

Summer/Fall | 2025

A newsletter for JCE Co-op natural gas members.

The importance of calling 811 before you dig

When planning an outdoor project many of us are eager to dive right in. Whether it's planting a tree, installing a fence or creating a new garden bed. Before you pick up that shovel, remember to call 811 or use the online service to notify JULIE (Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators). This simple step is crucial for ensuring your safety and preventing damage to underground utilities.

Why call 811?

- 1. **Safety first**-underground utility lines can be just inches below the surface. Accidentally hitting a gas line can lead to dangerous leaks, explosions or service disruptions. Calling 811 helps prevent these risks by ensuring that utility lines are marked before you begin digging.
- **2. Legal requirement**-In many areas, including those served by JCE Co-op, notifying 811 before digging is not just a recommendation, it's the law. Failing to do so can result in fines and liability to yourself as an individual for damages.
- **3. Protecting infrastructure**-Damage to underground utilities can disrupt service to entire neighborhoods and lead to costly repairs. By calling 811, you help protect the infrastructure that keeps our community running smoothly.
- **4. It's free and easy**-The 811 service is free, and the process is simple. Just dial 811 or submit a request online www. illinois1call.com at least 3 days but no more than 10 days before your planned project, and utility companies will send professionals to mark the locations of underground lines.

How does it work?

After you contact 811, a representative will gather information about your project and location. Within a few business days, utility companies will send technicians to mark the locations of underground lines with paint or flags. Once marked, you can dig safely, avoiding the marked areas.

Plan ahead

Whether you're a homeowner or a contractor, planning ahead by calling 811 is essential for a successful project. Remember, safe digging is no accident, it's a result of careful planning and taking the right precautions.

JCE Co-op AMI installation update

JCE Co-op is nearing the completion of our Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) deployment for natural gas members. To date, we have completed 5,400 AMI conversions, the majority of which are residential accounts. We expect to complete the remaining installations by the end of the year.

You do not need to be present while the work is being completed. Once the upgrade is finished, we will leave a door hanger with any necessary follow-up instructions.

This AMI solution will reduce the need for a JCE Co-op meter reader to visit your property each month. The AMI technology will automatically collect consumption data from your gas meter and securely transfer this data over a network to our database, which is then used for utility billing.

With this system in place, we will be able to take more frequent readings and minimize estimated bills, improving the accuracy of your meter readings. You may still see a field representative on your property from time to time, inspecting and maintaining your metering equipment, as part of our standard preventative maintenance of our system.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact JCE Co-op at 800-858-5522.

Back-to-school season brings youth learning opportunities from JCE

As students prepare to head back to school, JCE Co-op is excited to reconnect with educators and school communities across our service territory. We're proud to offer a wide range of youth engagement and educational programs designed to inspire, educate and empower students of all ages.

From hands-on safety demonstrations and classroom activities to real-world learning experiences like our Washington, D.C. Youth Tour and college scholarship opportunities, we're committed to investing in the future of our local youth.

Schools and educators are encouraged to reach out and learn more about how we can support their students' learning. Whether you're looking for electric or natural gas safety resources, energy education materials or interactive presentations, we're here to help.

If you're interested in learning more, contact our Member and Youth Engagement Coordinator Taylor Smith at 815-591-0091 or by email at tsmith@jcecoop.com. You can also explore our educational tools and activity pages by visiting https://jcecoop.com/educational-resources.

Let's work together to make this school year one full of learning, safety and opportunity!



Beginning this month, JCE Co-op is launching the first phase of changes to billing cycles for electric and natural gas members. As part of this update, our service territory is now divided into three billing cycles. While some accounts will remain on their current schedule, many will see new billing and due dates starting this month.

Important Note: This will not affect fiber and phone services, which will remain on the same cycle they are on currently.



New billing cycles

Your billing and due dates may now fall on different days. This change officially begins this month—August 2025.



Review the changes

Please review the billing cycle map or chart provided to see which cycle your location now falls under.



Update your payment method

If you're enrolled in automatic payments, be sure to adjust your settings to reflect your new due date starting in August.

Check the table below to see your updated billing cycle. If you have any questions or need help updating your payment information, please contact our member care team at 800-858-5522

	Cycle 1	Cycle 2	Cycle 3
Billing Date	7th of the month	14th of the month	24th of the month
Due Date	28th of the month	5th of the month	15th of the month
Territory	Apple River, Hanover, Stockton, Albany, Chadwick, Erie, Fenton, Mount Carroll, Lanark, Morrison, Geneseo, Atkinson, Prophetstown, Annawan, Colona	Fulton Savanna Thomson	East Dubuque Elizabeth, Galena Scales Mound





JCE Co-op PO Box 390 Elizabeth, IL 61028



jcecoop.com



800-858-5522



info@jcecoop.com

