

# IEC Program Information By Month

by Kristi Fitzanko, IEC Energy Advisor

	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
<b># of School Districts Billed by Month</b>	68	80	99	103	103	102	108
<b>Current Monthly Savings</b>	\$47,981.12	\$80,085.81	\$117,147.91	\$114,775.72	\$187,825.50	\$(44,366.63)	\$(152,333.99)
<b>Savings Year-to-Date</b>	\$47,981.12	\$128,066.93	\$245,214.84	\$359,990.56	\$547,816.06	\$503,449.43	\$351,115.44
<b># of Meters Billed</b>	310	365	452	470	470	466	493
<b>Average Savings by Meter</b>	\$154.78	\$219.41	\$259.18	\$244.20	\$399.63	\$(95.21)	\$(308.99)

Address Correction Requested



Illinois Energy Consortium, Marketing Services  
 Illinois ASBO  
 Northern Illinois University (A-103)  
 108 Carroll Ave.  
 DeKalb, Illinois 60115-2829

## Power Line

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## The Savings Have Begun

by Ronald E. Steigerwald, Statewide Marketing Director for IEC

Enclosed in this newsletter is an actual monthly bill for Sandwich CUSD 430. Please note that during the last billing period they saved \$793.19 more than they would have saved if they stayed with Commonwealth Edison. On the next line of the bill you will notice that they have saved \$2,138.65 or an average of 20% to date. These savings percentages decreased during the summer months and will increase significantly during the winter months. This is just one actual example of savings member school districts are realizing. To date, member school districts have saved over \$400,000.

Please remember that when we send a perspective member a cost savings analysis, the savings projected are based on annual savings. Some months may show little and maybe even negative savings while most other months will provide significant savings. Keep in mind that the Illinois Energy Consortium (IEC), with the help of our program administrator CILCO and consultants, Latham & Associates, will monitor school district accounts and review any account that may not be experiencing savings. Even better, CILCO audits every monthly bill to make sure that the school district does not pay for charges that are not correct.

Last, but not least, CILCO has a toll free telephone number that you can call. If you have any questions about your cost analysis or your bill, please call CILCO at 1.877.316.4321(IEC1).

### “Y2K1”

If you are not one of our current customers, what are you waiting for?

Y2K1, or January 1, 2001, is just around the corner. Be prepared! Remember, this is the date that all electric meters are eligible to transfer to the Illinois Energy Consortium.

First, make sure you have the number for each electric meter in your school district along with each meters' account number and location, as well as building/site.

Next, when you receive a broadcast fax from Illinois ASBO in October, please follow the simple instructions and supply the meter information I mentioned above.

Current members will be sent a copy of their Letter of Agency in October. All you need to do is to check off the meters that you wish to add to the Illinois Energy Consortium. It's as simple as that.

### “Help”

CILCO, our program administrator needs your help. We all realize that during the summer months many physical changes are taking place in school districts. Please take a few moments to review your current situation and advise CILCO of any changes such as, additions and new buildings. New buildings will be eligible on January 1, 2001.

### “Update - Good News”

As promised to Illinois Power and Ameren CIPS members, September is your month to begin your savings. However, at our last Board of Director's meeting, we decided to make the switch as of September 18<sup>th</sup> rather than September 1<sup>st</sup>. This change of timeline will guarantee you additional savings.

## President's Perspective

by David F. Grace, President

The Illinois Energy Consortium (IEC) has been delivering to school districts in the Com Ed region since January/February and the results are in!!!! Since the electricity has begun to flow through IEC, school districts in this region have saved approximately \$425,000.00. In less than six (6) months, school districts in the ComEd region have been able to save significant dollars for each of their communities without cutting programs! This is what IEC is all about and it is exciting to see that the results support our earlier projections!

In light of the savings being received by Com Ed school districts, we are looking forward to delivering electricity to both the Illinois Power and the Ameren CIPS and Ameren UE regions beginning in mid September. We have a contract with Ameren Energy Marketing to supply electricity in both of these regions at very competitive rates. We look forward to school districts in these regions being able to take advantage of cheaper electric supply in the same way those in the ComEd and CILCO regions have.

I would also be remiss if I did not note that *tempus fugit (time flies)* and we are getting close to the January 1, 2001 date when all school district accounts (meters) are able to join IEC without a lottery. In other words, all accounts served by the utilities mentioned above, as well as, those by Midwest and Alliant are eligible for choice in electric supply with the potential savings being currently experienced by other school districts. This means that even those accounts not chosen in the earlier lottery or those not considered for the lottery, can now purchase their electricity from the supplier of their choice. IEC is one of the only suppliers that has been able to penetrate the market and definitely the only one with the specific mission of saving money for school districts. I would urge you to consider joining as soon as possible if you

are not one of the large number of districts that has already joined.

Joining requires two actions. **First a district must have taken the Participation Agreement** to its Board for approval which commits the district to a three-year membership in the consortium. This ensures some stability for the consortium and should result in significant savings for the district. If a district approved this agreement when the initial formation of the pool took place, no new participation agreement is required for additional accounts to be added. **The Second action that is required is the signing of the Letter of Agency.** This is required to protect you from "slamming". Slamming is what was seen in the telephone service industry where unscrupulous companies would switch your carrier without authorization and charge you for their services. Both forms are needed by IEC to begin supplying your accounts with electricity and savings. If you have any questions relative to either of these forms or your district's status with IEC, please call either Ron Steigerwald at 847.567.3051 or IASBO, IEC's Marketing representative Judy Sharp, at 815.753.9840.

Finally, it is time to express our appreciation and best wishes to Mr. Wayne Sampson, Board member of IEC and Executive Director of IASB. Wayne is retiring this month. He has served on the Board of Directors of IEC since its inception and has been an incredible resource and will be missed greatly! Throughout all of the deliberations that led to the formation of this consortium and subsequently led us to the present time and our current success, Wayne could be counted upon to keep us focused and always mindful of what was best for school districts in Illinois. He has unselfishly given countless hours of his time and the support of his organization to help school districts save money through

the joint purchasing of electricity. The strength of this organization is in large part due to the historic cooperation and coordination of the three sponsoring organizations. Wayne, along with Walt Warfield and Ron Everett, saw the potential to best serve school districts in Illinois by the joint formation of the Illinois Energy Consortium. True visionaries are hard to find and Wayne is clearly one and will be missed! We wish him well in his well-deserved retirement and look forward to working with the new director of IASB, Mr. Mike Johnson.



## Sounds of Summer

by Kristi Fitzanko, IEC Energy Advisor

Summer usually brings the pounding of hammers, the deafening sound of saws, and the smell of fresh paint. Most schools perform maintenance work while buildings are less occupied. In some instances, major construction is underway with hopes of additional space with the return of students. If this sounds familiar to you, you may want to give us, CILCO, a call at 1.877.316.4321 (IEC1) so we can evaluate the impact of maintenance or new construction on your energy needs. If you have closed a school and moved to a new one, we need to know now so we are able to continue to provide you with savings.

## Meet Louie Ervin

IEC Energy Advisor

Legislation opened the electric market in Illinois in late 1999, but where can consumers turn for expertise in this new complex world of electric choice? How can I maximize savings? When faced with these questions, the Illinois Energy Consortium began its search for an energy advisor that is an advocate for schools, has broad industry expertise and is independent of any utility or energy marketing company. The IEC found a perfect match with Latham and Associates of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Louie Ervin, Executive Vice-President of Latham & Associates, and his partner, Robert Latham are energy advisors to successful electric and natural gas purchasing pools for schools, colleges and universities in Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Illinois. The firm also is energy advisor for Associated Employers and Energy Consortium in the Rock Island and Moline, Illinois areas. Louie explained, Latham and Associates focuses on being an advocate for the energy buyer. The firm began its buyer-focused strategy in 1995 as advisor to twenty-nine municipal and cooperative utilities, which jointly purchased wholesale electricity. Life

Care Retirement Communities, Mercy Health Network, the Large Energy Group and Iowans for Choice in Electricity are among the energy consumer groups that have tapped into the firm's expertise.

Louie has over 29 years of utility and energy consulting experience. He has negotiated over \$250 million of power, steam and natural gas contracts. He received *Gas Industries Magazine* 1993 Outstanding Manager of the Year Award, for directing a three-year project of installing over 500 miles of pipe to 52 communities that previously did not have access to natural gas. Mr. Ervin has been an expert witness in federal and state court cases involving electric transmission and has testified in numerous electric, natural gas and electric utilities cases. He is a Licensed Professional Engineer and has been responsible for electric generation and transmission projects.

His many professional titles, which include: Chair for an Economic Development Corporation, Chair of Missouri Valley Electric Association's Rates and Marketing Committee, Member of Southwest Power Pool's Operations Committee, Member of

Mid-continent Area Power Pool's Environmental Committee, Representative to Midwest Ozone Transport Group, and Member of Edison Electric Institutes' Metering and Environmental Committees. Louie is actively involved in youth activities through rotary, baseball and church.

Louie holds a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Missouri, an MBA from the University of Iowa and is a graduate of the University of Michigan's Public Utility Executive Program.



## IEC's New Energy Advisor

by Kristi Fitzanko, IEC Energy Advisor

Several months ago, I assumed the responsibilities of coordinating the IEC at CILCO. My name is Kristi Fitzanko and I look forward to working with the IEC Board of Directors along with each and every school district. I bring to the IEC 25 years of experience in both the regulated and deregulated environment.

My early years with CILCO focused on the customer service and billing areas. I later worked as Supervisor in

the Customer Service Division. After a two year special assignment, I joined sales and marketing working with a team of individuals that would develop a lighting business. Upon successful implementation of this project, I moved on to the billing world. Working with a team, I analyzed new billing platforms and developed policy and procedures for the new, unregulated business. For the past 9 months, I have been working with the sales and marketing billing

team to implement the processes required to enroll and bill accounts outside the CILCO service area, including the IEC. I am a graduate of the University of Illinois - Springfield with a degree in Business Management. I live in Pekin along with my husband and two sons. Again, I look forward to working with everyone associated with the IEC.