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EPA Proposal Would Increase Your Electric Bill

ALONG THE LINE

Employees here wake up in the morning and come to work every day with one commitment in mind – to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. That has always been and will always be our mission. So when there's something that threatens that promise, we not only take notice, we take action.

In June the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposed a set of regulations for existing electric power plants. The EPA's regulations are intended to help meet a goal of reducing the nation's production of greenhouse gas emissions, like carbon dioxide, by 30 percent over the next 15 years. To achieve this, the EPA has given each state its own target to meet. In North Carolina, the state as a whole has been tasked with reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 39 percent by 2030.

We are concerned about how much it will cost to meet these very aggressive targets. It is likely that our state would have to shut down coal plants to comply with these proposed regulations. That generating capacity will need to be replaced with new, more expensive facilities, and that cost will ultimately pass to electricity consumers, including our cooperative members.

We don't want that to happen to you, especially when our industry is spending billions nationally working on other viable options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions over time. Our economy and your family depend on affordable electricity and we are committed to protecting the environment and your household budget.

So what are we doing? North Carolina's electric cooperatives are working with EPA and state officials to influence how the final versions of these proposals are written. You can too. The EPA is currently accepting comments about the proposals, and they will continue to do so until Oct. 16 of this year. This is your chance to have your voice heard. It may not feel like you can make a difference, but every comment to the EPA counts. Every single one.

We'd like to encourage you to visit www.TellEPAnc.com to quickly and easily send in your comments. Tell our government officials that you're concerned these regulations will impact your quality of life. We are confident there's a balanced way to protect and improve the environment while protecting and improving the way we deliver you safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

Call Before You Dig

North Carolina 811
www.nc811.org

Do you have a digging project in your near future? If so, please call **811** and speak with a representative to schedule a locate for underground facilities. You can also contact Edgecombe-Martin County EMC to locate our underground electric lines by calling **(252) 823-2171**. It is a good idea to mark where you plan to dig with white paint or flags so the utility locators know the exact area of your excavation.

It's Time to Service Your Heating System

As temperatures begin their annual decline, it's important not to forget about your heating system. In the coming weeks, we will all start turning to our heating systems to provide the heat we need to keep our homes warm. However, it's a good idea to have your HVAC unit serviced and cleaned before you enter the fall and winter months. Outside and inside coils should be cleaned, all duct work connections need to be inspected and any problems should be repaired before you begin using your heating system. A good analogy is to treat your HVAC unit like you treat the engine in your car. You would never drive your car without

changing the oil and performing other maintenance on a routine basis, so why go years at a time without having your heating and cooling system serviced.

Electric heat pumps provide you with the most economical means of heating and cooling your home in this area. If you would like to learn how much you could save on your total energy bill by switching to a heat pump this winter, please call us at (252) 823-2171. We would be happy to provide you with information that would allow you to make an informed decision.



I Heard A Loud Blast and My Power Went Out... What Happened?

Outages are going to occur and it is often the electric system operating as it should in order to protect the electric grid as a whole. A comment we here with frequency when a member calls to report an outage is: "I heard a loud blast before the lights went out." This sound you heard is a fuse blowing due to a fault on the line. Fuses are commonly placed on single-phase taps to prevent damage and larger outages on the distribution system. When a fault occurs on the line, the fuse blows to protect the rest of the electric system. A new fuse must then be installed by line personnel in order to restore power to your home.

The co-op works hard to manage our right-of-way in order to prevent outages. However, trees can sometimes fall from outside the right-of-way and cause an outage. We attempt to identify danger trees outside of the right-of-way and cut or trim them if possible. Birds and small animals can also cause outages on the system when they make contact with an energized conductor and a grounded system element simultaneously. Squirrel guards are installed on transformers to help prevent this type of outage.



The top image shows a fused cutout. The fuse will blow when a fault occurs on the line. The bottom image shows a squirrel guard (cone-shaped) over the high side bushing of the transformer. This helps prevent outages caused by small animals or birds.



HOLIDAY CLOSING

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be closed on Monday, Sept. 1, in observance of Labor Day.

Payments after office hours and on holidays can be made at the kiosk under the drive-thru canopy, placed in the night deposit box, online at www.ememc.com, or by calling 1-855-356-6358.

To report a loss of power or an emergency after hours, please call 1-800-690-0657.

LINES FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Director Position Eliminated and Special Election To Be Held

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has always placed a strong emphasis on managing costs and resources in the most efficient manner possible. Over the past several years, the size of our workforce has decreased as employees have retired and existing employees have stepped forward to take on more responsibility. We have also effectively implemented various types of technology that enable our employees to be more efficient in fulfilling their job duties. These cost-saving measures allow us to keep rates stable and economical for our membership.

At the board of directors meeting on July 24, a decision was made that further emphasizes our commitment toward managing costs wisely. The Director-At-Large position represented by Dennis Briley has been eliminated moving forward. However, Dennis will continue to serve out the remainder of his term, which expires at the Annual Meeting of Members in March. This action will effectively reduce the number of board members to seven. After 33 years of service, Dennis Briley has made the decision to retire from the board upon serving out the remainder of his term. Dennis has served the Cooperative with honor, distinction and integrity throughout his tenure here. The reduction in the size of our board is consistent with the actions taken to reduce overhead across our entire organization, which saves each and every member money.

In 2008, Dennis became the Director-At-Large after Districts M-1 and M-2 were combined. At that time, Districts E-2 and E-3 were also combined when former board member Alice Wilson retired from the board.

Although the size of the board will be decreased to seven directors; it will not impact our ability to address issues and concerns. The distribution of members per district ranges between 1,200 and 1,800 members, so each director is representing a fair and consistent percentage of the membership. We are committed to providing the same great service you have come to expect and enjoy. Our participation in customer satisfaction surveys continually ranks our cooperative as one of the best in the nation. This can be directly attributed to the dedication of our competent employees.

One other important matter of business also occurred at the July 24 board meeting. It was announced that Floyd Harrell had officially tendered his resignation and he would not be returning to serve on the board. Floyd has served the

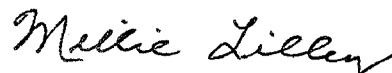
Cooperative with great honor and dignity for 30 years. We are very appreciative of his many contributions to the Cooperative and its employees. Floyd is a well-respected businessman and farmer and he will be sorely missed at the Cooperative.

A motion was made and passed that will amend the bylaws to make provisions for a special election at the next annual meeting, in order to address the vacancy for District E-3 on the board of directors. The special election process will allow members to be nominated by the Nominations and Elections Committee or by petition. The board believes this will allow the membership to select the best candidate to fill the vacancy on the board for District E-3.

The board is proud of our Cooperative and the strides we continue to make to improve our level of service and reliability. Each director is committed to making certain the members they represent are treated fairly. They are directly involved in the communities we serve. Every board member is also a member of the Cooperative, so they understand the decisions they make impact them as well as all of the other members on our system. That is yet another reason why the non-profit, electric cooperative business model is so successful. You are a member-owner of the Cooperative and you have other concerned and engaged members representing your best interest on the board.

We look forward to working with you in the future and thank you for your continued support.

Cooperatively Yours,



Millie Lilley



Final Call for Bright Ideas Grants



Teachers, it's time to submit your Bright Ideas grant before the final deadline closes on September 19, 2014.

The Bright Ideas grant program presents an awesome opportunity for teachers to implement innovative classroom based projects that help facilitate learning. Teachers can apply by visiting www.ncbrightideas.com and submitting their grant online. Educators in grades K-12 can apply and grants up to \$1,500 will be awarded by Edgecombe-Martin County EMC in October to several

deserving teachers. Teachers that have been awarded with a Bright Ideas grant in previous years are still eligible each year. The key is to put your innovative idea into a concise format, and to let us know just how the project will impact the way your students will learn the material.

Over the past 20 school years, the Bright Ideas grant program has provided more than 1.6 million students across North Carolina with the opportunity to learn through exciting, hands-on projects. And, over \$9.1 million has been awarded to fund more than 8,800 innovative grants to educators across our great state.

Don't let this exciting opportunity pass you and your students by. Apply today before it's too late!

Outdoor Grilling Safety

There's nothing quite like grilling on a long summer day, especially if there's something to celebrate, like Labor Day. In fact, Labor Day is the third most popular day of the year to grill right after the Fourth of July and Memorial Day.

Gas grills accounted for an annual average of 7,200 home fires from 2007-2011, and charcoal or other solid-fueled grills were responsible for an annual average of 1,400 home fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Follow these safety tips to keep your remaining summer days safe.

General Tips:

- Never use grills in a house, garage or other enclosed area; this is a serious fire hazard.
- Place your grill away from your home, deck railings, eaves or low hanging branches.
- Before using your grill, make sure you have read the owner's manual.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat from the grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended, and keep children and pets at least 3 feet away from the grill space.
- Remain alert when grilling. If you are tired or have been drinking alcohol, you shouldn't grill.
- Keep flammable materials away from your grill at all times.

Gas Grills:

- If using a gas grill, check for propane leaks before igniting. Be sure the lid to your gas grill is open before igniting.
- If a flame goes out on a gas grill, wait 15 minutes to re-light to allow any propane in the air to dissipate.
- If you smell a gas leak while you are cooking, back away and call the fire department.
- When you have finished using the grill, turn the gas off at the tank.

Charcoal Grills:

- If using igniter fluid, be sure to keep it away from children and away from heat.
- When using charcoal, be sure your coals are completely cool before disposing of them, and when you dispose of them, put them in a metal container. Never dump hot coals in a trash can.

ALONG THE LINE

www.ememc.com

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Hwy. 33 East, P.O. Box 188
Tarboro, NC 27886
252-823-2171 • 1-800-445-6486
Office Hours: 8a.m. - 5p.m. (M-F)
After Hours Outage Reporting
1-800-690-0657