



Tim Stewart,
CEO/Manager

EPA'S REVAMPED CLEAN POWER PLAN UNVEILED



Clark Electric
Cooperative

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More than a year after it was first rolled out for comments, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on August 3, 2015, finalized its rules

regulating greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. This plan has been dubbed the "Clean Power Plan."

The administrative rules are designed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants by 32 percent below national levels recorded in 2005. Each state has a different EPA assigned emission reduction target. In general terms, the Midwest has relied more on coal generation than other parts of the country because coal was affordable, abundant, and in some cases the only viable base load option available. Wisconsin has one of the more stringent reduction target: a 41 percent reduction of emissions by 2030. (To put that in perspective, South Dakota faces the deepest cut at 48 percent). While the proposed rule allows states to lower emissions by transitioning from plants fired by coal to plants fired by natural gas, the final rule is intended to push electric utilities to invest more quickly in renewable sources. The states have until 2016 to submit their initial plan for achieving the targeted reductions with a final version due 2018. If states fail to submit a plan, they will be forced to use the federal model to achieve compliance.

Since the original draft of the Clean Power Plan was issued in June 2014, the Wisconsin's Public Service Commission (PSC) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have been tasked with developing a compliance plan. They concluded last year that the combined power plant modifications, construction of new generation to replace older facilities, and purchases of alternative generation would cost Wisconsin electric ratepayers between \$3 to \$13 billion.

"That number does not take into account the cost of significant upgrades to the gas and electric transmission infrastructures necessary to implement the plan components," PSC Chairperson Ellen Nowak noted the day after the CPP was finalized. The \$3 to \$13 billion figure was based on the June 2014 draft, but Nowak added, "Our preliminary assessment of the final rule gives us no reason to believe the changes will cost Wisconsin ratepayers any less than the draft."

We believe that this rule will undoubtedly increase monthly electric bills. It's not yet clear by how much. Part of the cost increase will come from prematurely shutting down power plants that are in good working condition. Like any business,

cooperatives plan a specific life span for generation assets and spread out the costs over those decades to keep electricity affordable for members. If we're forced to shut down those plants early, then we not only lose that source of affordable power, but we will have to purchase replacement power from the market or build new resources. The possibility of closing power plants also raises concerns about reliability. The generating plants are connected points on which electric grid operators rely of power. Without these assets, it will increase stress on the grid—especially during extreme weather. Experts expect 56–72 gigawatts of generation will be lost and will need to be replaced.

What are we doing?

Many steps have already been taken to significantly reduce air emissions by Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC), our power supplier. DPC has invested over \$300 million over the last decade in air emission control equipment at our existing coal plants. We have cumulative reductions in mercury output by over 90 percent, particulate matter by 99 percent, sulfur dioxide by well over 90 percent, and nitrogen oxides by over 70 percent. Dairyland is also in the midst of a strategic plan

to continue to diversify our energy resources. We currently have approximately 12 percent renewable energy, including wind, biomass, hydro, and solar

projects and will continue to seek renewable projects that are cost effective. Dairyland has also shut down its five oldest coal-fired units at the Alma Station (Alma, Wis.) over the last five years.

The final CPP rule, which is over 1,500 pages long and extremely complex, will take some time to analyze. Specifically, going forward, we will try to ensure credit for early action taken by DPC to reduce emissions, provide broad flexibility in the measures allowed as compliance options, and allow sufficient time to reliably achieve compliance. It is critical that the rule allows sufficient time to achieve the desired goals in a reasonable and cost-effective manner. Energy policy is incredibly complex and absolutely vital to the economy of our county. It is also the reason that for many decades, coal was selected as the fuel of choice for baseload power plants in the Midwest for its reliability and its affordability. Transitioning too quickly will have economic and operational impacts. I urge members of Clark Electric Cooperative to stay informed on this issue as safe, reliable, sustainable, and cost-effective

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October is National Cooperative Month. This is the month during which Americans celebrate cooperatives to raise awareness about the many benefits that cooperatives bring to our communities.

Cooperatives exist in many forms and deliver a host of products and services such as financial services, grocery/food, dairy, grain, and of course energy. As I was preparing for this month's article, I thought you might be interested in how the cooperative business model started.

According to an article in the September 2013 issue of Rural Electric, the cooperative movement we know today traces its roots to a set of business guidelines drawn up by Charles Howarth, one of 28 weavers and artisans who founded the Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers in Rochdale, England, on December 21, 1844. The tradesmen had banded together to open a store

selling food items they could not otherwise afford, starting out with a meager selection of butter, sugar, flour, oatmeal, and a few candles but soon expanding to include tea and tobacco. Eventually, the enterprise was so successful the group was able to open a cooperative factory and textile mill.

When introduced in the United States by the National Grange in 1874, these "Rochdale Principles" fueled a cooperative explosion. After being formally written down by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) in 1937 (and last updated in 1995), they evolved into the seven cooperative principles used



today. Although stated in many ways, the seven cooperative principles hold that a cooperative must provide:

- 1. Voluntary and Open Membership:** Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political, or religious discrimination.
- 2. Democratic Member Control:** Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership.
- 3. Members Economic Participation:** Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative.
- 4. Autonomy and Independence:** Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members.
- 5. Education, Training, and Information:** Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperative. They inform the general public about the nature and benefits of cooperation.
- 6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives:** Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures.
- 7. Concern for Community:** While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

These seven principles are underpinned by six ideals — the values of Self-Help, Self-Responsibility, Democracy, Equality, Equity, and Solidarity.

Above and Beyond

Electric co-op membership offers value far beyond affordable, reliable electricity

Here at Clark Electric Cooperative, we work hard to deliver safe, affordable, and reliable electricity to our 9,000 members every day. But we don't stop there. Because we're a cooperative, we strive to do much more, to find ways of providing real value to you and the communities we serve.

So what exactly does real value mean? Well, in some ways it's basic, like connecting with a real, local person when you call our office, rather than just a



Connecting with Members

recording. It could be finding a copy of the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* in your mailbox every month, which keeps you informed about Clark Electric Cooperative, the electric industry as a whole, and what's happening at the state and federal levels. It's also providing the best possible service at the best possible price, returning capital credits on an annual basis, and always remembering that members own this organization.

Real value also means getting the lights back on as quickly as possible and communicating with you as to how outages are progressing. Over two and a half years ago, the cooperative unveiled our outage information map on our web site that allows you to see outages and



Keeping the Lights On

track our progress. If you are traveling away from home you can even see if you are part of a predicted outage. The application works with smart phones, tablets, and computers. All you need is access to the Internet.

Real value can also be seen with cooperatives helping cooperatives. Electric



Cooperating with Other Cooperatives

cooperatives nationwide have executed a mutual-aid agreement that brings line crews in from other co-ops to help us restore power in the event of major storms. You may recall seeing our cooperative principles in action when cooperatives from Wisconsin sent line crews to the Gulf Coast in response to Hurricane Katrina.

Real value is commitment to community. In addition to providing opportunities for our youth through scholarships and leadership training, in 2004, Clark



Supporting the Community

Electric Appliance and Satellite Inc. established the Adler-Clark Electric Community Commitment Foundation to support programs and events which enrich the lives of people of Clark County and the surrounding area communities. The mission is to strengthen local communities by aiding not-for-profit and community organizations fund projects that will enhance the quality of life of local residents of this area. To date, the Foundation has awarded \$341,000 for community enrichment projects.

October marks National Cooperative Month, when we take time to celebrate co-ops and talk about why our not-for-profit, consumer-owned business model is special. Offering our members real value—and working to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve—is just one way we set ourselves apart. To learn more about cooperatives, visit www.cooperativenetwork.coop.

MY CO-OP

SIGN UP TODAY AND CHOOSE:

- 1-year commitment or
- 2-year commitment and
- \$10 credit for the first 12 months
- NO ACTIVATION FEE
- NO INSTALLATION CHARGE

*No installation charge does not cover pole mounts or routers. \$5.95/month service/lease fee in addition to monthly access charge. Packages of 10 GB up to 50 GB are available. See store for details.

Plus, with the season soon to be upon us, if you subscribe now to Exede we will donate \$25 to your choice of charity:

Christmas Wish Program for those in need

Your local school scholarship program

Your local food pantry

CLARK ELECTRIC APPLIANCE & SATELLITE INC.
 1209 West Dall-Berg Road, Greenwood From Greenwood: West on G to 2nd left after the bridge—turn on River Road, then Dall-Berg Road. 866-279-6544 or 715-267-6544



CLEAN POWER PLAN

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energy is vitally important. The issues and impacts are very complicated, and we will continue to advocate for a reasoned approach for a sustainable energy future.

On a final note, I would again invite those members who wish to purchase local, renewable energy to participate in the Clark Electric Cooperative Solar Garden located adjacent to our headquarters. You can purchase a subscription unit and receive a credit on you bill for 25 years. You need to hurry, when the subscription units are gone, they're gone. Please call with questions at 715-267-6188 or visit our web site www.cecoop.com for more information.



GEOTHERMAL

When COMFORT Matters

Save up to 70% on your energy costs by using the renewable resources found in the ground to keep your home or business comfortable all year round. Geothermal is the healthiest heating/cooling system available due to the constant air movement which allows for thorough filtration. It is also the most comfortable system available with low noise, no drafts, and even temperatures. Back this up with the best warranty in the business and you will have years of worry free comfort and savings for your family.



Contact Greg for all of your alternative heating needs today!

THERM GEO

tthermgeo.com

Clark Electric Appliance & Satellite, Inc.
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LOOK UP FOR HAZARDS DURING HARVEST

Harvest season can yield higher numbers of electrocution, shock, and burns. Clark Electric Cooperative urges farm workers to use caution when completing farm activities that take place around power lines.

To stay safe around overhead power lines, Safe Electricity urges farm operators and workers to

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines—at all times, in all directions.
- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always remember to lower extensions when moving loads.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, call Taylor Electric Cooperative.

If contact is made with a power line, stay on the equipment. Make sure to warn others to stay away, and call 911. Do not leave the equipment until the utility crew says it is safe to do so. The only reason to exit is if the equipment is on fire. If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together, without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

Some additional harvest safety tips from Safe Electricity include:

- Do not use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around grain bins.
- Always hire qualified electricians for any electrical issues.
- Do not use equipment with frayed cables.

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