




A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



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TWO OFFICES

Monday-Friday
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Piqua

344 West U.S. Route 36
Piqua, Ohio 45356

937-773-2523 or
1-800-762-0997

Urbana

767 Three Mile Road
Urbana, Ohio 43078

937-653-7202 or
1-800-762-0997

Visit our Web site

www.pioneerrec.com

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President/CEO

Ronald P. Salyer



Dear Fellow Member,

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to the **73rd Annual Meeting & Cooperative Spirit Day** on **April 4, 2009**. Please join us at the Piqua headquarters of Pioneer for an open house as we celebrate with the theme *"Bee an Energy Star."*

One of the unique benefits of being a member-owner of an electric cooperative is the ability to have a role in the operation of that company. We take an active role by electing the Board of Trustees and County Boards. The ballots were sent by mail in late February providing you with the opportunity to exercise this important benefit only cooperative members enjoy. The results of the election will be announced Saturday, April 4, at Cooperative Spirit Day.

Be sure to bring the member registration card you received with your ballot. It not only registers you for the event and a \$10 bill credit simply for attending, but also for door prizes to be given away. Parking will be west of the office at Discount Furniture & Mattress Outlet and Aldi. A bus will shuttle you to the Pioneer site.

The open house begins at 9 a.m. and refreshments will be served. The business session will begin at 11 a.m., and will include hearing first-hand updates from your cooperative's leaders, getting the election results and door prize drawings.

Be sure to mark your ballots and return them by the March 27 deadline. I look forward to seeing you at Cooperative Spirit Day on April 4!

Sincerely,

Ronald P. Clark
Chair



Door Prizes

First prize
*\$500 Energy Star
appliance/electronics credit
& energy efficiency kit*

Second prize
*Air purifier & energy efficiency kit
(\$200 value)*

Third prize
*Lowe's \$100 Gift Card
& energy efficiency kit*

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF 73rd ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING OF PIONEER RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

March 11, 2009

Dear Member:

This is your official notice of the Annual Meeting of Members of Pioneer Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. at the Pioneer Electric Cooperative office, Piqua, Ohio on Saturday, April 4, 2009 for the following purposes:

1. To hear reports of officers and management.
2. To elect trustees to fill three vacancies. The three terms that expire this year, with the candidates for election, are as follows:

Champaign District — Douglas A. Hurst. Candidates: Douglas A. Hurst and Dale E. Thompson III.

Miami District — Donald D. DeWeese. Candidates: Donald D. DeWeese and Duane L. Engel.

Shelby District — Paul R. Workman. Candidates: Paul R. Workman and Walter H. Wright III.

Each member (husband or wife) has one vote for each trustee to be elected, one in Champaign District, one in Miami District, one in Shelby District.

3. To conduct such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting of Members.

— Douglas A. Hurst, Secretary
Pioneer Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

73rd Annual Members' Meeting of Champaign County District Nominating Committee of Pioneer Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

March 11, 2009

Dear Member:

This is your official notice of the Annual Meeting of Members of the Champaign County District Nominating Committee of Pioneer Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. at the Pioneer Electric Cooperative office, Piqua, Ohio on Saturday, April 4, 2009 for the purpose of electing trustees and to transact such other business as may properly come before this meeting.

Candidates to fill four vacancies on the Champaign County Board in the following geographical areas are:

Area 1 — Brent Crumley, 1991 Neal Road, Urbana, Ohio; Greg A. Honchell, 3619 River Road, Urbana, Ohio.

Area 2 — Paul A. Errett, 7841 Old Troy Pike, Saint Paris, Ohio; Brent D. Perkins, 4569 State Route 55, Urbana, Ohio.

Area 3 — Larry J. Bullard, 2844 Chatfield Road, Cable, Ohio; Rodney L. Wilkins, 4109 Gray Road, Cable, Ohio.

Area 4 — Ted Black, 5327 Catawba-Mechanicsburg Road, Mechanicsburg, Ohio; James C. Welch, 6872 Catawba-Mechanicsburg Road, Mechanicsburg, Ohio.

—Mark L. Petty, Secretary
Champaign County District Nominating Committee of Pioneer Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

73rd Annual Members' Meeting of Miami County District Nominating Committee of Pioneer Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

March 11, 2009

Dear Member:

This is your official notice of the Annual Meeting of Members of the Miami County District Nominating Committee of Pioneer Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. at the Pioneer Electric Cooperative office, Piqua, Ohio on Saturday, April 4, 2009 for the purpose of electing trustees and to transact such other business as may properly come before this meeting.

Candidates to fill four vacancies on the Miami County Board in the following geographical areas are:

Area 5 — Wayne Mullenix, 190 East Loy Road, Piqua, Ohio; Teresa (Teri) C. Slover, 6670 Union Shelby Road, Piqua, Ohio.

Area 6 — Dean M. McClurg, 1730 Raymond Drive, Tipp City, Ohio; William Platfoot, 6633 Bard Road, Tipp City, Ohio.

Area 7 — Randy Mott, 1350 S. Hufford Road, Casstown, Ohio; Wade Wilhelm, 8900 E. State Route 41, New Carlisle, Ohio.

Area 8 — David V. Dalton, 5555 Pisgah Road, Tipp City, Ohio; James L. Henry, 6195 S. Rudy Road, Tipp City, Ohio.

—Richard L. Tollefson, Secretary
Miami County District Nominating Committee of Pioneer Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

73rd Annual Members' Meeting of Shelby County District Nominating Committee of Pioneer Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

March 11, 2009

Dear Member:

This is your official notice of the Annual Meeting of Members of the Shelby County District Nominating Committee of Pioneer Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. at the Pioneer Electric Cooperative office, Piqua, Ohio on Saturday, April 4, 2009 for the purpose of electing trustees and to transact such other business as may properly come before this meeting.

Candidates to fill four vacancies on the Shelby County Board in the following geographical areas are:

Area 9 — Roger J. Bertke, 8030 Cecil Road, Ft. Loramie, Ohio; Bernard F. Sanders, 8115 Galley Road, Fort Loramie, Ohio.

Area 10 — Keith Barhorst, 11521 Fort Loramie-Swanders Road, Anna, Ohio; John A. Geise, 10063 Patterson-Halpin Road, Sidney, Ohio.

Area 11 — Thomas A. Kremer, 13480 Renee Drive, Anna, Ohio; Craig Martin, 15960 Meranda Road, Anna, Ohio.

Area 12 — James K. Boyd, 2805 Millcreek Road, Sidney, Ohio; Philip Brenner, 17033 Sharp Road, Sidney, Ohio.

—Jason Bruns, Secretary
Shelby County District Nominating Committee of Pioneer Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Late payments by a few members ultimately cost all

Changes in procedures designed to encourage timely payments

Your electric cooperative is a not-for-profit business where the expectation is that each member pays his or her fair share of the total cost of providing electric service. The rates charged by Pioneer Electric Cooperative are cost-based, and we're continually looking for additional ways to keep those costs down.

What happens, though, when some members aren't paying their fair share? Who is left to cover the costs when members pay their bills late, or even worse, do not pay them at all? Those members wind up costing the rest of the membership more as we go through costly procedures to try to collect on delinquent accounts. And, if they move from Pioneer's system without paying all they owe, we continue collection efforts, but we eventually must write-off some balances which never are paid. Ultimately, that drives up everyone's rates.



Every member should know

Costs for everything we use as consumers have increased dramatically, and at Pioneer we don't think it's fair for members paying their bills to be facing additional increases because of other members' delinquent accounts. In order to avoid passing on the cost burden to you, we have tightened up our procedures in dealing with delinquent accounts. Some of the new measures are outlined in the following paragraphs so all members are aware of our planned actions — even those of you who never will find yourselves in a delinquent or disconnect situation. Additional information is provided as needed to members whose accounts become delinquent. We recognize there can be times members cannot pay their full bill on time, and if we are aware of the situation we can assist by establishing payment arrangements with the members. To be most effective for the delinquent members, and least costly for Pioneer and its other members, we need to know assistance is needed before the delinquent account gets to the disconnect stage.

Payments received after the due date

Penalties for payments received after the due date are now assessed immediately. These penalty or gross amounts appear on each month's bill. To avoid them, a member must pay by the due date. Beginning with the due dates in February, a member's due date now is the same each month. This is something our members have been asking for, and we're happy we could at last provide it. In recent years we have expanded the ways members may pay bills — you still can pay by mail or in person at our offices. Both offices also have night drops if you need to pay before or after our regular business hours. Members also can set up automatic monthly bank drafts, pay by check or credit card over the phone, or pay online at our Web site www.pioneerec.com, all with no additional fee. Members who know they will have an issue with meeting the due date should contact the cooperative **ahead of time**, not afterward. The late-payment penalty has been increased from 4 percent of the current bill to 7 percent of the total amount due.

Disconnection of service for nonpayment

Member-consumers whose bills become past due, and who do not contact the cooperative within prescribed deadlines to set up payment arrangements, are subject to disconnection of

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Changes in procedures

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electric service until payment is received. A notice will be provided to a delinquent member at least 14 days prior to the disconnection. Members should contact Pioneer immediately after receiving that notice, so payment arrangements can be made before the actual disconnect date. Employees who are performing service disconnects for nonpayment no longer accept any payments in the field. Payments must be made in person at one of our two offices, by phone or online. The only forms of payment accepted on a disconnected account will be cash, money order, credit or debit card. Further, extended payment agreements will not be made on the day an account is disconnected. The arrangement will have to be made prior to the disconnect date, and this deadline will be clearly identified for the members. If an electric service is disconnected for nonpayment of the bill, it will not be reconnected after regular business hours. In order to be reconnected on the same day, payment must be received by 3 p.m. on the disconnect day. That payment will include any penalty or associated fees, as well as a security deposit if applicable.

Associated fees

The fees associated with disconnecting and then reconnecting a service because of nonpayment also have increased to more closely reflect the actual cost. The fees now are \$60 each. To avoid the fees, a member needs to make the necessary bill payment prior to disconnect day.

We'd like to help before a member faces disconnect

As we said before, we recognize things can happen that may make it difficult to pay bills, and we care about our members in those situations. We also care about the membership as a whole, and it simply is unfair to all of you to just let delinquencies of a small group of members and write-off totals increase beyond a reasonable level at the expense of everyone. We are willing to work with members who temporarily find themselves in difficult times, but we'd appreciate knowing before you get in a disconnect situation or begin running up large balances due on your account.

We also can help members interested in looking for ways to curb their electric use and control their bills — whether facing delinquency or not. Our Energy Advisor, Meghan McGuire, has great tools and ideas to assist you in determining how you might be able to save each month. Give her a call or drop her an e-mail at mmcguire@pioneerec.com to learn more.

Home Fitness Seminar

6 - 9 p.m.

April 8 – Piqua Office

OR

April 22 – Urbana Office

Pioneer invites you to attend an evening workshop. Some of the area's experts will present various important topics such as:

- Energy Efficiency with Pioneer's Energy Advisor
- Proper Insulation Practices
- HVAC Information
- Touchstone Energy HomeSM Program
- Financing options

Seating is limited

\$5 charge per person

(Please pay prior to event to reserve your seat.)

Refreshments and literature provided

*To reserve your seat,
call the Pioneer office at 1-800-762-0997
and ask for Ted or Meghan.*



Insulation 101 – Part 4

Crawlspaces

U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

If you properly insulate your crawl space — in addition to air sealing and controlling moisture, you will save on energy costs and increase your home's comfort. How to insulate a crawl space depends on whether it's ventilated or unventilated. Traditionally, crawl spaces have been vented to prevent problems with moisture; most building codes require vents to aid in removing moisture from the crawl space. However, many building professionals now recognize that building an unventilated crawl space (or closing vents after the crawl space dries out following construction) is the best option in homes using proper moisture control and exterior drainage techniques. There are two main reasons for this line of thinking:

- Ventilation in the winter makes it difficult to keep crawl spaces warm
- Warm, moist outdoor air brought into the crawl space through foundation vents in the summer often is unable to dehumidify a crawl space. In fact, this moist outdoor air can lead to increased moisture levels in the crawl space.

Insulating an unventilated crawl space

If you have or will have an unventilated crawl space, then your best approach is to *seal and insulate the foundation walls rather than the subfloor.*

Advantages of insulating the crawl space are as follows:

- You can avoid the problems associated with ventilating a crawl space.
- Less insulation is required (around 400 square feet for a 1,000-square-foot crawl space with 3-foot walls).
- Piping and ductwork are within the conditioned volume of the house so they don't require insulation for energy efficiency or protection against freezing.
- Air sealing between the house and the crawl space is less critical.

Disadvantages of insulating a crawl space include the following:

- The insulation may be damaged by rodents, pests or water.
- A radon mitigation system will require ventilation of the crawl space to the exterior. Not planning for radon-resistant construction may necessitate air sealing the floor to mitigate the radon through ventilation.
- The crawl space must be built airtight, and the air barrier must be maintained.
- The access door to the crawl space must be located inside the home through the subfloor unless an airtight, insulated access door in the perimeter wall is built and maintained.

Steps for installing crawl space wall insulation

1. Review plans for this method of foundation insulation with pest control and local building officials to ensure code compliance.
2. Eliminate or seal the foundation vents.
3. Ensure that combustion furnaces and water heaters located in the crawl space are sealed-combustion units equipped with a powered combustion system.
4. Seal all air leaks through the exterior wall during and after construction, including the band joist.
5. Locate the crawl space access inside the home or install an access through the perimeter that will remain airtight after repeated use.
6. Install rigid foam board or batt insulation — exterior foam, interior foam or interior batt —

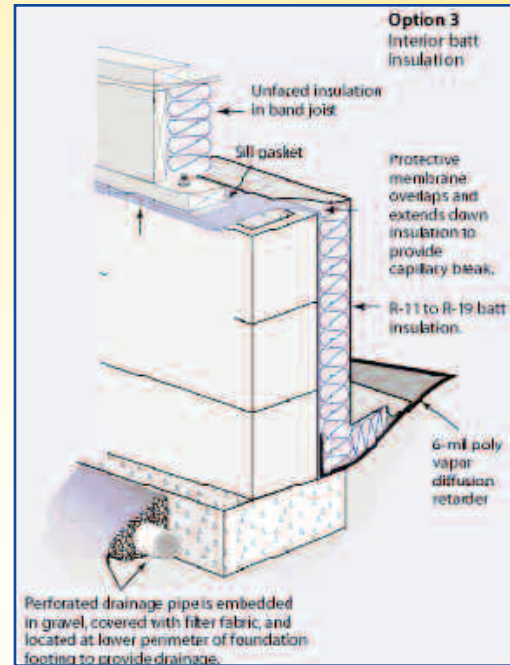
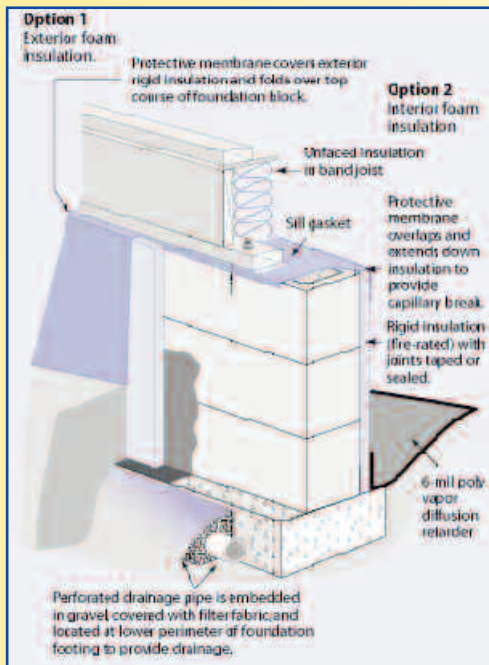
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Insulation 101 – Part 4

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to achieve complete insulation coverage. Insulate the band joist with batt insulation, as well as the crawl space access if it's located in the wall.

7. Install a continuous termite shield between the band joist and masonry foundation wall that covers the wall insulation and extends completely outside (or leave a 2- to 4-inch insulation gap at the top for termite inspection).
8. Install a supply outlet in the crawl space, relying on the leakiness of the floor to provide the return air path.



Steps for installing underfloor insulation

1. During the early phases of construction, the builder should inform all subcontractors (plumbing, electrical, HVAC, etc.) that they need to keep the space between the floor joists as clear as possible. Run drain lines, electrical wiring and ductwork below the bottom of the insulation so that a continuous layer of insulation can be installed. For freeze protection, supply plumbing may be located within the insulation. The best approach is to run supply plumbing together in a few joist spaces. The insulation can be split and run around the plumbing.
2. Seal all air leaks between the conditioned area of the home and the crawl space. High-priority leaks include holes around bathtub drains and other drain lines, plenums for ductwork and penetrations for electrical wiring, plumbing and ductwork (including duct boot connections at the floor).
3. Insulation batts with an attached vapor barrier are typically used to insulate framed floors. Obtain insulation with the proper width for the joist spacing of the floor being insulated. Complete coverage is essential. Leave no insulation voids. The batts should be installed flush against the subfloor to eliminate any gaps, which may serve as passageways for cold airflow between the insulation and subfloor. The batts also should be cut to the full length of the joist being insulated and slit to fit around wiring and plumbing.
4. Insulate and air seal the band joist area between the air ducts and the floor as space permits. Use insulation hangers (wire staves) spaced every 12-18 inches to hold the floor insulation in place without compressing the insulation more than 1 inch.

Insulation 101 – Part 4

5. The orientation of the vapor barrier (craft facing) depends on the home's location or climate. In most of the country, the vapor barrier should face upward, in order to be adjacent to the warm floor in the winter heating months.
6. Insulate all ductwork in the crawl space.
7. Insulate all hot and cold water lines in the crawl space unless they are located within the insulation.
8. Close crawl space vents after ensuring that the crawl space and all the construction materials are dry.

For insulating truss floor systems, it's better to install netting or foam board insulation to the underside of the floor trusses. Then, fill the space created between the netting or insulation and subfloor with loose-fill insulation.

Insulating a ventilated crawl space

1. Carefully seal any and all holes in the floor above ("ceiling" of the crawl space) to prevent air from blowing up into the house.
2. Insulate between the floor joists with rolled fiberglass. Install it tight against the subfloor. Seal all of the seams carefully to keep wind from blowing into the insulation. Also, adequately support the insulation with mechanical fasteners so that it will not fall out of the joist spaces in the years to come. DO NOT just rely on the friction between the fiberglass and wood joists to secure it in place.
3. Cover the insulation with a house-wrap or face it with a vapor barrier. The orientation of the vapor barriers depends on the home's location or climate. In most of the country, the vapor barrier should face upward. However, in certain regions of the Gulf states and other areas with mild winters and hot summers, it should face downward.
4. Install a polyethylene vapor retarder, or equivalent material, over the dirt floor. Tape and seal all seams carefully. You also may cover the polyethylene with a thin layer of sand or concrete to protect it from damage. Do not cover the plastic with anything that could make holes in it, such as crushed gravel. Be sure the headroom of the crawl space meets local code regulations if you are considering pouring a concrete slab.


Other considerations

As mentioned above, when properly insulating a crawl space, you also have to consider moisture control measures and air sealing. Finally, you need to consider radon resistance or control when installing any type of foundation. See the DOE Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Web site for more information about radon and radon-resistant construction techniques.

Source: http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/consumer/your_home/insulation_airsealing/index.cfm/mytopic=11480

Vapor Barrier Placement By Geographical Location

In most cold climates, vapor barriers should be placed on the interior (warm-in-winter) side of walls. However, the map shows that in some southern climates, the vapor barrier should be omitted, while in hot and humid climates, such as along the Gulf coast and in Florida, the vapor barrier should be placed on the exterior of the wall.



Perm Ratings of Different Materials
(Rating of 1 or less qualifies as a vapor barrier)

Asphalt-coated paper backing on insulation	0.40
Polyethylene plastic (6 mil)	0.06
Plywood with exterior glue	0.70
Plastic-coated insulated foam sheathing	0.4 to 1.2
Aluminum foil (.35 mil)	0.05
Vapor barrier paint or primer	0.45
Drywall (unpainted)	5.0
Drywall (painted - latex paint)	2-3

Touchstone Energy Home Program

By Ted Riethman, Marketing/Key Accounts Representative

Since the summer of 1988, Pioneer Electric Cooperative has been promoting the many benefits of geothermal heating and cooling; and over the years I have seen these systems installed in some very unique locations. I also have seen them go into places where the homeowners could have used some of that money to tighten up the home first, before installing a geothermal (ground-source heat pump) system.

Geothermal systems are just one component in making a home more energy efficient. If you do not take care of the other factors in the home, you will minimize the overall savings and comfort you can experience with such an excellent heating and cooling system.

Many homes built in the 1980s and 1990s used the old adage "pay me now or pay me later." They were constructed with the minimum in-wall and attic insulation, and with minimally efficient heating and cooling. Most people could absorb the cost of heating and cooling these homes because the price of fuel was low, but now they are paying significantly more for the choices they made. Taking the time and investing the money up front during construction could have kept their energy cost much lower today.

In the spring of last year Pioneer introduced a program for new home construction called the **Touchstone Energy HomeSM Program**. The program looks at more than the type of heating and cooling equipment going into the home, it also takes into consideration the whole envelope of the house. When you take

the time to improve the overall thermal envelope of the home, you increase your home's comfort, operating cost and performance.

The program has a list of criteria that needs to be met before you qualify for any incentives from Pioneer Electric Cooperative. These standards are checked and verified by a third party contracted through Pioneer Electric Cooperative and Buckeye Power, Inc., our generation cooperative.

These requirements meet or exceed the standards for an Energy Star-rated home. An Energy Star home is significantly more efficient than a standard home.

This program is not just for the homeowner, we also are looking at the builders who are taking the steps needed to make a more

energy-efficient home and giving them the credit they deserve for building a high-quality home.

If you have plans in the future to build a new home, take a look at what you need to do to make the home operate as efficiently as possible. Want to learn more about Pioneer's Touchstone Energy Program? Please give me a call at 1-800-762-0997, or e-mail me at triethman@pioneerec.com.



Touchstone Energy Homes include the following:

1. **Mechanical systems: Air-source or ground-source heat pump**
2. **Air infiltration: Not to exceed .25 air changes per hour**
3. **Electric water heater: 50-gallon tank minimum
.93 EF; > 50 gal. tank .89 EF**
4. **Windows: Double pane; .35 U-Value; preferably
ENERGY STAR rated**
5. **Total wall insulation; minimum R-17**
6. **Attic insulation; minimum R-42**
7. **Roof or ceiling insulation R-30 or full-cavity fill**
8. **All-electric ENERGY STAR appliances**

