



Your Electric Company
Since 1938

POWER SOURCE



"Owned By Those We Serve"

June 2011 Vol. 15 No. 06

Protect Your Sensitive Equipment



Now, that was some storm last night, the power was off until the wee hours of the morning! As you go about your daily chores, you discover that the telephone answering machine and the VCR are no longer working. In a panic you begin checking other appliances... Sound familiar? Have you ever stopped to think about all of the "things" you use on a daily basis that operate electronically? It seems like nearly everything is electronically controlled these days: your digital alarm clock that was flashing 12:00 this morning, the automatic coffee maker and microwave oven, your home's programmable heating and cooling system, the T.V. and VCR, your home computer, etc... It would be easier to list the things that are *not* electronically controlled.

Today's home appliances are filled with transistors and microprocessors that are wonders of modern technology, unfortunately, they are also highly susceptible to fluctuations in electrical voltage. Protecting your equipment from voltage fluctuations represents a tremendous value when compared to the cost of repair, replacement, inconvenience, and frustration caused by failed equipment. Problems with sensitive electronic equipment and the electricity they need are called "power quality" problems. There are four primary causes of power disturbances; **voltage fluctuations, transients, electronic noise, and power outages.**

Voltage Fluctuations: Dimming lights or "shrinking" computer or T.V. displays are the most common visual indications of voltage problems. These voltage problems can be caused by overloaded electric circuits, or the starting of large electric motors. If this condition is continuous, it can cause errors in data storage and retrieval as well as permanent damage to equipment.

Transients: Transients are very brief voltage "spikes" or "surges" above the normal voltage level carried on the power lines. Most transients (70 to 90 percent by some estimates)

originate inside the home or business and are generally caused by electric motors coming on and going off. Lightning is also a very damaging cause of spikes. These spikes or surges can cause computer programs to stop running or erase data stored in memory or, in the case of lightning, cause a total equipment "melt down."

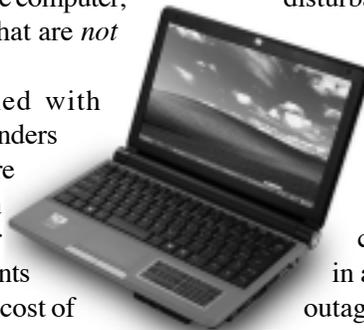
Noise: Electrical noise can be created by radio transmissions, fluorescent lighting, and light dimming devices. Electrical noise can cause unexplained "glitches" in computer programs. Transients and noise are the most common source of power disturbances that affect computer performance.

Power Outages: Power outages are the total interruption of the power supply to your home or business. They may be caused by overloaded circuits within the home or may be widespread, involving the Cooperative's distribution system, (i.e. bird contact, lightning strikes, etc.). A power outage may cause the complete and total loss of any information in a computer's memory, and whatever precipitated the outage may also damage sensitive equipment.

To minimize problems from noise, voltage variations, and surge or spike problems, you should want to invest in a surge arrestor, (surge suppressor), and/or power conditioner. It was once said by a winning football coach, "the best offense is a good defense." This is also true when it comes to protecting sensitive electronic equipment. Don't wait until you experience problems to begin searching for solutions. There are currently devices available which are designed to be used on only one appliance or computer. Others are designed to be installed on your home's electric service entrance, providing protection for all equipment supplied from that power source.

The best form of protection is at the

See **PROTECTION**
on **PAGE 3**



Sensitive Electronics.....	1
Manager's Message.....	2
Ask Willie.....	3
Standby Generators.....	4

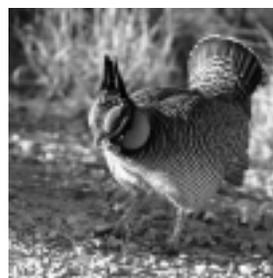
Manager's Message...

Lance Adkins, GM

Two Critters Could Threaten Rural Progress And Economic Development

Perhaps readers have seen recent news stories, both on television and in print, regarding a small lizard that calls a portion of Southeast New Mexico and West Texas home. In fact, a recent episode of "Hannity" on Fox News Network contained a short segment regarding potential negative impact resulting from a move by U.S. Fish & Wildlife to list the Dunes Sagebrush Lizard as an endangered species under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

According to a recent article published by the Artesia Chamber of Commerce "the lizard, commonly known as the Sand Dune Lizard, lives only in Southeast New Mexico, specifically in portions of Eddy, Chaves, Roosevelt, and Lea counties, and in West Texas. Supporters of the listing claim that oil and gas production, ranching, utilities providers and recreational uses of federal land are primary causes for the lizard's threat of extinction. Under the law, listing the lizard as an endangered species allows any regulation to be forced upon area industries in an effort to save the lizard from extinction without regard for the economic impact of such regulations. Oil and gas, utilities, and the agriculture industries already have implemented costly mitigation efforts to lessen the impact of their work on the lizard and other species in the field."



Lesser Prairie-Chicken

Folks may be wondering, what does a lizard in Southeast New Mexico have to do with Farmers' Electric? I recently received a letter (Pre-Listing Letter) from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), stating FWS is in the initial stages of the listing process for the lesser prairie-chicken under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). According to information contained in the Pre-Listing letter, the historical range of the lesser prairie-chicken includes much of the same area as the Dunes Sagebrush Lizard, currently occupying a five-state range that includes Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Colorado. In fact, the historic range of the lesser prairie-chicken covers the entire service area of Farmers' Electric.

Information provided by FWS indicates they will develop a proposed listing rule for the lesser prairie-chicken by mid-2012. The lesser prairie-chicken may be listed as either threatened or endangered based on the full assessment of the status of the lesser prairie-chicken in light of the five ESA listing factors: 1) the present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of habitat or range; 2) over-utilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or education purposes; 3) disease or predation; 4) the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; and 5) other natural or manmade factors. Apparently, power-lines/transmission lines, wind-farms, and associated activity is detrimental to lesser prairie-chicken habitat.



Sand Dune Lizard

Once the listing proposal is complete, FWS will publish the proposed rule in the Federal

Board of Trustees:**Mike West***President***George Dodge***Vice President***Ernest Riley***Secretary-Treasurer***Paul Quintana***Trustee***Pat Woods***Trustee***Billy Tate***Trustee***Donnie Bidegain***Trustee***General Manager:****Lance R. Adkins****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

www.fecnm.org

To Report An Outage

We are on-call 24 hours each day, 365 days each year, to serve **your** electric power needs.

Clovis

762-4466

Fort Sumner

355-2291

Santa Rosa

472-3971

Toll Free

1-800-445-8541

CRITTERS from PAGE 2

Register and a minimum 60-day public comment period will begin. During the comment period, the FWS will conduct one or more public hearings where interested parties can provide feedback on the proposed rule. Public informational meetings will also be held throughout the species' range to explain the proposed rule and answer any questions. After the FWS reviews all of the public comments and any new scientific information received during the comment period, FWS will make a final determination. A final determination may result in a decision to list the lesser prairie-chicken as threatened or endangered, or in the withdrawal of the proposed rule.

My concern, and the concern of many, is how will the listing of the lesser prairie-chicken impact the development of the Tres-Amigas Super-station, development of transmission lines to connect Tres-Amigas to the three major U.S. power grids, and how will the listing impact the development of wind-farms and transmission necessary to carry the power to consumers? Additional information can be found at the FWS website www.fws.gov/angered. Those interested in contacting FWS directly regarding this specific listing can contact Sarah Quamme, Listing Coordinator for Region 2, at 505-248-6419 or Justin Shoemaker in Region 6 at 303-236-4214.

Unitl Next Month,


Ask Willie!

Q. Dear Willie, My frig is old, and in need of replacement. As a person that likes to save a little money, I'm trying to do my homework before buying a new one. Do you have any thoughts?

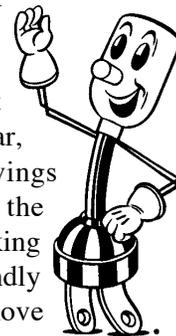
A. If your refrigerator dates from the 1980's, replacing it with a new model could cut your electric bill by \$100 per year, according to Energy Star. If it dates from the 70's, your savings could be even higher, as much as \$200 annually. However, the key to energy efficient success is to dispose of the old one (taking to a local recycler is the best idea and most environmentally friendly thing to do). Many replace their old refrigerators and then move the old one out to the garage to use as an extra freezer or to keep the cold drinks cold. This really defeats the purpose. Now you've made an inefficient refrigerator even more inefficient.

When shopping for a new refrigerator, look for one that has a top-mounted freezer, which will typically use 10 to 25 percent less energy than side-by-side or bottom-mounted models. Also, a larger freezer will require more energy, so purchase the size you really need to fit your lifestyle.

To estimate how much energy your old refrigerator is consuming, visit www.energystar.gov and search for "Refrigerator Retirement Calculator." Type your refrigerator's model number into the calculator, and you'll receive an estimate of how much energy it uses and how much money a new one could save.

If you have a question for Willie, please write to this address and we may use it in an upcoming Power Source!

Ask Willie
c/o Farmers' Electric Cooperative
PO Box 550
Clovis, NM 88102-0550

**PROTECTION** from PAGE 1

service entrance and on each separate appliance. For those who are very dependant on power quality in regards to your computer, APC makes a unit, (Line R 600), that regulates the voltage on an "as needed" basis. It also becomes a universal power source, (UPS), when there is a power outage. This back-up power generally last up to 15 minutes and will allow you the time to save any program that had been running at the time of the interruption. This neat little gadget can be purchased for around \$45.

Other suggestions include:

- Appliance attachment plugs that wobble or pull out of the wall outlet easily should be replaced.
- Never remove the grounding pin from 3-prong plugs.
- Consider a home wiring checkup. Have a qualified licensed electrician check for loose connections and overloaded circuits.
- Have a qualified licensed electrician verify that the home's electrical system is properly grounded.
- Make certain that any surge arrestor/suppressor you purchase has been tested by UL and carries a UL14449 listing.

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

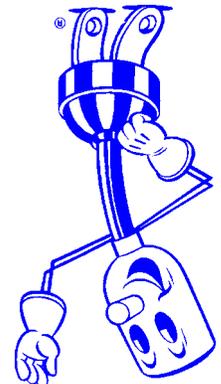


Do you have a wall switch that fails to control the overhead light or an outlet that doesn't deliver power to an appliance?

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.

"Owned By Those We Serve"



FARMERS' ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
OF NEW MEXICO
3701 Thornton, P. O. Box 550
Clovis, New Mexico 88102-0550

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CLOVIS, NM
PERMIT NO. 9