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FEC and Others Fighting to Keep Electricity Affordable



Photos courtesy of Tri-State G&T/NMRECA

Public comment began in Santa Fe before the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board (EIB) on Tuesday, November 8 regarding the proposed revision or repeal of the controversial greenhouse gas (GHS) regulations passed last year



Letters and petitions delivered to the EIB on the first day of public comment by the New Mexico Electric Cooperatives

by the EIB under the Richardson administration. The new board, appointed by Governor Martinez, has agreed to hear testimony and public comments

based on concerns that the costs of such regulations might far outweigh any measurable benefits.

Making the trip to speak on behalf of Farmers' Electric Cooperative (FEC) were FEC District 1 Trustee, Billy Tate, FEC General Manager, Lance Adkins, and FEC Director of Member Services, Thom Moore. Adkins also delivered a signed resolution from the Clovis/Curry County Chamber of Commerce calling for repeal of the GHG regulations. Adkins, in addition to his duties at FEC, also serves as President-Elect of the Clovis/Curry County Chamber.

In addition to the representatives from FEC, there were also others from NM Electric Co-ops,

Tristate G & T Cooperative, municipalities, and individuals voicing their concern over these troubling GHG regulations. Chuck Pinson, General Manger of Artesia based Central Valley Electric Cooperative and President of the Board of the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association, along with FEC Trustee Tate, had delivered 16,908 signed petitions, 895 letters, and 9 resolutions in support of repeal!



FEC Trustee, Billy Tate and FEC GM, Lance Adkins making their way to the front with some of the almost 17,000 signed petitions

FEC members are encouraged to voice your opinions on this issue. For your convenience, we have drafted a form letter in support of revision or repeal. Simply go to our website, www.fecnm.org and click on the Letter to EIB button. You can print it, sign it, and send it to the EIB at the address provided.

Become part of the solution and help right a wrong. It isn't often that we get these types of second chances.

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Manager's Message...

Lance Adkins, GM

Cross-State Air Pollution Rule Could Raise Electric Costs

Over the past few months I have worked to focus member's attention on repeal of state greenhouse gas (GHG) regulations. Electric cooperatives from across the nation continue to focus efforts on environmental regulations at the federal level as well.

According to information provided by our current wholesale power supplier, Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS), a new rule finalized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on July 6 will affect

the way electricity is generated in this region. In addition, our new wholesale power supplier, Western Farmers (WFEC), indicates a reduced, but similar, impact to generating units located in Oklahoma. Complying with the rule, as it is written, will increase the cost of electricity and may impact reliability of electricity service for members of Farmers' Electric and all who depend on coal-fired generation resources. Farmers' Electric first reported on EPA efforts in the April issue if this publication and of your Cooperative's efforts to convince our federal congressional delegation of the monetary consequences to consumers of allowing the EPA to move forward at a rapid pace.

This rule, known as the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR), is intended to reduce power plant emissions blamed for poor air quality in the eastern half of the nation. Power plants in Texas and Oklahoma were originally included in the proposed rule for summer ozone season nitrogen oxides reductions only. When the final rule was issued, however, Texas was added at the last-minute to the rule's requirements for year-round emission reductions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) and sulfur dioxide (SO₂).

According to information from the EPA's website, "the rule will improve air quality by cutting SO₂ and NOx emissions that contribute to pollution problems in other states. By 2014, the rule and other state and EPA actions will reduce SO₂ emissions by 73 percent from 2005 levels. NOx emissions will drop by 54 percent. Following the Clean Air Act's "Good Neighbor" mandate to limit interstate air pollution, the rule will help states that are struggling to protect air quality from pollution emitted outside their borders, and it uses an approach that can be applied in the future to help areas continue to meet and maintain air quality health standards".

For consumers, including members of Farmers' Electric, who receive a large amount of power from coal-fired generation, combined with the Rule's effective date January 1, 2012, costs are expected to climb quickly. According to SPS, in order to meet new emissions requirements SPS will be forced to limit the amount of electricity generated from coal-fired generating units. Coal-fired generation will be replaced with natural gas-fired generation, utilizing coal primarily during the summer peaking season. In 2010 almost half of the power Farmers' Electric purchased from SPS was generated with coal. In the long-term, SPS will be looking to add certain "scrubber technology" to reduce SO₂ and

"Members of Farmers' Electric can expect to see costs rise by ten to fifteen percent next year as SPS works to meet the requirements of the new Rule."

See **NEW RULE** on **PAGE 3**

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NEW RULE from PAGE 2

NOx emissions; however, these additions will be costly and take time, likely several years, to fully implement.

Utilities across this region and nation have challenged the EPA and asked for rehearing on the new regulations. If efforts to modify the Rule are not successful, SPS estimates the additional cost to comply in 2012 at \$200 million to \$250 million for relying more on natural gas and less on coal. Members of Farmers' Electric can expect to see costs rise by ten to fifteen percent next year as SPS works to meet the requirements of the new Rule. More information on the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule can be found at: www.epa.gov/crossstaterule.

Unitl Next Month,



Scholarship and Youth Tour Packets Available Now...

Don't Delay! Deadline for both is February 1, 2012! Contact your guidance counselor or our office today!

Also available at our
website: www.fecnm.org

Attention

Protection from winter shut-off begins November 15, 2011. To avoid potential disconnection of services please contact the Human Services Department for eligibility information for the Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) at 800-283-4465. Your service will not be disconnected from November 15, 2011, through March 15, 2012, if you qualify for LIHEAP and have no past due amount or are making the agreed upon payments.

Atención

La protección del interruptor de invierno empieza el 15 de noviembre de 2011. Para evitar desconexión potencial de servicios contacta por favor al Humano Atiende al Departamento para la información de elegibilidad para los Ingresos Bajos que Calientan Programa de Ayuda de Energía (LIHEAP) en 800-283-4465. Su servicio no será desconectado del 15 de noviembre de 2011, por el 15 de marzo de 2012, si califica para LIHEAP y tiene no cantidad debida pasada ni hace el aceptó pagos.

Contest rules being finalized for the hybrid heat pump water heater give-a-way! Contest will begin in January, 2012 with the winner being announced in the April, 2012 issue of the *Power Source*. Please stay tuned for more important contest details.



Farm Safety Day Camps held in Clovis and Santa Rosa

Farmers' Electric Cooperative recently had the privilege of participating in Progressive Agriculture Foundation's Farm Safety Day Camps in Curry County, (Clovis), and Guadalupe County, (Santa Rosa). The Clovis day camp was a two day event with 3rd graders from the surrounding area attending. The Santa Rosa event, with area 3rd graders attending, was a one day event.



Farmers' Electric personnel gave electrical safety demonstrations to the children with emphasis on power line contact and the associated risks. Also covered in the demonstration was indoor electrical safety, electrical generation, transmission, and distribution. The kids also learned about professional linemen's safety equipment and its uses.

Along with the electrical safety demonstration, the children were treated to other safety stations throughout the day such as, water safety, ATV safety, tractor safety, 911 / first aid, grain elevator safety, gun safety, fire safety, and snake awareness. These were all-day events with the children receiving a hot dog, chips, milk, and ice cream bars for lunch.



Combined, the two events drew approximately 1,800 participants.

Farmers' Electric will make itself available for any organization, civic group, or school to present these demonstrations, free of charge. Call the cooperative today, (1-800-445-8541), and ask to speak to someone in the Member Services Department.

Garage Door Safety: An Open and Shut Case

Try this riddle: What weighs 600 pounds, deters intruders, and goes up or down at the push of a button? It's your automatic garage door, the largest moving piece of equipment in many homes.

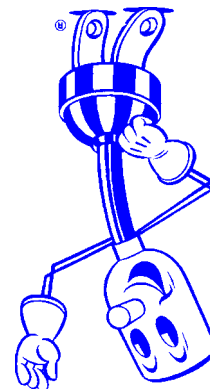
Automatic garage doors may be a routine part of leaving and arriving home, but you should be aware of the potential for injury. Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., recommends these tips to make safety an open and shut case when it comes to your home's garage:



- 1. Always keep automatic garage doors fully open or fully closed.** Some folks may leave a small opening at the bottom for pets to get in and out for food or shade. But a small opening could also be an invitation for a child to try to crawl through and get stuck. Another push of the button could send the heavy door down—causing injury—instead of bringing the door up when trying to free anyone stuck underneath. If you encounter someone stuck in an automatic door, call your local fire department.
- 2. Read instructions on how to operate and maintain your garage door properly.** Check your automatic door monthly to be sure safety precautions are working. Many garage doors boast a safety feature that triggers an automatic reversal if anything is encountered while closing. To check, place a 1.5-inch object (like a flat 2x4) in the path of the door to make sure the door correctly reverses when contact is made. Instructions should also advise on maintaining a properly balanced door. Call a qualified repair company for service or maintenance.
- 3. Do not allow children to operate a garage door.** It may seem like a harmless, simple task to allow children to push the garage opener. But activating heavy equipment should be taken seriously.
- 4. Avoid walking under a door that is opening or closing.** You never know when a malfunction may take place. Steer clear of a moving door.
- 5. Know when and how to use the emergency release.** You'll find a cord with a handle hanging along the track of your garage door. Always use caution when using this release, and only use it when the door is fully closed.

An automatic garage door opener is a common convenience powered by electricity. Just as electricity demands safety and respect, so does the equipment it operates.

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