



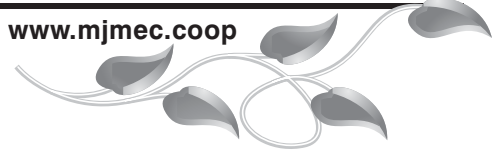
along the lines

VOLUME 4

October 2011

NUMBER 10

www.mjmec.coop



High School Seniors – Apply for your Scholarship Now

For several years, Illinois electric cooperatives have awarded scholarships to young men and women who demonstrated dedication to a goal and a strong work ethic.

In 2012, seven scholarships of \$1,250 each will be awarded to eligible high school seniors through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. In addition, an eighth scholarship – to assist with costs in attending an electric lineworker school – will also be offered.

Four scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A fifth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee. The sixth and seventh scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

A new eighth annual scholarship, the “LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship,” was awarded for the first time in 2011. This \$1,250 scholarship will help pay for costs to attend the lineworker’s school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, Ill. LaVern McEntire served as a lineman for McDonough Power Electric Cooperative from 1949 until

1991. He and his wife, Nola, endowed the new scholarship to financially assist deserving individuals in becoming trained lineworkers. Sons and daughters of co-op members; relatives of co-op employees or directors; and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible for the lineworker’s scholarship.

For more information regarding the scholarships, contact M.J.M. Electric Cooperative at 217-854-3137 and ask for Member Services. All necessary

paperwork has also been sent to area high school guidance counselors and is also available on M.J.M. Electric Cooperative’s website: www.mjmec.coop.

Students applying for the seven traditional (non-lineworker) scholarships will this year have a December 31, 2011 deadline for returning their completed applications and submissions to M.J.M. Electric. Individuals applying for the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship will have an April 30, 2012 deadline.



**M.J.M Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



**264 North East Street
Carlinville, Illinois 62626
Phone: 800-648-4729**

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Monday - Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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New Year's Day, Good Friday,
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How to report an outage

Call 800-648-4729. Do not call the local lineman. Collect calls will be accepted to report outages. When you report an outage, give your name and location number. Before calling, check your fuses or circuit breakers. Check with your neighbors. Call to report hazardous conditions.

M.J.M. Along The Lines

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Energy Saving Tips



Doug Rye

If you are a first-time homeowner, building a new home or just wanting to make changes to an older, existing home, Doug has written some energy-saving tips for

you to consider. There is no better time to do this than at the beginning of a construction project.

1. If you are clearing a lot for a new home or considering landscaping options, don't forget about the shade advantage trees add, as well as the evaporative cooling their lush canopies can offer.
2. Window coatings are energy saving, especially for west-facing view windows. For most residential applications, low-emissivity (low-e) coatings are sufficient. They can cut heat gain by up to 25 percent without changing the window's appearance.
3. When building a new home, try to keep glass area at 10 percent to 12 percent of the floor area of the house (example: 2,000 sq.ft. x 10% = 200 sq.ft. of glass).

4. Did you know that the average water heater wears out approximately every 10 years? When installing a water heater, you should consider one that is guaranteed for life to never leak or rust, and can save you approximately \$100 a year on your electric bill.
5. In the summer your attic can reach 140 degrees, so get the ductwork out of there! This may not be practical in an older home, but if you're building a new home, insist that the ductwork is placed in conditioned space, a basement or in the crawl space.
6. New or existing homes need insulation. Doug recommends cellulose. It forms an airtight barrier and is more soundproof, roach-proof and fire resistant than conventional insulation.
7. Most people, even new homeowners, have the least efficient heating and air conditioning equipment allowed under federal law. At a minimum, buy heat pumps and air conditioners with a 13 SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio) rating or above.
8. If you are doing the job or if you've hired a contractor, Doug offers this advice. Educate yourself! Energy efficiency won't just benefit you and your family, but our precious environment as well.



There is no better time to do this than at the beginning of a construction project.

NRECA Challenges EPA on Air Rule

By Steven Johnson | ECT Staff Writer Published: October 13th, 2011

NRECA has petitioned a federal court for review of the Environmental Protection Agency's new rule governing emissions of nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide that cross state lines. Utilities say a new Environmental Protection Agency emissions rule is rife with errors that could affect reliability and affordability.

The association filed an Oct. 7 lawsuit in the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, seeking review of the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR). It is scheduled to take effect Jan. 1.

At the same time NRECA also filed a petition for reconsideration of the Cross-State Rule with EPA, seeking administrative review of the sweeping regulations on numerous procedural and substantive grounds.

The rule contains serious flaws that will lead to increased electricity prices and raise doubts about whether EPA will accomplish its goals, NRECA said.

"By revising CSAPR to consider issues identified in this petition, the environmental benefits of the rule would be essentially unchanged, while the cost savings to a significant portion of the nation's rural electric consumers would be great," according to the EPA comments filed by Rae Cronmiller, NRECA environmental counsel.

The rule is the successor to the Bush-era Clean Air Interstate Rule, which a federal court struck down in 2008, although it allowed its provisions to stand while EPA rewrote its regulations.

It applies to 27 states, mostly east of the Mississippi, and sets limits aimed at reducing airborne emissions, ozone and particulate matter that contribute to soot and smog.

The rule relies on a system of tradable allowances for states and generating units to meet required emissions reductions. EPA expects it to cost utilities \$800 million a year by 2014.

NRECA said cooperatives did not have an adequate opportunity to comment on several important aspects of the final rule because EPA didn't include them in its initial 2010 proposal. Many of EPA's calculations are suspect, and badly shortchange some G&Ts and other utilities on the allocation of allowances, NRECA added.

For example, under EPA's plan, San Miguel Electric Cooperative, Christine, Texas, falls far short of the tradable allowances it needs, leaving it with the choice of purchasing overpriced allowances in the market—if they are available—or reducing generation at its coal-based plant by 14 percent.

"In short, meeting the requirements of CSAPR will be very costly to San Miguel's 26 member cooperatives and its more than 550,000 electric cooperative consumer-members," NRECA said.

Similarly, South Mississippi Electric Power Association, Hattiesburg, is projecting a 224-megawatt generation capacity deficit in 2012—and more in future years—because of EPA's unrealistic compliance timetable and the lack of available allowances, NRECA cautioned. SMEPA has also filed a lawsuit against EPA.

Article printed from ECT.coop: <http://www.ect.coop>

URL to article: <http://www.ect.coop/editors-pick/nreca-challenges-epa-on-air-rule/34973>

URLs in this post:

- [1] Image: <http://www.ect.coop/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Wansley-plant-Oglethorpe.jpg>
- [2] a petition for reconsideration: <http://www.ect.coop/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/NRECA-CSAPR-Petition.pdf>
- [3] San Miguel Electric Cooperative,: <http://www.smeci.net/index2.htm>
- [4] South Mississippi Electric Power Association,: <http://www.smepa.coop/>

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This Statement of Ownership will be printed in the October issue of this publication.

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions and/or civil sanctions.

/s/ Chris Spears, Editor

New EPA regulations will hit your wallet

These days, many people are finding it tougher to make ends meet. You and your family are probably working extra hard to make the most of every dollar. If that's the case, what would you do if your monthly electric bill went up by \$50?

This could happen if the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has its way, and several new regulations go into effect.

A couple of rules, including the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule, will increase electric rates by as much as 30 percent, according to American Electric Power. The 1,324-page federal regulation was developed to reduce emissions from one state being carried by the wind to other down-wind states. As an example, it would require power plants in Illinois and Indiana to reduce emissions so that Pennsylvania and New York would have better air quality.

"What's important to remember is that the Cross-State Rule is just one of many rules being implemented or considered, and each of them carries its own costs," said Terry Hogan, Manager of Environmental Affairs of Wabash Valley Power Association, MJM Electric Cooperative's power supplier.

For example, one proposed rule will require special handling of ash that results when power plants burn coal (much like the ashes from your backyard grill or fire pit). Another will require billions of dollars of investment nationwide to protect fish that accidentally get pulled into cooling water systems or collected on the intake screens. "Power producers will need to recover these additional costs by charging higher rates to the people who use electricity," Hogan said.

How much will rates increase? With so many different rules being considered, it's tough to pinpoint an exact amount, but the Indiana Partnership for Fair & Affordable Energy predicts that consumers in the state could see their monthly electric bills increase by anywhere from \$30 to \$70 a month, with an average increase of \$50. Similar increases are expected in neighboring states, all of which depend heavily on coal-fired power plants.

"Some believe that the EPA and others in Washington would like to eliminate coal as a source of energy, and they are pushing these regulations to make coal-based electricity more costly while forcing coal units into retirement," added Hogan. For example, Indianapolis Power & Light announced on September 9th that it would be retiring the Eagle Valley Generating Station and four generating units at the Harding Street Station by the end of 2015 due to the costs of the new EPA regulations. This will result in the loss of 100 jobs in central Indiana. "We've faced regulations for 40 years, and the industry has done a great job of complying, but we've never seen so many new rules in such a short time." It should be noted that the Ameren Corporation recently announced plans to close two coal fired power plants in Illinois. According to Ameren, New EPA regulations are the primary reason. Ninety (90) jobs will be eliminated by this action. MJM Electric Cooperative is supportive of reasonable and affordable solutions for our energy challenges but some of these new rules do not seem to be reasonable or affordable.

He pointed to the investment needed at just one power plant, the Gibson Station in southwestern Indiana. Wabash Valley Power owns 25 percent of Gibson's Unit 5. "Our percentage of the cost to upgrade that unit's emissions controls to meet the new standards are currently estimated to be \$147 million," Hogan explained. "That's just one part of one power plant, so you can imagine what the nationwide cost will be."

Because MJM Electric Cooperative is a non-profit organization, we receive no benefits from higher rates. We simply have to pass them along to our members in the form of higher bills. Our directors and management team are carefully monitoring the situation and working with the staff at Wabash Valley Power to find ways to minimize the potential impact on members. But if Washington insists on enacting costly environmental regulations, members like you will pay the price.

Join the Campaign

Tell Congress that they need to step up to prevent the EPA from using the Clean Air Act as a tool for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Act was never intended nor designed to deal with climate change.

- Fair
- Affordable
- Achievable

Take Action

www.ourenergy.com

VETERANS DAY

Thank you to our military veterans for their service and sacrifice.

Manufactured Home Energy-Efficient Retrofit Measures

There are many differences between manufactured (mobile) homes built before the HUD Code took effect in 1976 and those built afterward. Many manufactured homes made before 1976 are likely to have the following:

- Air leakage through walls
- Little or no insulation
- No vapor retarder in the roof cavity
- Uninsulated heating system ducts
- Uninsulated doors.

If you have a pre-1976 manufactured (mobile) home, you may want to make the following energy efficiency improvements to reduce heat loss:

- Install energy-efficient windows and doors
- Add insulation to the belly
- Make general repairs (caulking, ducts, etc.)
- Add insulation to your walls
- Install insulated skirting
- Install a belly wrap
- Add insulation to your roof or install a roof cap.

Instead of rolling back the roof, many installers prefer to use roof caps for insulating, in spite of their inferior performance. Roof caps come in kit form and consist of insulation boards, usually of dense fiberglass, with a synthetic rubber or metal covering. Roof caps can insulate the roof to R-19 without disturbing the existing roof. If all leaks in the old roof covering are sealed, the old roof acts as a vapor retarder, eliminating moisture problems and the need for ventilation.

Also, blowing loose-fill insulation into an existing manufactured home is difficult because of the narrowness of the wall and roof cavities. Pre-1976 homes often had only 2" × 2" studs (5.08 cm × 5.08 cm) (new

manufactured houses are required to have at least 2" × 4" [5.08 cm × 10.16 cm]). Trusses also hinder adding more roof insulation. Rolling back the roof to add insulation can lead to realignment problems and leaks. Furthermore, if the rollback method is used, adding some type of mechanical ventilation system to alleviate moisture condensation problems in the roof cavity may be necessary.

The above energy efficiency measures are based on experiments conducted on pre-1976 manufactured homes by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) from 1988–1991. A survey of 36 mobile homes by the Colorado Division of Housing found that using these NREL-developed retrofit measures resulted in a 31% reduction in heating fuel usage.

To improve your home's energy efficiency, you should also consider the following:



- Caulking and weather stripping windows and doors, especially if you can't replace them with more energy-efficient ones
- Energy Savers: Manufactured Home Energy-Efficient Retrofit Measures http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home/designing_remodeling/index.cfm/mytopic=102... 10/10/2011
- Air sealing any openings around plumbing fixtures and ducts
- Using energy-efficient lighting and appliances.

Learn More

Related Links

What Drives Cooling Savings in Mobile Homes
Home Energy Magazine

Reading List

Krigger, J. (1998). *Your Mobile Home: Energy and Repair Guide for Manufactured Housing*.

Saturn Resource Management. 210 pp.

- Manclark, B.; Davis, B. (January/February 1996). "Duct Improvement in the Northwest; Part II: Mobile Homes." *Home Energy* (13:1); pp. 27-32.
- Ziegler, T. (April/May 1998). "This Old Trailer." *Home Power* (No. 64); pp. 16-22.
- Moyer, N. (March/April 2002). "Moisture Problems in Manufactured Housing." *Home Energy* (19:2); pp. 24-29.

Contacts | Web Site Policies | U.S. Department of Energy | USA.gov
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Office Closings



In honor of our Veterans, our office will be closed on Friday, November 11 for Veterans Day.

We will also be closed Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25.

We wish everyone a happy and blessed Thanksgiving holiday.



Energy Star Clothes Washer Program Coming to a Close Soon

On December 31st, 2011 the Wabash Valley Power Association (WVPA) Energy Star Clothes Washer program will end. Please make sure you have your rebate forms and applicable information to M.J.M. Electric Cooperative's Member Services department no later than February 29, 2012. Purchases must be completed by December 31, 2011 and Members must be using an electric water heater in conjunction with the Energy Star qualifying clothes washer. The \$50 rebates will be mailed from WVPA within 6-8 weeks after they are submitted by M.J.M. Electric Cooperative.



Member Trading Post

Please have your free ads submitted to MJM before the 10th of each month in order for it to be published in the next "Along The Lines" issue. Each ad will run for 2 months unless otherwise notified to be removed. To maintain a rotation of new items, ads will be limited to be published in only two issues. Thank you.

FOR SALE: 2006 Dreams by Design Travel Trailer 35ft with heat, A/C, stove, refrigerator, fresh water tank and black gray tank. Like New. Asking \$7,000. 618-372-3632

FOR SALE: Land in Macoupin County off of Route 159 with electric, water and sewer available. Lot size is 250 x 750. \$10,000. 618-258-0154

FOR SALE: Warm Morning Gas Stove. Best Offer. 618-836-7545

FOR SALE: Craftsman yard grass sweeper 42". \$85. 618-836-7545

FOR SALE: 1962 Ford 901 Tractor, restored, power steering, new paint, runs well. 217-532-3444

FOR SALE: Flat bed wagon, steel deck, 7' x 14' with cedar side boards. 217-324-5659

FOR SALE: Horse Trailer for two, good rubber, 1977 model. \$700. 217-835-2546

FOR SALE: Horse Paso Fino, mare, gaited, 8 years old, bay color. \$1,500. 217-835-2546

FOR SALE: Sears Craftsman 1/2 HP chain drive garage door opener, with 10 foot bar and "eyes". 5 amp. Model 139.53675SRT2. Good shape but needs internal plastic drive gear. \$50. 217-854-3609

FOR SALE: Reconditioned Bundy Clarinet with hard case. 217-436-2475

FOR SALE: Old English Mastiff male puppies. \$500-\$750 each. 217-306-6916

FOR SALE: Cobalt in bed aluminum tool box. \$100. 217-556-4833

FOR SALE: Oliver "770" Tractor - gas, N.E., recent paint, runs great. ** Case 7' - 3PT Chisel Plow. ** J.D. Model 350, 9' cycle bar mower, 3PT ** Woods 3PT, 5' Finish Mower. ** Heavy Duty, all steal work bench. ** 10 Sections of 12' long wood bowling lanes \$125

each. *** 1975 Suzuki R.V. 90 Trail Scooter, excellent condition. 217-473-1662

FOR SALE: House on two (2) acres and foundation on two (2) acres on Staunton Lake. Selling both properties together. Asking \$157,900. 217-999-2603

FOR SALE: 2.9 acres of timber with secluded 3 bedroom modular home. Includes 2 baths, fireplace, and utility shed. Located 4 miles between 2 towns across from Staunton Lake. \$120,000. 217-999-5207

FOR SALE: Recently logged, tree top firewood. Near Lake Catatoga in Plainview. Easy to get to, cut and load. \$30 per load. 217-370-2659 or 217-370-2679

FOR SALE: Premium seasoned oak firewood. Pick up between 8am and 6pm. 618-372-3443

FOR SALE: AKC German Sheppard puppies, black/tan or all black, and micro-chipped. Parents on premises. 618-467-2004 or 618-792-5173

WANTED: Good, used 8 hp or better motor side shaft. 217-854-3301

September Outages

09/03/11 - 4:55 P.M.

Brighton, Tree on line, Off 2 Hours

09/03/11 - 5:43 P.M.

Dorchester, Staunton, Tree on line, Off 3 Hours

09/03/11 - 6:11 P.M.

Shaws Point, Tree on line, Off 4 Hours

09/05/11 - 6:11 A.M.

Carlinville, Bird, OCR opened, Off 2 Hours

09/09/11 - 11:24 A.M.

Otter Creek, Snake on line, Off 2 Hours

09/13/11 - 10:59 A.M.

Staunton, Tree on line, Off 3 Hours

09/20/11 - 12:42 P.M.

Piasa, Bird on line, Off 1 Hour

09/21/11 - 3:27 P.M.

Brighton, Broken guy wire, Off 1 Hour

09/27/11 - 12:53 P.M.

Dorchester, Tree cutters got tree on line, Off 2 Hours

09/30/11 - 12:22 P.M.

East Fork, Vehicle hit and broke pole, Off 3 Hours

**Bring in your
old CFL light
bulbs.**



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www.mjmec.coop

Looking for a more efficient way to pay your electric bill? Enroll online at MJM's website listed above. It's free and easy to use. Pay with a credit or debit card or even your checking account information. If you are still required to submit a meter reading, you may also do so while visiting the website. And don't worry! If you enroll online you will still be mailed a paper bill each month.

If you are interested, MJM also offers automatic debit on the 10th of each month (or the following business day after the 10th). If you are interested in this payment option, please give us a call and we will be more than happy to assist with getting it set up.

