

FEC[®] POWER

Source

Vol. 21 No. 3

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A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative



Nominating Committee Reports for the 2017 Annual Meeting

District No. 3, (Fort Sumner) and District No. 5, (Tucumcari) Nominating Committee meetings were held during the month of February, 2017.

District No. 3 Committee, as appointed by the Board of Trustees, met at Farmers' Electric Cooperative's Fort Sumner office on February 16, 2017. Following deliberations, **Mike West** was nominated by the committee to represent District No. 3.

District No. 5 Committee, as appointed by the Board of Trustees, met at K-Bob's Steakhouse in Tucumcari on February 15, 2017.

Following deliberations, **Paul Quintana** was nominated by the committee to represent District No. 5.

Furthermore, in accordance with the Bylaws of the Cooperative, any qualified member of the Cooperative residing in Districts 3 or 5 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."

The filing deadline this year is **April 7, 2017**. If you have any questions, or wish to have more information regarding the proceedings, please call Lance Adkins at the Cooperative's Clovis office at 800-445-8541 or 575-762-4466 or by email at lance@fecnm.org.

Waste Less Hot Water

Every drop of hot water you conserve could add up to savings on your energy bill.

Think about how often you run the hot water faucet or an appliance that uses hot water - and whether you could either turn it off or use cold water instead.



Here are six ways to use less hot water:

1. **Swap your old showerhead** for a low-flow model that bears the Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense label. Typical showerheads deliver 2.5 gallons per minute.
2. **Set a timer** for five minutes, and turn the shower off when the alarm rings. Five minutes is more than enough time for anyone to shower. Also, turn the water off while you lather up your hair, and turn back on to rinse out the shampoo.
3. **Plug the sink** while you're shaving rather than running water the whole time to rinse your razor under the spigot. You could save up to 300 gallons of water and energy.
4. **Soak pots and pans** instead of scraping them under running hot water. They'll clean up quicker and you'll save water and energy.
5. **Fix a leaky hot water faucet.** Often, it's a simple repair, but even replacing it will cost less than you'll pay for years of wasted water and energy that drips away.
6. **Wait until you have a full load** in the dishwasher before you run it.



Manager's Message...

Clean Power Plan Update



Lance Adkins, GM

Last reported on the status of the “Clean Power Plan” (CPP) in November of last year. CPP is the final rule issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), affecting both existing and future electric generation resources. Readers may recall the EPA developed new regulations under Section 111 (d), designed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions (CO2) from electric power plants that burn coal or natural gas to generate electricity. Both new construction and existing generating plants are addressed in the Rule.

One of the concerns for the members of Farmers’ Electric (FEC) is that roughly 70% of the wholesale power we purchase is generated by conventional generation resources that burn coal or natural gas to generate electricity. Almost 30% of the wholesale power we purchase is generated by renewable energy resources, primarily wind, but also including hydroelectric. Further, we will be receiving some energy from the new solar generation facility built in Quay County, under a purchase power agreement between the facility owner and our wholesale power supplier, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative.

Five separate applications for a “Stay” of the new Rule were filed with the Supreme Court of the United States, with the Court issuing a Stay on a split vote, five to four. With the Stay, all efforts to implement the CPP by the EPA and in the State of New Mexico came to a halt. Under the Stay, the Supreme Court tasked the District of Columbia Court of Appeals with reviewing the challenges to the CPP. Most industry insiders expect any decision by the District Court will also be appealed. President Trump’s nomination to the Supreme Court, if confirmed, will also factor in future decisions by the Court.

In addition, most expect that the pace of regulatory change through the EPA will slow under the new Administration. While no one expects that CO2 regulations will be eliminated in their entirety, utilities will remain in a state of uncertainty for several more years. One likely course of action could be a rewrite of Section 111 (d), replacing the current Rule now under review by the Courts. Given the current state of animosity we see in Washington today, I think it is safe to assume that a rewrite would also be challenged in the courts.



Even with this uncertainty, utilities continue to accelerate plans for the closure of coal-fueled generation plants. Utilities are replacing coal with new gas-fueled generation that can support an ever-increasing level of renewable energy generation, such as wind and solar. Today, to maintain system reliability, wind and solar generation must be supported by conventional generation that is available on warm-standby and can ramp quickly to replace a generation shortfall, something a legacy coal plant is unable to do.

Until Next Month,

- Board of Trustees:**
Mike West
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Paul Quintana
Trustee
Pat Woods
Trustee
Billy Tate
Trustee
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General Manager:
Lance R. Adkins

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New Answering Service Provider

As of Monday, March 6, FEC is utilizing the services of Plateau for our after hours, weekends, and holidays answering services. Plateau has been in the phone business a long time and employs highly motivated, competent individuals who are going to handle all calls and callers promptly and professionally.

When calling FEC after hours, on weekends, or on a holiday, after a couple of rings, you will hear a message stating, "Plateau Answering Services." After that, you will be asked to "please hold." Seconds later a live operator will answer, "Farmers' Electric Cooperative, how may I help you?"

During times of high call volume, for instance, a widespread outage, when all the operators are busy handling incoming calls, instead getting a busy signal, you will be asked to leave a message through an automated system. Those messages will be reviewed and prompt action will be taken on each. In this case, after power is restored, all those that called and spoke to a live operator and those that left messages on the automated system will be called back to make sure their power was restored.

We look forward to working together with Plateau in this venture. We have full confidence that this new relationship will prove to be a long and valuable partnership.



We look forward to visiting with you on Saturday, April 29, 2017 at the Cooperative's 79th Annual Meeting of Members. The meeting will be held in Logan, New Mexico, at the Logan High School gym. Door prizes will be awarded and lunch will be served following the business 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* cooperative.



- Registration: 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
- Business Meeting: 10:30 a.m.
- Reports of Officers, Trustees, and Committees
- Election of Trustees from Districts 3 and 5
- Door Prizes for adults and children

Lunch will be served following the business meeting (approximately 11:30 a.m.)



March Madness!

Charbroil Patio Bistro
Electric Infrared Grill

\$149

Save \$40!

***While supplies last**



10 Spring Energy Savings Ideas from the Energy Guys!

1. **Air Dry:** Air dry dishes instead of using your dishwasher's drying cycle.

2. **Turn it off:** Use timers and motion detectors to turn off lights and be sure to unplug TV entertainment systems when traveling (use power surge protection strips for easy on/off switching) and don't leave your computer and monitor on needlessly.

3. **Don't get burned with hot water:** Lower the thermostat on your water heater to 120 degrees and add a water heater blanket. Water heaters are the second highest source of energy consumption in the home.

4. **Fill it up please:** Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes. Also, wash your clothes in cold water as today's laundry detergent is formulated to be used with in cold water.

5. **Keep 'em clean:** Check furnace, heat pump, and A/C filters once a month and replace them regularly. A dirty air filter can increase your energy costs and over time can cause problems with your equipment.

6. **Get a check-up:** Have a licensed professional heating and air conditioning technician do a thorough check up on your heating and air conditioning system at least once a year. These check-ups can identify a problem early and save you a lot of heart ache and discomfort.

7. **Stop the breeze:** Caulk and weather-strip around drafty doors and windows. Like we've always said, "when in doubt, caulk." We suggest using clear silicone caulk.

8. **Take a walk:** Circle your home with an easy-to-use spray foam insulation and look for openings and gaps around pipes, chimneys, lights, windows, basement brick, and cement work. Additionally, inside your home you will want to look under kitchen sinks and bathroom sinks to make sure those areas where the pipes enter from the floor or wall are sealed.

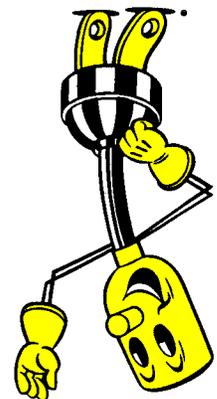
9. **Stay bright:** As "old-school" incandescent and even newer CFL bulbs burn out, replace them with new, light emitting diode bulbs (LEDs) and save about \$90 a year compared to incandescent bulbs. You pay more upfront, but shop around, prices are dropping. They use considerably less energy, last up to 20 years, and you can find in a variety of different shades of white

light. Make sure and check the energy use label (aka: nutritional facts) for expected length of life and color in degrees Kelvin.

10. **Be a star:** Look for products and appliances that have earned the ENERGY STAR label. They meet strict new energy efficiency criteria that will reduce your utility bills. ENERGY STAR clothes washers, for example, use approximately 40% less water and 25% less electricity for washing than standard models.



"Owned By Those We Serve"



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