

FEC POWER

Source

Vol. 18 No. 07

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



FEC Youth Tour Delegation Returns From D.C.

Story by: Jason Lindsey
FEC Member Services Rep

We cram 22 of us into the elevator and the doors close. It starts to speed upward and in just 60 seconds we are more than fifty stories above the earth. The doors open again and we step out onto the stone surface. We look out the window to see the sunset in the west over the Lincoln Memorial. Then we look out another window; to the north is the White House and to the south is the Jefferson Memorial. Last, we look down the mall to the east and see the US Capitol building lit up in the distance. The Washington Monument was just one of many great experiences we had this year in our nation’s capital.

The Government in Action Youth Tour celebrated its 50th anniversary this year in Washington D.C. and my wife and I were blessed to go as chaperones. Farmers’



NM Youth Tour group in front of U.S. Capitol Building

Electric sponsored two students; Lynnae Allen from Melrose and Gabriel Garza from Ft. Sumner. More than 1,600 students took part in the youth tour this year from all across America. We spent seven days learning about America’s history and visiting and touring numerous war memorials, the Smithsonian Museums, the Whitehouse, Arlington National Cemetery, the National Cathedral, and Mount Vernon, just to name a few. We even got a chance to catch a wonderful play at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, *The Lion King*, which Lynnae said was her favorite part of the trip, or maybe the National Cathedral, she couldn’t make up her mind. Gabriel,



on the other hand said, “My favorite part of the trip was the National Archives because the amount of knowledge in that building was overwhelming.”

One of the highlights of the trip was getting to meet with our Senators and Representatives from New Mexico. They were all very busy, but they took time out of their schedules to meet with these future leaders of our state. Unfortunately, Sen. Martin Heinrich, who was in a meeting about the keystone pipeline, was unable to work us in. Rep. Steve

Pierce said it best when his legislative assistant was trying to get him to hurry up because he had an important vote to get to and Rep. Pierce looked at her, and while pointing at the students asked, “What could be more important than this?” All of the students asked great questions and challenged their Representatives on many issues.

Gabriel said, “The trip itself was an incredible experience and I will remember it always.” This seems to be a common theme when I look back at quotes from previous Youth Tour participants. Lynnae also said, “Wow! What a trip of a lifetime! Pictures or words can not describe the beautiful things I saw and the many things I learned. It was a trip I will never forget.” I too, will never forget this trip and hope that I get the chance to go back someday and take

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Gabriel Garza (Ft. Sumner)
Lynnae Allen (Melrose)

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Manager's Message...

Be Heard... Your Voice Matters

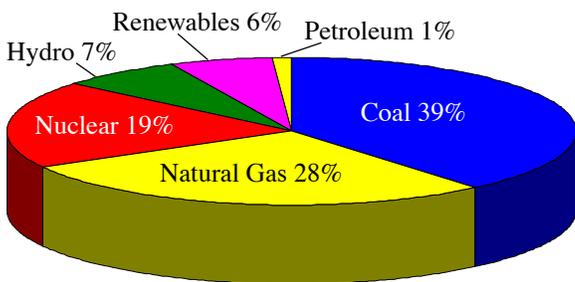


Lance Adkins, GM

It has been a few months since I provided an update on efforts by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to regulate specific “greenhouse gas” emissions from power plants. Greenhouse gases are so named because their presence is attributed to increased temperatures on earth, similar to how a greenhouse allows for extended growing seasons in cooler climates. While there are a number of gases on the list, the most abundant is simple water vapor and the second most abundant is carbon dioxide (CO2). CO2 is produced naturally in the environment as well as through

a number of industrial processes including the burning of fuel to generate electricity, primarily coal and natural gas. Scientists tell us that power plant emissions contribute the most to man-made CO2 emissions, accounting for roughly 38%, with transportation contributing roughly 32%. For a number of years regulators have been focusing on reducing various emissions from both power plants and transportation, requiring improvements in both over many years. Recently, regulators have begun to focus on CO2 emissions and the impact these emission have on climate-change.

In early June, the EPA released proposed regulations that would require a reduction in CO2 emissions from existing power plants, following up on new regulations to limit CO2 emissions from new power plants released last year. These regulations were written in a manner that some of the most efficient plants that burn natural gas will comply without any modifications. New and existing power plants that burn coal will not meet the standard as designed and built. Unfortunately, the technology to capture CO2 in the electric generation process does not exist on a commercial scale and no new plants that burn coal will be built until such technology is developed and proven effective on a commercial scale.



In 2013, energy sources and percent share of total electricity generation in the U.S.
(Source: eia.gov)

it is expected that EPA will finalize the proposed rule by mid-2015. Individual states will be tasked with determining how best to achieve the required reductions and appear to have significant flexibility in designing plans to meet the EPA targets. Historically, regulations have focused on emissions from specific power plants; under the proposal a state will be able to consider plant upgrades, replacing coal plants with natural gas, energy efficiency at all levels, including at the retail consumer level and increased use of renewable energy.

We believe these changes will increase the cost that members of Farmers' Electric pay for electricity as well as all other goods and services members purchase. Others claim that the cost of electricity will go down, though the math they use looks pretty “fuzzy”. In the analysis provided by EPA, they recognize costs will increase and assert that the

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POWER SOURCE

is published monthly by Farmers' Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Questions or article ideas should be directed to :

Thom J. Moore,

POWER SOURCE

Editor, P. O. Box 550

Clovis, New Mexico

88102-0550

Phone 762-4466 or

1-800-445-8541

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YOUTH TOUR from PAGE 1

my kids to show them how our government works and have them experience some of the history of this great nation.



NM group in front of the White House
what are your plans for next summer? Don't just lay around counting the days until school starts, take a trip of a lifetime! We promise, it will change you forever. Watch this publication and our website www.fecnm.org for more information on the tour or ask your guidance counselor for more details.

Farmers' goal, through our association with the Government In Action Youth Tour, is to increase the students' understanding of government, our nation's history, and electric cooperatives. Based on what our participants have shared, we believe we have accomplished our goal.

If you are a high school Junior this year,



NM group at the FDR Memorial

YOUR VOICE from PAGE 2

benefits will outweigh the costs by avoiding "climate change costs" and because of the public health benefits from closing power plants that burn coal.

At Farmers' Electric we understand who will pay for these changes; it is the members of the Co-op and consumers across the country. We continue to ask EPA and our congressional delegation to slow the pace of new regulations and to make sure the costs of these changes do not make electricity unaffordable.

Beginning late last year, we asked that members of Farmers' Electric get involved in the discussion; to let the EPA and Congress know we are concerned about the cost of their laws and regulations. I am pleased to report that almost 200 Co-op members have done just that by logging on to www.Action.coop or www.TellEPA.com for more information and send a message to EPA regarding the rules they are working on right now. By participating in our national consumer-action campaign, our national association, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), will continue to send up-to-date and relevant messages to members of congress as the debate continues and engage directly with EPA. I hope readers will take a few minutes to look at the website and consider lending their "voice" to the debate!

Changes in laws and regulations must take into account what those changes will cost. Your voice will let them know you are concerned and that you are watching.

Until Next Month,

Standby Generators

During power outages, many consumers use backup electric generators for emergency electrical needs. If installed properly, use of generators to power your home, farm or business poses little danger. But, if installed incorrectly, your generator system could threaten the lives of family, friends, neighbors, and electric utility crews trying to restore service.



There are specific ways to properly install generators in your business or home. Farmers' Electric strongly suggests you have a qualified electrician assist you.

To safely operate a standby generator, make sure it has a transfer safety switch to isolate the load from the normal utility source. Without this safety switch, there is a chance electricity can travel back through the lines, causing "back feed." Back feed creates a dangerous hazard for anyone near lines, particularly utility crews working to restore power.

The transfer safety switch should be installed near the service entrance panel, or fuse box, in your home or business by a qualified electrician.

If you would like a copy of *Connecting Your Standby Generator Safely*, a brochure published by the National Food and Energy Council, simply call Farmers' Electric Cooperative today and a copy will be sent to you at no charge. Farmers' Electric's toll-free number is (800) 445-8541.

Which would you rather do without? Lunch out, or electricity for a day?

For about the cost of a burger and fries, most of our members get all the convenience and comfort of electricity for a day. Which would you rather give up lunch out, or your heating, cooling, hot water, entertainment, clean clothes, lights, and a home-cooked meal?



Electricity – its still a great value!

Faulty Electrical Controls Should Be Investigated

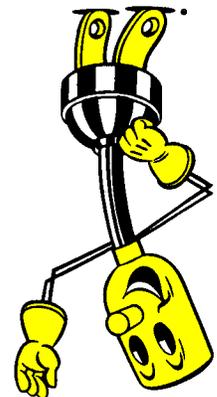


Do you have a wall switch that fails to control the overhead light or an outlet that doesn't deliver power to an appliance?

Don't just bypass or ignore the problem. There's a reason the switch or outlet isn't working.

The problem could be something minor, or it could be the symptom of something more serious. Why not go ahead and have a qualified electrician check it out and fix the problem? Simply ignoring the problem is not worth the risk.

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OF NEW MEXICO
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Clovis, New Mexico 88102-0550

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