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# POWER Source

March 2013 Vol. 17 No. 03

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



## Nominating Committee Reports For The 2013 Annual Meeting

### Look Up and Live!

District No. 2, (Melrose), and District No. 7, (San Jon/Logan) Nominating Committee meetings were held during the month of February, 2013.



**District No. 2** Committee, as appointed by the Board of Trustees, met at FEC headquarters in Clovis, New Mexico on February 22, 2013. Following deliberation, **Ernest Riley** was nominated by the committee to represent District No. 2.

**District No. 7** Committee, as appointed by the Board of Trustees, met at the Del's Restaurant in Tucumcari, New Mexico on February 25, 2013. Following deliberation, **Donnie Bidegain** was nominated by the committee to represent District No. 7.



Furthermore, in accordance with the Bylaws of the Cooperative, any qualified member of the Cooperative residing in districts 2 or 7 wishing to be on the Annual Meeting ballot as a candidate, may do so by petition. Article IV, Section 3(d) reads: "Any fifty (50) members, in good standing with the Cooperative, residing in a district from which a trustee is to be elected may make nominations by petition for a trustee from that district, providing such nominating petition is filed in the principal office of the Cooperative not less than 20 days prior to the annual meeting."

Increasing our awareness of electrical hazards can help to decrease accidents. Remember, looking up can keep us all safer and happier outdoors this spring!

- Use clean cotton string when flying kites and always fly away from overhead power lines.
- Keep ladders, trampolines, swimming pools, and swing sets away from all power lines.
- Use extra caution when on the roof, making certain to stay clear of your service drop.
- Make sure there are no power lines in or near trees before climbing, pruning, or harvesting fruit.

The filing deadline this year is **April 5, 2013**. If you have any questions, call Lance R. Adkins at 1-800-445-8541 or 762-4466 or by email at [lance@fecnm.org](mailto:lance@fecnm.org).

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Manager's Message...



Lance Adkins, GM

## Lesser Prairie Chicken Stirs Debate

Readers may recall a past issue of this newsletter where we discussed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) was in the initial stages of the listing process for the lesser prairie chicken under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). According to information provided by FWS the historical range of the lesser prairie chicken covers portions of five states including 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 and a listing of the species as threat-

ened or endangered could significantly alter future development of wind energy and transmission lines across the Cooperative's service area. It is expected that a listing would also impact private landowner's use of their private property.

Currently, FWS is nearing the end of a 90-day public comment period and has conducted four public hearings, including one in Roswell, where interested parties provided feedback on the proposed rule. I was pleased to see a large crowd of interested folks in Roswell, including a number of members of Farmers' Electric. At the close of the comment period and review of information collected in the process, the FWS will make a final determination that may result in a decision to list the lesser prairie chicken as threatened or endangered, or in the withdrawal of the proposed rule.

In attending the hearing in Roswell, I listened as a number of concerned citizens, local elected officials, state agencies, and Congressman Steve Pearce spoke to the extraordinary efforts already expended to preserve the lesser prairie chicken and the habitat necessary for its survival. In addition, these folks talked about the tremendous economic devastation that a finding of threatened or endangered by FWS could present to our five state region. Representatives from Senator Tom Udall and Senator Martin Heinrich were also in attendance and thanked the FWS for hosting a hearing in New Mexico.



Lesser Prairie Chicken

According to the FWS, 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. Unfortunately, negative economic impact to the five state region, including the entire area served by Farmers' Electric, and the impact to individual, private landowners are not factors identified to be considered under the ESA process.

Senators from Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas have made a formal request to the

*"In addition, these folks talked about the tremendous economic devastation that a finding of threatened or endangered by FWS could present to our five state region."*

See LPC on PAGE 4

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**POWER SOURCE**

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## What Can A Penny Buy?

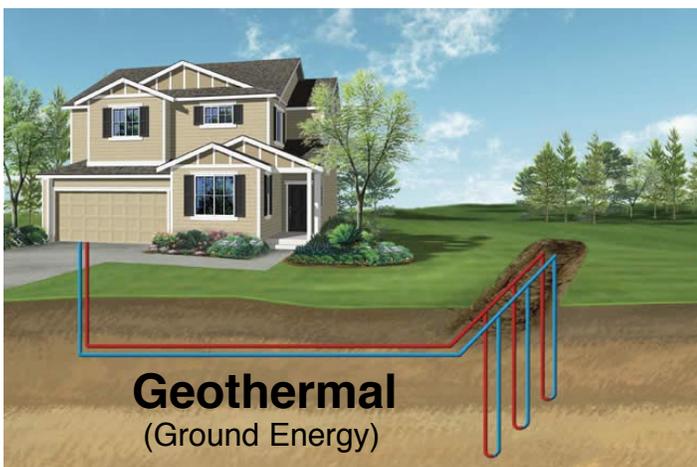


**A lot!!!**

### For the price of a single penny, you can:

- Watch your favorite TV show
- Dry your hair for five minutes
- Bake a potato in your microwave oven
- Mix a cake
- Listen to the radio for two hours
- Vacuum for 10 minutes
- Brew a pot of coffee
- Make toast
- Puree for 20 minutes in a blender
- Iron for 10 minutes
- Play your favorite CDs for one hour
- Read for two hours by a 60-watt light bulb
- Stay snug under an electric blanket for two hours
- Ease pain for four hours with a heating pad
- Shave with an electric razor for one month
- Tape a TV program for three hours on your VCR
- Fry food in an electric pan for 10 minutes
- Stay cool for one hour with a circulating fan
- Use an electric saw for one hour
- Tell time for three days with an electric clock
- Pump water for 15 minutes with a 1/2 HP pump

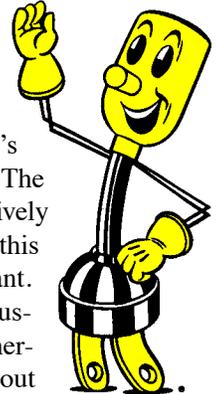
*\*Based on 7.97 cents/kWh*



## Ask Willie!

**Q.** Willie, I understand that Geothermal is a very efficient way to heat and cool your home. What are your thoughts on geothermal?

**A.** Boy oh boy, the questions coming in are getting better and better! Thanks so much for your submission! I'll try and answer in less than 10 pages!



Heat from the earth is known as geothermal energy. Geothermal systems heat or cool a home, (or other building), by using the Sun's energy which has been absorbed by the earth. The temperature, below the earth's surface, is relatively stable, year round. Depending on the season, this energy can be used either as heat or a coolant. During the cold months, as an alternative to using gas, propane, or electricity to heat, geothermal systems use an electric pump to draw out heat from deep inside the earth. During the hot months of the year, the process is reversed and the pump removes hot air from your home, dumping it deep in the earth and then replacing it with cooler air, conditioned by the ground.

There are several benefits of residential geothermal systems:

- Since geothermal systems don't generate heat, but just move it, they use considerably less energy than electric heat or gas or propane heat.
- Geothermal is a clean energy and it is classified as a renewable energy.
- You can install a geothermal system in both new and existing homes. Installing geothermal in a new structure is easier than retrofitting, but both are possible. If you have an existing home and use a mower to cut your grass, you have enough room to install geothermal.
- Geothermal systems produce less noise and require less maintenance than traditional heating and cooling systems.
- Most geothermal equipment will last up to 20 years!
- Geothermal systems use less than 50% of the energy required by other forms of heating and air conditioning. Geo will lower your overall utility bill by 30% or more! What else out there can offer a 30% return on your investment?
- Presently, FEC offers a \$4,000 rebate for anyone installing a geothermal loop and equipment. Additionally, the State of New Mexico and the Federal Government offer a 30% tax credit each. Now is the time to go geo!
- Call my friend Thom at FEC (1-800-445-8541) for more information!

**(See Illustration Opposite Column)**

Send your questions to:

**Ask Willie**

**c/o Farmers Electric Co-op**

**PO Box 550**

**Clovis, NM 88102-0550**

LPC from PAGE 2

Director of FWS requesting a sixty-day extension of the comment period and a six-month extension of any final decision on the proposed listing. Reasoning for the extensions are based on current efforts by state wildlife agencies, including New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, who are working to finalize a range-wide conservation plan to avoid a formal listing. In addition, other groups including those in ranching, energy industry and others, have prepared and submitted "Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances" (CCAA) to facilitate the enrollment of sufficient acreage of suitable habitat under the CCAs to demonstrate a scientifically sound basis for a finding of "not warranted" regarding the listing as threatened or endangered.

In February, the Cooperative's Board of Trustees adopted a Resolution opposing the listing of the lesser prairie chicken as a threatened or endangered species. In addition, the Resolution will be sent to our congressional delegation to inform them of our concerns and requesting that our delegation seek to take action to examine the ESA to determine what changes can be made to assure that the operation of the ESA does not adversely impact the economic vitality of New Mexico and other rural states. Additional information regarding the lesser prairie chicken and ESA process can be found at the FWS website [www.fws.gov/angered](http://www.fws.gov/angered).

Until next month,



### 75th Annual Meeting Date Set: Plan Now To Attend!

We look forward to visiting with you on Saturday, April 27, 2013, at the Cooperative's 75th Annual Meeting of Members. The meeting will be held in Santa Rosa, New Mexico, at Santa Rosa High School. Door prizes will be awarded and lunch will be served following the meeting.

Because Farmers' Electric is locally owned and operated, your involvement is crucial. Mark your calendar today and plan to attend the Annual Meeting of *your* electric cooperative.



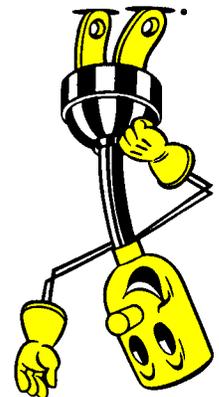
**-Registration: 9:30 to 10:30 am**

**-Business Meeting: 10:30 am**

- Reports of Officers, Trustees, and Committees
- Election of Trustees from Districts 2 and 7
- Door Prizes for Adults and Children

*Lunch will be served, following the business meeting, (approximately 11:30 am)*

**"Owned By Those We Serve"**



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