalition to launch a first-ever field demonstration simulating the explosive results that can occur when a tiling machine strikes an underground gas line.

Drawing hundreds of observers, the daily demonstration offered a dramatic reminder for farmers to call 811 and have underground utilities marked before tile plowing, setting fence posts or beginning any digging projects.



[AmerenIllinois.com](http://AmerenIllinois.com)  
[twitter@AmerenIllinois](https://twitter.com/AmerenIllinois)  
[facebook.com/AmerenIllinois](https://facebook.com/AmerenIllinois)





## EMPOWERING SENIOR CITIZENS

In honor of National Senior Citizens Day on August 21, Ameren Illinois hosted events to celebrate senior customers and provide them tools to manage their energy usage. The company welcomed more than 500 customers, age 55 and older, to events in Peoria, Mount Vernon, Decatur, Urbana, Quincy, and Fairview Heights. Along with lunch, entertainment and an energy-saving giveaway, the events featured practical tips to help customers use less energy and avoid utility-related scams.

## COMPOSITE POLES STRENGTHEN POWER GRID IN PEORIA AREA

As part of a long-range plan to meet customers' growing needs, Ameren Illinois has begun a \$3.8 million project to strengthen the electric grid in Peoria and Stark counties.

Work crews are upgrading power poles from Chillicothe to Bradford and from Monica to Toulon. More than 120 composite fiberglass poles are being erected at strategic points along the 30-mile route to stabilize the lines and prevent poles from falling in high winds. Composite poles are flexible and help the entire power line withstand the impacts of severe weather.

In downtown Peoria, Ameren Illinois is also nearing completion of a two-year, \$2 million project to upgrade more than 20 underground transformers with smart switch technology that can detect faults on the system and re-route power from another source in the event of an outage.



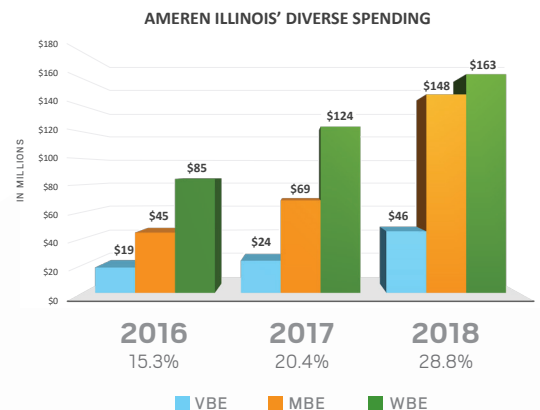
## GRANT WILL FUND MENTORS FOR AT-RISK YOUTH

Studies have found that at-risk youth who participate in mentoring programs are 46 percent less likely to use illegal drugs and 52 percent less likely to skip school. Thanks to a \$50,000 grant from Ameren Illinois, Big Brothers Big Sisters Illinois Association will be able to impact more children's lives through one-on-one mentoring. The \$50,000 contribution will help 50 additional children be matched with their Big Brother or Big Sister in seven different agencies throughout the state.

## MARK SHARES STRIDES IN SUPPLIER DIVERSITY

Ameren Illinois Chairman and President Richard Mark had good news to share at the Illinois Commerce Commission's Annual Supplier Diversity Policy Session September 5. From the company's national diversity recognition to its efforts in supplier education and development, Mark's presentation to the ICC highlighted strides made by Ameren Illinois to increase the goods and services purchased from diverse vendor companies.

In 2018, the company achieved total diverse spend of more than \$357 million — a 65% increase over the previous year. Mark reported that the utility's 2018 diverse spend will generate \$741 million in value-added economic activity in Illinois.



## NATURAL GAS SYSTEM UPGRADES CONTINUE IN SPRINGFIELD

Springfield residents are seeing energy at work firsthand as Ameren Illinois crews upgrade the natural gas infrastructure in various areas of the capitol city, including the airport. In total, more than 80,000 feet of vintage steel natural gas mains and hundreds of service pipelines will be replaced with new, corrosion-resistant polyethylene material.

The Springfield projects are part of Ameren Illinois' plan to replace nearly 250 miles of mechanically coupled steel natural gas distribution pipelines in central and southern Illinois. More infrastructure improvements are planned in Springfield for 2020.