


Energy Partners

A monthly look at the happenings of and related to:



New-Mac Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 
The power of human connections

Straight-line winds cause outages

The winds of May have not proved to be friendly in recent history.

New-Mac Electric sustained hundreds of outages on two occasions in the span of a week, largely due to straight-line winds.

On May 8, as many as 1,500 were out of power, mostly in Newton County, due to winds of 70 miles per hour and greater. A 93-mph

gust was recorded in Jasper County, also resulting in outages. New-Mac had power restored to most of its customers by the next day.

Then on May 14, high winds struck again, interrupting service to around 300 customers. This time most of the damage occurred in

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New-Mac linemen set a pole during storm restoration work this past month. Pictured at right is one of the many poles broken by the destructive winds.



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Energy Partners is a monthly publication of New-Mac Electric for the purpose of informing members of the programs, services and happenings of, and related to, the cooperative.

Understanding the issues

Climate-change discussion affects affordability of electricity

As Congress considers climate change issues that could cause electric bills to increase, electric co-op members need to know what's at stake.

"These are the times that try men's souls." Written by Thomas Paine before the Revolutionary War, those words have relevance today in this troubling economic downturn. More and more people today are having trouble making ends meet, and

that includes paying their electric bills.

Adding to the uncertainties facing consumers today are the discussions going on in Washington, D.C, where Congress is considering what to do about the climate change issue. In a nutshell, they are debating putting limits and taxes on the release of carbon dioxide into the air.

Many people believe so-called green-

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Watch out for kids

Children are out and about enjoying their break from school, and New-Mac Electric asks that you be mindful of that as you drive around this summer.

It's every driver's responsibility to be on the lookout for kids at play; just as every parent needs to stress that their children always be watchful for cars.

Let's all work together to keep summer both fun and safe.

Please call before you dig

Digging in areas where there may be an underground electric line can be dangerous! So, before any project that requires digging, call the Missouri One Call System at 800-DIG-RITE.

Those who fail to make this call not only face the chance of electric shock; they also will be held responsible for any repairs that may be necessary if a line is accidentally cut or damaged.

Offices closed for 4th of July

New-Mac's offices will be closed Friday, July 3rd, and Saturday, July 4th, for the observance of Independence Day.

There's never been a better time for energy efficiency

Good news – no more ice!

Great news — winter has come and gone and the flowers are beautiful. More good news — the government will help many of you pay for some of the things that I have been teaching you.

As I write this column, I have just completed appearing at a home show in Kentucky. I am preparing to conduct an energy-efficiency seminar at a community college in Tennessee tonight. I will then drive to south Arkansas for a seminar and then to Illinois for a seminar and radio show. I have had great difficulty in deciding how to write this column because there is so very much that I wish to teach you. However, I am allowed only one page.

I went down this morning for breakfast in the motel lobby and asked if I could have a late check-out since my seminar was not until 5 p.m. at the college. The lady at the desk asked, "Are you the caulk man?" To which I answered, "Yes, I am the King of Caulk and Talk. How did you know?"

"I received a brochure in the mail about the meeting from our power company and I plan to be there because my electric bills have really gone up this year," she said.

I told her that she has two choices: Do something about it or just keep complaining. I proceeded to give her a personal one-hour seminar and answered her questions. Before we had finished, several others in the area had joined the group.

Folks, every indication is that utility rates will continue to increase. With a slowing economy, utility bills will become a larger percentage of a family's budget. You have two choices: Use less or use less.

Some of you are thinking, "This man is a genius." Others are thinking, "This man is a moron."



Doug Rye says ...

Probably, both of you are correct. I have spent my entire adult life teaching others how to use less by conservation and energy efficiency. Example: Turning off the light is conservation, but installing a compact fluorescent bulb is energy efficiency.

Now for the other great news. I am happy to announce that it is now more feasible to make energy improvements than ever before. The Stimulus Bill signed by the president on Feb. 17 allows for impressive tax credits to help pay for energy improvements. Please understand I am not your tax advisor, but I suggest that you go to www.energystar.gov for details.

Please note that these are tax credits, which may be worth far more than tax deductions. Please note that there are tax credits for windows, insulation, solar systems, wind systems, and the best news of all, geothermal heat pumps. You can now install the best heating and cooling system available and you may qualify for a tax credit of 30 percent of the total cost on your 2009 tax return.

My friends, this is huge. Many of you have installed geothermal, with no tax advantages, because you knew it was the smart thing to do. Well, now it is cost effective for many more of you to do the same. I consider that to be really, really good news.

Doug Rye, a licensed architect living in Arkansas and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show (as heard on KBTN 1420 AM & KOYX 1450 AM), works as a consultant for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas to promote energy efficiency to cooperative members statewide. To order Doug's video, call Doug at 1-888-Doug-Rye. More energy-efficiency tips can also be found at www.ecark.org.

○ Affordability

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house gases like carbon dioxide are causing the planet to warm up. While there is plenty of debate on whether this is in fact true, there is little argument that Congress and the Obama Administration plan to do something about it.

The question electric cooperatives are asking is this: How do we meet national climate change goals without making electricity unaffordable?

The great achievement of Franklin Roosevelt's rural electrification program — affordable electricity for all Americans — is at risk under many of the pro-

posals Congress is considering.

Many of these proposals would make burning coal to generate electricity very expensive. That will affect Missouri electric cooperative members dramatically since approximately 80 percent of the electricity you use comes from coal-fired power plants.

The alternatives — switching to natural gas or nuclear powered plants — will be even more expensive. And using more natural gas will most likely require importing even more energy from the Middle East and will certainly drive up prices for those who heat their homes with natural gas.

Ultimately, consumers will be paying the bill for

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programs to reduce carbon emissions. For this reason, we believe consumers should have a place at the table as Congress considers the most sweeping energy policy changes ever.

That's the purpose behind the Our Energy, Our Future campaign enacted by the nation's electric cooperatives in 2008. Through that program, more than 1.7 million messages have been sent on behalf of consumers to elected officials in Washington.

The message has been a series of questions designed to encourage elected officials to consider consumers before they pass legislation dealing with energy and the climate. The latest question is, "Will you please work with the electric cooperatives to be sure public policy meets my need for affordable electricity?"

Co-op members are encouraged to go to the www.ourenergy.coop Web site and send a message. Those who are less computer savvy or who have slow connections should contact their electric cooperative and ask them to send the message for them.

At issue is the need to build new power plants to meet rising demand — some 21,000 megawatts nationwide — combined with uncertainties about what type of plant to build. This could present electric cooperatives with their biggest challenge in history.

So what is Congress talking about and what are electric cooperatives doing themselves?

In the climate change debate, there has been a lot of talk about cap and trade. Under this proposal, a government authority sets a maximum limit (the cap) on emissions. Businesses covered by the cap would likely receive some emissions credits but would have to buy more to meet the amount of emissions they release.

In theory, they could also find ways to reduce emissions. If they managed to reduce emissions

under the cap, they could then sell or trade their allowance to another business that needs them.

There are two major problems with a cap and trade program. First, someone has to decide who gets emission credits and how many each stakeholder will receive. This could be a political dogfight.

Second, utilities that need more credits will have to buy them from an auction. As anyone who has tried to buy anything at an auction knows, the price for these credits will be set by the demand for the product.

And expect a scramble for the proceeds from this auction.

Already, the Obama Administration is considering using cap and trade auction funds as revenue in future budgets.

The real problem with cap and trade, however, is that it is in fact a backdoor tax on consumers with Wall Street speculators setting the rate. Utilities dependent on fossil fuels to generate electricity today have few options to turn to for reliable baseload generation.

While wind, solar, hydro and other renewables are being added to the generation mix, their unreliability (you can't count on the wind to blow when you need it) makes the need for additional baseload plants a necessity.

So what are electric cooperatives doing? Because we are not for profit businesses, our focus has always been on providing the best possible service at the lowest possible cost. Besides working with Congress to ensure an economic safety valve for consumers, your electric cooperative is doing its part to reduce demand and to find new solutions to reducing emissions.

One experiment elec-

tric cooperatives in Missouri are supporting is a look at the potential of capturing carbon dioxide before it's released and storing it underground. Called carbon capture and sequestration, this project is being conducted by Springfield's City Utilities with support from Associated Electric Cooperative.

Another research project involves taking flue gas from Central Electric Power Cooperative's Chamois Power Plant and bubbling it in a pool full of algae.

The algae feeds on the carbon dioxide, and in turn can be harvested to produce biodiesel and plastics.

Missouri's electric cooperatives are also pioneers in wind energy. Our agreement to purchase the entire output from the state's first three wind farms was the final straw in bringing these projects to reality. And recently a fourth wind farm was announced. This one will be the state's largest.

That's not all. In a continuing effort to keep bills affordable for their members, Missouri's electric cooperatives have developed an unprecedented energy efficiency program called "Take Control & Save." More than a million compact fluorescent lightbulbs have been given away

since the program started. Rebates on energy efficient appliances, energy audits and a steady flow of information on how to reduce electricity use have benefited members statewide. As a result, demand for electricity is stabilizing and electric bills have been reduced for many members.

These are exciting but challenging times for the nation's electric cooperatives. As Congress works toward new climate change goals, it's apparent their efforts will have a profound impact on our daily lives.

If done well, this new direction will improve the quality of life and economic well-being of us all. But — many of the proposals we are seeing could send prices soaring and undermine our ability to have enough electricity to meet your needs.

Please help your electric cooperative keep its seat at the table during this important national debate. Join the Our Energy team now, by sending an e-mail or letter from the www.ourenergy.coop Web site or by contacting us for assistance.

As Thomas Paine put it in *The American Crisis*: "The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman."

We couldn't have said it better.



Our Energy, Our Future A Dialogue With America

Energy Partners' *Recipe of the Month:*

SUNDAY HOT ROLLS

Submitted by New-Mac member: **Dixie Rockers**

1 pkg. yeast, dissolved in ¼ c. warm water	½ c. oil
½ c. sugar	1 tsp. salt
2 eggs beaten	4 c. plain flour
1 c. warm water	

Mix dissolved yeast, sugar, eggs and warm water. Add oil, salt and flour. Cover and let stand 8 hours or overnight. Divide into 3 parts. Roll out as if you were making pie crust. Cut into 8 sections. Roll into crescent rolls. Place on greased cookie sheet. Let rise 4-6 hours. Bake 10-12 min. at 350°. Makes 24 rolls.

Send your recipe, along with your name and customer number, to: Recipes, c/o New-Mac Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 310, Neosho, MO 64850; or recipes@new-mac.com. If your recipe is selected, New-Mac will apply a \$15 credit to your bill.

○ May storms

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McDonald County. All power was restored that same day.

These destructive storms came one year after an EF4 tornado killed 14 people and left

as many as 9,000 out of power in the New-Mac Electric service area.

“The ice and winds have hit us hard the last few years, but our employees continue to do a great job of responding and taking care of those we serve,” said New-Mac spokesman Mark Rakes. “Hopefully, we’ll catch a break from the storms in the future.”



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Management

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Manager of Administration Mary Hatfield
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Manager of Operations Alan Loehr
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Services Provided to Members

Call our consumer services department for information on the following services:

- Autowithdrawal Payment**
- Levelized Billing**
- Rental Light**
- Meeting rooms available at both locations**
- Credit Card Acceptance**
- Safety Programs (upon request)**
- Surge Protection**
- Green Power**

Questions? Comments?

Contact: Mark K. Rakes
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LEVELIZED BILLING AGREEMENT

Levelized Billing agreement between New-Mac Electric Cooperative, Inc., of Neosho, Missouri, and:

Name _____

Address _____ City/St./Zip _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

Customer # _____ Location # _____

Levelized Billing consists of eleven equal payments and one adjustment payment per year. The amount of the twelfth payment will be adjusted according to the meter reading secured by New-Mac Electric Cooperative, Inc., at the end of a one-year period. Should you have a credit balance, no payment will be required for that month. Should an underpayment occur, you will be billed accordingly.

Levelized payments will be based on your anticipated usage and applied to the rate proposed for the next twelve-month period.

This is to request Levelized Billing at the above location upon the following terms:

1. Agreement to begin as of _____.
2. Payment to consist of eleven equal payments and one payment adjusted according to secured meter reading. You will be notified by the billing department of your monthly payment amount.
3. All payments must be accompanied with your bill.
4. Term of agreement will be one year and renewable on or before anniversary.
5. Payments need to be in our office no later than the last day of the month.
6. Should your account become delinquent more than three times in a twelve-month period or become more than one-month delinquent, this contract will be void.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Ease budgeting with Levelized Billing

Most folks would agree that it's easier to budget for something when you know what to expect. However, electric bills, due to the heating and cooling of homes, are prone to fluctuation and consequently are somewhat unpredictable.

Well, if that fluctuation is something you could do without, New-Mac offers a payment option which evens out the peaks and valleys of energy use. Through a process called Levelized Billing, each month your bill is based on an average of your electric bills over the previous 12 months.

Levelized Billing consists of 11 equal payments and one adjustment payment per



If you'd like to get started with Levelized Billing, fill out this form and send it in with your payment. If you send it in by June 20, your Levelized Billing will start with the bill you receive in July.

year. Since household usage typically varies from year to year (due to weather, improvements, additions, etc.), the twelfth payment is used to make up the difference between the estimated and actual usage.

Most residential members with a good credit history are eligible for this program. Participants also must have at least 12 months of billing history at the location to be put on Levelized Billing.

If you would like to take advantage of Levelized Billing, fill out the form *at left* and send it in with your payment. If you want to get started with the bill you receive in July, the form needs to be turned in by June 20. Otherwise, your Levelized Billing will begin as soon as possible, depending on when the form is received.

