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POWER SOURCE



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September 2011 Vol. 15 No. 09

Operating Heavy Machinery? Don't Do it Near Power Lines



If your to-do list involve working with ladders, irrigation pipes, awkward machinery, or any tall implements, keep them as far away from power lines as possible.

First rule: Look up. Before carrying anything tall around your yard – like a ladder – know where the overhead power lines are located. Also:

- Most local laws require you to leave a clearance of at least 10 feet from power lines (depending on voltage) when you're operating machinery. Best practice: Give your equipment twice the required clearance to minimize the electrical risks.
- The manufacturer of your equipment might recommend even greater clearances. Follow those guidelines.
- Face away from power lines while you work.
- If a chore requires you to work near a power line, enlist the help of a friend or family member to watch you work and alert you if you're inching too close to the line.
- If your helper is going to take over the job for a while, stop and re-evaluate the safe clearances. Talk about safety plans so anyone who is operating equipment on your property is aware of necessary clearances.
- Use highly visible ground markers to alert your helpers that they're near overhead power lines. Use maps or diagrams to show the location of power lines when



This surface drill pulls down power lines

planning or performing work.

- Machinery such as irrigation pipes, grain augers, silos, drill rigs, cranes, and excavators can easily contact a power line if you change the position or elevation. Always lower machinery before relocating it.
- Designate areas for high-risk operations such as elevating machinery. Evaluate machinery height before work begins when the tools are well clear of power lines.
- Check power tools for rust and cords for fraying before each use. Never store tools outdoors.
- Carry pipes horizontally – and get a partner to help you. If you try it on your own, you'll wind up carrying the pipes vertically, which makes them more likely to swipe a power line.
- Never touch a downed power line; always assume it is live. If your vehicle or tractor or anything you have in tow comes into contact with a power line, do not exit the vehicle. Call Farmers' Electric Cooperative, 800-445-8541. We urge you to enter this number in the list of contacts in your cell phone. You could also dial 911. We can disconnect the line in order for you to safely leave your vehicle. It's always better to be safe than sorry.



This dump truck got caught-up in the utility lines

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Manager's Message...

Lance Adkins, GM

An Opportunity To Make Things Right

In recent months I have reported on efforts to unwind or undo Greenhouse Gas Regulations (GHG) adopted by the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board (EIB) late last year. Thus far, efforts by Governor Martinez to block implementation of the new rules administratively have been unsuccessful, due in large part to legal challenges initiated by GHG regulation supporters. Fortunately, just days into her administration, Governor Martinez removed all seven members of the EIB over concerns about the board's approval of the GHG cap-and-trade program, and a GHG cap measure that would become effective should the cap-and-trade program fail to develop as planned. In addition, a number of

individuals and groups opposed to GHG regulations alleged that some of the former EIB members were closely aligned with environment interests, and had in fact worked as paid-lobbyists for environmental groups, creating an obvious conflict of interest.

Folks on both sides of the GHG Regulation issue closely followed the state legislative process, beginning mid-January through mid-March, as several bills were introduced in both houses to block implementation of the new EIB GHG regulations. Unfortunately, these attempts also failed as each bill was tabled upon assignment to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Our next opportunity to address repeal or revision of GHG Regulations rests with the new EIB appointed by Governor Martinez. For members of Farmers' Electric this new rule is expected to increase the cost of electricity and other energy sources if not stopped. It is expected that those who supported adoption of the GHG Regulations will work very hard to keep them in place; that is where ratepayers all over New Mexico and members of Farmers' Electric can get involved.

The EIB has scheduled hearings for repeal of the GHG Regulations beginning in September, continuing through December. According to the Legal Noticed published by the EIB, non-technical written comments may be filed until the close of the evidentiary hearing, and individuals will be able to make oral comment, not to exceed three-minutes per person, beginning at 6:30 p.m. each evening that the hearing continues. Written comments need to refer to EIB case numbers: EIB 11-15 (R); EIB 11-16 (R); and EIB 11-17 (R); and should be sent to the EIB Administrator at the following address:

Board Administrator
New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board
1190 St. Francis Drive N2150
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Additional information and documents can be found on the EIB website www.nmenv.state.nm.us/eib and www.keepelectricityaffordable.com. In addition, *on page four of this newsletter*, there is a sample letter that can be used to send comments to the EIB Administrator or it can be used as a guide to form your own letter. Comments will become part of the official case record used to support the decision of the EIB.

"In addition, a number of individuals and groups opposed to GHG regulations alleged that some of the former EIB members were closely aligned with environment interests, and had in fact worked as paid-lobbyists for environmental groups, creating an obvious conflict of interest."

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.

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Poles Being Treated In Your Area

Continuing through this month and into October, *GLS, Ground Line Services* out of San Antonio, Texas, will be testing and treating poles for Farmers' Electric, (FEC). They will be in the Newkirk, Montoya, Quervo, Garita, and Trimentina areas.

Pole testing and treating is a yearly maintenance program that FEC performs, however, every pole is not tested each year, rather, they are tested on a ten year rotation.



This type of maintenance program helps to ensure that FEC can continue to supply safe, reliable electricity to our members.

Powerful Connection

Your telephone is a powerful tool. Especially when it comes to Farmers' Electric. Because we place a very high value on your opinion, we want to hear what you think about our service. We also want to know how we are doing as your neighbor and as part of your community. So, pick up your phone once in a while and give us a call. You may have a great idea on how to improve our service, or you may just want to let us know we're doing a pretty good job. Most people think you get power from us, but the truth is, we really get our power from you.



Ask Willie!

Q. Willie, I've heard about a contraption called a heat pump water heater. It's supposed to save you a lot of money on your water heating. They say it works like the heat pump on your house. Can you tell us anything about it?

A. Awesome question and perfect timing! There are a few good models out there, but to simplify things, I'm going to tell you about one of them. This is truly a revolutionary idea... the GE, GeoSpring Water Heater. To create the next generation of water heaters, GE rethought every aspect of this appliance from the ground up. The result is an innovative new product that can reduce water heater operating costs up to 62%! That adds up to significant savings, and you won't have to give up a single drop of hot water.

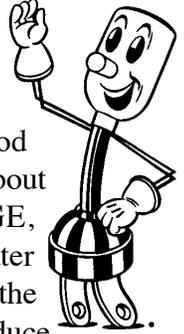
With advanced heat pump technology, combined with traditional electric elements, the new hybrid electric heat pump water heater has been designed with maximum energy efficiency in mind. In fact, this is the most energy efficient 50-gallon electric water heater you can buy.

The tank portion of this ENERGY STAR® qualified electric water heater includes two electric heating elements, a pressure relief valve, an internal porcelain-lined tank and an anode rod. But what truly sets this product apart is just above the tank.

A compressor and evaporator are integrated into the electric water heater unit and the evaporator draws in ambient heat from surrounding air using two variable speed fans. Condenser coils wrap the tank all the way to the bottom to transfer this heat into the tank and heat the water. The technology is a lot like the heat pumps that have been used for years to heat and cool homes.

Through the end of this year, the Federal Government is offering a \$300 tax credit for the purchase and installation of a hybrid heat pump water heater at your primary residence. This is a really good deal... On top of that, Farmers' Electric is offering a \$500 cash-back rebate on the purchase and installation of a hybrid heat pump water heater with a 2.0 EF or greater! That sweetens the deal even more! For more details, call the cooperative today and ask to speak to my friend Thom Moore in the Member Services department.

Earlier I eluted to the fact that the timing of this question was perfect! Well, here's why: There is a rumor going around that Farmers' Electric intends on having a contest amongst their members! The winner will receive a new hybrid heat pump water heater plus installation! I can't get anymore out of Thom other than the contest will start around November. He told me there would be more details to follow and that everyone should just continue to read the *Power Source* for more information.



Ask Willie

c/o Farmers' Electric Cooperative

PO Box 550

Clovis, NM 88102-0550

Board Administrator
New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board
1190 St. Francis Dr., N2150
Santa Fe, NM 87502

(please print name and address above)

Re: EIB 11-15 (R), EIB 11-16 (R), and EIB 11-17 (R)

_____, 20____

Dear Board Administrator,

As a resident of New Mexico and a member of Farmers' Electric Cooperative, I support the repeal of the rules referenced above that require greenhouse gas cap-and-trade provisions and related reporting and verification requirements and the cap-only rule that calls for a greenhouse gas reduction program in New Mexico.

In late 2010, the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board (EIB) approved the rules without first completing the required economic analysis of the rules' effects on New Mexico's economy, job growth, and rates paid for electricity. The rules provide no environmental benefits, even if New Mexico paid all the costs associated with full implementation of the rules.

Furthermore, the EIB laced authority under state statute to approve the rules. State legislation that would have explicitly provided such authority to the EIB was disapproved by the New Mexico Legislature in both 2009 and 2010.

Our state should instead focus on a multi-faceted approach to manage emissions, while investing in technologies that preserve affordable electricity.

I respectfully urge the EIB to use its influence to protect New Mexico by repealing the above-referenced rules.

Respectfully,

Signature

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