



## **Southern Illinois Power Cooperative's Board of Directors Selects Next President/CEO**

On March 21, 2024, Mr. George Obernagel, Chairman of the Board of Directors at Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), announced that SIPC's Board of Directors selected Paul J. Furtak as the cooperative's next President and Chief Executive Officer, effective immediately. Mr. Obernagel stated, "the Board and senior staff at SIPC are elated. We knew Paul was the right fit for the role and we are looking forward to continuing our shared journey into tomorrow."

SIPC's cooperative and strategic principles, corporate mission and strategic vision are nothing new to Furtak who has been an integral part of our leadership team and continued success at SIPC over the past two-decades. Lessons learned during his military service, formal education and utility career have shaped him into a hard-working, disciplined and effective leader within our cooperative family. Furtak said, "my parents have been members of Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association for over thirty-years, and we were members on Wayne-White's network in rural Hamilton County, Illinois when we lived in McLeansboro, Illinois. Hands down, there is no better business model than the cooperative model to serve electrical services to Southern Illinoisans. We have democratically elected governance; we are focused on meeting the needs of our Member-Owners and our motivations are good and just. I thank God for the opportunity to be surrounded by the most supportive, honest, and hard-working people I know, while serving this important need for our community."

SIPC's CEO search was initiated when Donald L. Gulley accepted the same position at Big Rivers Electric Cooperative in Owensboro, Kentucky. Obernagel said, "Don's tenure at SIPC over the past ten years brought stability, structure, strategic guidance and operational success when we needed it most and he developed and mentored the next generation of leaders at SIPC. His leadership and friendship will be missed, but we are in great shape and ready for the challenges ahead."

Furtak has been serving as SIPC's Interim President/CEO since January 8, 2024, and previously held positions at SIPC as the Vice President of Administration and Finance/Chief Financial Officer, Vice President of Risk and Strategic Planning, Controller, and Accounting Supervisor. He has been a SIPC employee since July 3, 2002. Paul obtained his bachelor's degree in accounting from the Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1994; and he proudly and honorably served our nation during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in the United States Air Force between 1985 and 1991. Paul and his wife, Lisa, have been blessed with three wonderful daughters: Nicole, Samantha and Danielle. The couple live in Herrin, Illinois.

SIPC is a generation and transmission cooperative located in Marion, Illinois with 1,100 miles of transmission lines throughout southern Illinois that serve approximately 84,000 meters as the wholesale-electric supplier to Clay Electric Cooperative, Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, Monroe County Electric Cooperative, Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative and Tri-County Electric Cooperative and the city of McLeansboro, Illinois. SIPC owns and operates a circulating-fluidized-bed boiler and two single-cycle combustion turbines at the plant in Marion, Illinois. Also, SIPC is a 7.9% owner in the Prairie State Generating Company located in Marissa, Illinois. SIPC has long-term purchase power agreements with a solar developer in White County, Illinois; a wind farm in Paxton, Illinois, and hydroelectric power from the US Department of Energy, Southeastern Power Administration (SEPA). SIPC is a member-owner of cooperative affiliates ACES, NRUCFC and NRCO, and are members of the Mid-Continent Independent System Operator (MISO) regional transmission organization.