



**Tim Stewart,
CEO/Manager**

The proposed EPA rule on new coal-fired power plants effectively bans the construction of new coal-fired power plants for the foreseeable future, narrowing the options for technology and ultimately raising consumer rates. Carbon capture and sequestration are currently not realistic, practical, or doable given the state of technology and the numerous issues associated with this approach. President Barack Obama has said this country needs an “all-of-the-above” approach to energy, not taking any technology choice off the table. The new EPA rules fail to meet this test.

Jo Ann Emerson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), released the following statement in response to the testimony of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy before the U.S. House Energy & Commerce Committee on September 18, 2013. McCarthy outlined the Administration’s proposed regulations governing carbon dioxide emissions from new power plants.

“NRECA and its member co-ops are disappointed to learn that the Administration has abandoned its ‘all-of-the-above’ energy strategy and embraced an ‘all-but-one’ approach that restricts the future use of coal to generate affordable electricity. The anticipated regulations are reported to require any new coal-burning facility to capture and store carbon dioxide, a prohibitively expensive technology that is not commercially viable.

“In doing so, the Administration is gambling with the economic well-being of future generations and our nation’s economy. As not-for-profit, consumer-owned utilities, electric co-ops are deeply concerned about maintaining affordable, reliable electricity. It’s worth noting that residents of rural communities already spend more per capita on energy than anywhere else.”

More, locally, we are also very concerned that the precedence of this rule will lead to a future similar EPA rule for existing power plants. Applying similar carbon emission standards to existing power plants would result in the severely restricted use or retirement of nearly half of our nation’s electric generation capacity and have an especially huge impact on the Midwest. The economic

We Need an All-of-the-Above Energy Strategy

impact and the threat to regional electric reliability could be devastating. Keep in mind that Wisconsin is approximately 63 percent coal, and Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) is approximately 75 to 80 percent coal.

Dairyland Power Cooperative, Clark Electric Cooperative’s power supplier, is committed to making continual improvements in its operations to improve the environment. DPC is in the midst of a \$350 million investment to existing plants to remove pollutants. DPC is also committed to renewable energy and will continue to acquire a variety of renewable resources that make economic and operational sense. Today, DPC obtains over 12 percent of energy from renewable sources and that is expected to grow in the future.

One last point I would like to make: We have seen this all-but-one approach before in 1978 when Congress passed the ill-conceived Power Plant and Industrial Fuel Use Act. Never heard of it? Few have, but for several years the government banned natural gas from power generation. Yes, natural gas — the fuel source being touted today to as the nation’s baseload fuel option. With gas off the table, utilities were forced to choose between building coal plants or nuclear plants. Thankfully Congress repealed its mistake, but not for nine years.

The U.S. economy is dependent upon the availability of affordable and reliable electricity to power homes, farms, and businesses. EPA’s strategy to restrict, and ultimately eliminate, the use of our country’s single largest domestic energy resource is a high-risk strategy that may impact reliability and have significant financial consequences.

Let’s not repeat past mistakes. Please urge the EPA to reconsider this proposal and focus on working with electric cooperatives as we continue to reduce power plant emissions, increase efficiency, and develop affordable new technologies. Together, we can improve both the environment and the quality of life for future generations. Let’s keep electric bills affordable. Tell the EPA we need an all-of-the-above energy strategy. Learn more at www.action.coop.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association is the national service organization that represents the nation’s more than 900 private, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives, which provide service to 42 million people in 47 states.



Members of All Ages Enjoyed Member Appreciation Day

Clark Electric Cooperative joined together with Heartland Cooperative and North Hendren Cooperative in celebrating the “Kick Off to Cooperative Month” on Saturday, September 28.

Around 800 members came to enjoy a pancake and sausage breakfast and join in activities for all ages while we celebrated the cooperative way.

Memorial Medical Center, the Greenwood Fire Department and EMS, and Clark Electric Appliance and Satellite were there with information on the services they offer.

A free “Electronic Recycling Event” was offered again this year by 5R Processors LTD, and the Clark County Sheriff’s Department held a “Drug Take Back” event which was very successful. For the second year there was a food drive for the local food pantries. This is a great way to

include the 7th Cooperative Principle, Concern for Community, into this cooperative event.

Congratulations to our winners of the door prize drawing for children 12 and under. Dylan Tomzak of Withee and Malacki Fyksen of Spencer tied for the prize for the boys, and Emily Wehrman of Spencer was the winner of the girl’s prize. This year a gift card and candy were the prizes.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this year’s Appreciation Day Breakfast, and we hope to see you again next year! ■



Our office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 28 and 29, for Thanksgiving.

Have a safe and happy holiday!



Don't Forget to Fall Back November 3

If you’re on our Time-of-Day Rate, you probably have a time clock controlling devices. Remember to switch the time clock on these devices back one hour as Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 3. By resetting your time clocks, you will avoid using electricity during peak times, resulting in a higher-than-normal electric bill.

Clark Electric Cooperative’s Time-of-Day Rate can save you money; however, you must be willing and able to shift your electric usage around so that you can utilize the lower cost electricity.

For more information on incentive rates such as Time-of-Day or special heating rates, contact our office or visit www.cecoop.com. ■

Where Did the Time Go?

Written by Donna Abel at the close of her 52-year career with Clark Electric Cooperative. Donna retired as of September 30, 2013.

On May 21, 1961, I started working at Clark Electric Cooperative as an office clerk. I worked at the front counter waiting on members, which I loved because I always enjoyed talking to our members and trying to help them wherever I could. At that time we had about 3,000 members.

Our office equipment was pretty outdated in comparison to today's equipment. We had manual typewriters and large calculators that you couldn't hold in your hand like today. We didn't have photo copiers—just the old-fashioned duplicator machine. When a member would call in regards to their electric bill or if there was an outage, each member had a ledger card with all of their information on it. These ledgers were filed alphabetically by township and were very easy to find.

When we had outages at chore time, the phone started ringing off the hook and even though it was time for us to go home, we didn't have an answering system to take the calls like today, so some of us and sometimes all of us had to stay and answer the phone. I remember staying during an ice storm until 10 p.m. more than once.

All the billing and mailing was done in our office. It took about two weeks to process the bills, and each one had to be double checked before being sent out.

About 15 years into my job I was promoted to bookkeeper, which I also loved very much. I loved mathematics in school and found it to be a real challenge. It was the best feeling of accomplishment when you posted journal entries, fixed journal entries and accounts payables into the general ledger, and totaled everything out and it balanced to the penny. I will always remember my first time of balancing to the penny. I was so excited that I went into Mr. Harland Bergemann's (general manager) office and told him my great news, and he looked at me and said you better add it over. One of the hardest things for me was when the computer came into the office and took away the manual bookwork.

In 1985 my next great thing was moving up to the office manager position. I was very worried that I couldn't handle this but I had a lot of great support from my boss, Mr. Richard Adler, and my co-workers. Even my previous boss, Mr. Harland Bergemann, stopped in and assured me that I could do this.



The job was even harder than I anticipated. It consisted of a lot of meetings out of town, and at that time of my life I hadn't done any traveling. So on top of the job I had to experience driving in bigger cities, staying in hotels, and my first time flying in an airplane (which I said I would never do).

The last 28 years of my career had so many new things going on. The satellite TV came alive, which was a good thing for our business. It was so strong that the coop created a subsidiary for the satellite dishes, appliances, and heating. Then we took another big step from the members reading their own meters to having automated equipment to read meters. I lived through three or four computer conversions. I must say the last one was the hardest (I wonder if age had anything to do with this).

About nine years ago I had to start working with a new boss, Mr. Timothy Stewart, which I was a little fearful of because he was much younger. But over the years everything work out very well. The cooperative increased to 9,000 members, and I had the privilege of seeing several hundreds of thousands of dollars refunded annually to the members in capital credits. I also had the privilege of working with several different directors and enjoyed every minute of it. I can't say enough good about all of the organizations affiliated with Clark Electric Cooperative that I had the opportunity to work with.

As I bid my goodbyes to the members, fellow employees, and directors of Clark Electric Cooperative, this is the hardest thing I ever had to do. I can't believe that 52 years have gone by so fast. I know I will miss my job, but I do have four granddaughters who will keep me very busy and I will spend a lot of time with them. I also love to dance, and now that I am used to traveling I hope that I can do some of that too. ■

Sincerely, Donna L. Abel

Rebate Reminder

Have your summer projects included any energy-saving home-improvement measures? Perhaps you've updated your appliances to new, energy efficient models, or replaced any remaining incandescent light bulbs to energy-efficient CFLs or LEDs.



If so, be sure to check the energy rebates available to our members. Go to www.cecoop.com to see which Energy Star products qualify for a rebate. Items must be purchased and installed in 2013 to qualify.

Don't delay—submit a copy of your receipt with the Energy Star label as soon as the equipment is purchased and installed to ensure rebate. ■

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Dual Fuel Systems to be Tested

Please be advised the winter test for Interruptible Heat (dual fuel) members is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20. This date is the Wednesday of the week before Thanksgiving, the same test day as prior years.

Residential Interruptible Heat load classes will be controlled as follows:

Control Start: All Interruptible Heat load classes will begin control at 5 p.m. without pre-alert.

Restoral: Miscellaneous Heat loads (class 4B) will be restored at 8 p.m. All other Interruptible Heat loads (classes 2A, 2B, 2C and 2W) will vary in restoral, beginning at 9 p.m., with all loads restored by 10:30 p.m. ■



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