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Ameren Illinois seeks rate decrease

In 2020, our residential customers will pay less for electric delivery service under a plan Ameren Illinois filed in April with the Illinois Commerce Commission. If approved, the \$7.22 million decrease would lower monthly electric delivery bills for the typical residential customer by approximately \$1.13 per month.

The April filing is the sixth decrease in Ameren Illinois electric delivery rates since the state's

Energy Infrastructure Modernization Act (EIMA) passed in 2011. Under EIMA, or the "Smart Grid Law," Ameren Illinois customers have saved an estimated \$45 million each year through avoided outages and increased service reliability.

"The future is bright for Illinois energy consumers," says Richard Mark, Chairman and President of Ameren Illinois. "Reliability is up, the frequency and duration of outages are down, and technology is being implemented in ways never before imagined. At the same time, the average monthly residential electric bill is lower today than it was before the smart grid plan became law."



TAKING DRONE INSPECTIONS TO NEW HEIGHTS

With 46,000 miles of electric distribution lines and 4,500 miles of high-voltage transmission power lines, Ameren Illinois is always looking for ways to safely inspect our system at a lower cost.

For several years, we have used drones to inspect distribution lines. The company is also exploring the use of Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) drone flights to potentially eliminate the need for manual and helicopter inspections of transmission infrastructure.

With special permission from the Federal Aviation Administration, late last year Ameren used a BVLOS drone to inspect transmission lines near Newton, Illinois. That non-stop, 60-mile flight was six times the distance of the previous year's flight. This industry-leading flight demonstrates the power of drones to one day revolutionize the way we assess transmission lines and other infrastructure.

NEW POLES BOLSTER POWER GRID IN SCOTT COUNTY

Ameren Illinois is installing new power poles and power lines in Scott County to better protect the grid against weather-related outages.

In January, crews began replacing 91 poles along an 8.5-mile stretch from the Winchester Substation to the Concord Junction and 77 poles along a 5.5-mile route from Concord Junction to Bluffs. Composite fiberglass poles are being erected at strategic points along each route to stabilize the lines and prevent poles from falling in high winds.

Composite poles are flexible and able to help the entire line better withstand severe weather. Along with the larger-capacity lines we're installing, these enhancements will improve service reliability for our customers in Scott County.

Weather permitting, we expect to complete this \$4.5 million project by the end of 2019.



Clearing the way for better reliability



Last November, Ameren Illinois launched a pilot program to clean up debris along rights-of-way in the tiny Village of Washington Park. Years of illegal dumping in alleys — combined with invasive vegetation — had made it virtually impossible for Ameren Illinois trucks to gain access to company infrastructure.

After 200 truckloads of debris were removed, tree trimmers were able to clear the vegetation. Ameren Illinois workers will now have easier access to facilities to restore power following a storm, as well as for routine maintenance.

Ameren Illinois is now moving forward with a plan to clear nearly 100 miles of rights-of-way along key circuits in East St. Louis.

Top: Bill Mason Landscaping used a Bobcat to remove debris from Ameren Illinois right-of-ways in Washington Park.

Inset: Many of the alleys and right-of-ways were chock-full of debris such as doors, awning, tires, clothes and shoes.



METALLIC BALLOONS CAN 'POP' A POWER SYSTEM

Metallic Mylar balloons can brighten up any celebration. But it's important to remember that the metallic coating on these balloons conducts electricity. If released, they can come into contact with overhead power lines or equipment and cause serious damage — including power outages and fires. Follow these tips to celebrate safely with Mylar balloons:

- Always keep the balloons weighted and tied down.
- Do not tie metallic balloons to children. If the balloon comes in contact with electricity, the child could receive a fatal shock.
- When the celebration is over, deflate and dispose of Mylar balloons.
- If a balloon does get tangled in a power line, do not attempt to retrieve it yourself. Contact Ameren Illinois at 1.800.755.5000.

Visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.safepower.org) to learn more.



Spring brings natural gas upgrades to Belleville area

As part of our plan to modernize the energy delivery system, Ameren Illinois has begun a two-year, \$55 million natural gas transmission pipeline project near Belleville.

In total, we will replace approximately 12 miles of vintage, 1950s-era steel gas transmission pipeline with new, 16-inch steel pipeline. This spring, crews began the first phase of the project: replacing six miles of pipeline from Green Mount Road to Frank Scott Parkway. Next year, we will upgrade nearly six miles of pipeline from Frank Scott Parkway/Concordia Church Road northwest to Illinois Route 13.

Customers in the following communities will benefit from this upgrade: Belleville, Swansea, Millstadt, Smithton, Hecker, Freeburg, New Athens, Fayetteville, St. Libory, Lenzburg, Marissa, Tilden, Coulterville and Sparta.

The upgrades are part of our statewide plan to upgrade and improve our natural gas system. With these enhancements, Ameren Illinois is taking proactive steps to prepare for the future needs of our natural gas customers.



A PLACE TO NEST

Ameren Illinois has once again partnered with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to make nesting easier for endangered Osprey. In March, Ameren Illinois crews installed two 35-foot poles with platforms near Canton, Illinois.

These birds of prey rely heavily on fish for survival. Located in Banner Marsh, the new nesting platforms offer a bird's-eye view and easy access to food for their new families.



\$25,000 gift supports unique approach to juvenile justice

With a \$25,000 donation this spring, Ameren Illinois is proud to partner with St. Clair County Teen Court to positively impact the lives of young people and their communities.

Through teen court, young offenders can avoid a criminal charge on their permanent record by admitting their guilt. Their case is heard by a jury of teenage peers, who decide what the respondent needs to do to make things right.

The unique approach has proven effective. Of more than 150 teens who have graduated from teen court, fewer than 5 percent have been repeat offenders. That's 40 percent better than the Illinois recidivism rate.



"TOUCH A TRUCK" OFFERS INSIGHT INTO UTILITY WORK

A "Touch a Truck" event this spring offered students from Galesburg High School Vocational Center a look at life on the front lines of a utility. Ameren Illinois team members Tracy Robertson, Gas Crew Leader, and Mike Rice, Gas Troubleshooter (both pictured at left), along with Lineman Brad Wheeler were on hand to share lessons in energy safety and introduce tools of the trade that help Ameren Illinois keep the lights on and the gas flowing across our 43,700-square-mile service territory. Events like these offer the next generation a better understanding of careers in the energy industry— and at Ameren Illinois.