

Straight talk about...

the cooperative difference



Moving Forward

It has been a very busy and productive month for your electric cooperative as we undertake action to complete our strategic planning goal to design and construct a new cooperative headquarters facility.

This past month, our warehouse storage facility was relocated to the north edge of our pole yard and will serve as an unconditioned storage facility for conductor, pole trailers and transformers in our new facility configuration. Relocation costs provided a savings to the cooperative in place of constructing a new outdoor storage facility. We will also incorporate our existing radio system and tower in the new facility.

The week of May 10th cooperative operation crews relocated to the previous Campsite RV building located on the west side of Cresco along Highway 9. Network and radio communications, outage management and mapping programs were all re-established prior to the move which allowed a successful transition into the temporary facility. Removal of the old operations center started in May with final completion projected the first week in July.

Hawkeye REC members should continue to call your cooperative using the same telephone numbers.



We have received Rural Utilities Service (RUS) approval to tear down our 1941 office facility, upon removal of the asbestos floor tile through an abatement

process. Demolition of this facility will begin in August upon relocating the office to the Howard County Fairgrounds in the Featherlite Center.

The RUS has approved our cooperative five-year work plan that included construction of our headquarters facility and we have received approval for the environmental reviews necessary for construction.

Our building committee continues to work on our site plans, which were finalized in May. Final plans involved a reduction of office space and a re-design of our loading dock to reduce construction costs. The design phase has truly been a group effort involving our employees, senior staff, directors and our design build team of Architectural Design, Weiser Brothers and Cresco Building Services. Our architect has also begun the process of finalizing building specifications and we expect to release the project for bids the end of June to early July with actual construction scheduled to begin in early August.

Your cooperative is following green building guidelines for our new facility:

- Existing concrete ground-up upon its removal for needed fill on-site.
- Polished concrete floor throughout the building
- Fluorescent lighting throughout the facility
- Light motion sensors in offices
- LED lighting in the front of the facility
- Ground-source heat pumps for all heating and cooling in the facility
- Solar water heating system to meet domestic hot water needs



- The interior design will incorporate additional recycled products and energy conservation features
- Consideration of outdoor landscaping and water gardens in lieu of conventional retention ponding for storm water runoff

Preliminary plans are for an informal groundbreaking ceremony to document the start of our project the first part of August and a special ribbon-cutting ceremony with our membership and special legislative guests upon completion of the facility in the spring of 2011.

I would like to make special note that Hawkeye REC members should continue to contact your cooperative by telephone using the same telephone numbers. Office staff will remain in our existing office facility until August 6th, at which time we will relocate to the fairgrounds. It is our goal to make the transition to our temporary facility as transparent as possible and to continue to meet all of our members' service needs.

As always, I welcome your calls, e-mails and personal visits. Thanks for your continued cooperative support.

Brian