


# 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

## Co-op cites ‘Winds of Change’ in electric power generation

### New-Mac announces payment to members of \$1.5 million in capital credits and bill credits

New-Mac Electric Cooperative of Neosho, Mo., announced that 2011 will mark fourteen straight years that the co-op has returned funds back to member-customers in the form of capital credit payments and bill credits.

“I will tell you that is something we are really proud of,” Mitch McCumber, New-Mac’s chief executive officer, told members at the co-op’s annual meeting at Crowder College held on Oct. 29, “especially since we continue to be hit hard by rising power costs.”

The co-op, at the meeting, began distributing approximately \$1,136,000 in this year’s capital credit refund checks to members. The capital credit refunds go to people who were New-Mac members during 1994, and are based on their electric usage. Members who didn’t pick up their checks at the meeting will receive them in the mail.

McCumber also announced that New-Mac members will be receiving a \$610,000 year-end refund of power costs, which will be



Above and left, New-Mac Electric General Manager/CEO Mitch McCumber addresses the membership at the co-op’s 2011 Annual Meeting, held Oct. 29 at Crowder College.



given as a credit on members’ bills received in December. Overall, in the past fourteen years, New-Mac has refunded capital credits and rate adjustments to members totaling \$16,700,000.


However, McCumber also said rising power costs could possibly force the co-op to pass along a rate increase in 2012. New-Mac has already been notified that it will have

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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.

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### Unclaimed capital credits list

Next month, New-Mac will publish a list of unclaimed capital credit checks. If you know any of these former members, please notify them so they can claim their check.

### Offices closed for Veterans' Day & Thanksgiving

New-Mac's offices will be closed Nov. 11 in observance of Veterans' Day and Nov. 24-26 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

### Assistance is available

If you are having a problem paying your New-Mac account, please call us to make arrangements. Please don't disregard paying your bill. There are programs and options (such as budget billing) designed to assist you. So, please give us a call at 451-1515 or (800) 322-3849.

**LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM / EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**  
**Jasper County**  
 (417) 781-0352  
**McDonald County**  
 (417) 845-6011  
**Newton County**  
 (417) 451-2206

### Please don't lock us out

Remember New-Mac Electric always needs to have access to your meter both for periodic inspections and in the event of an outage. So, make sure the co-op can get to your meter, and any existing lock arrangements with New-Mac need to be maintained.

## Have we been to your school?

### Co-op always willing to teach electrical safety

Each school year, you can count on New-Mac Electric to do our part to keep kids safe around electricity.

At the start of the school year, New-Mac sends letters to all the 18 elementary schools inside of the co-op's service area informing the principals about our safety presentation. Then, once we're invited, we visit the schools and teach kids the importance of respecting electricity with our *Power Town* demonstration.

*Power Town* is a scaled-down model of an electrical system, complete with poles, transformers, buildings, a bulldozer and critters. The stars of the show are two characters fashioned out of neon light bulbs, known as *Neon Leon* and *Lightning Liz*.



**New-Mac Electric's Tom Bower answers questions during a safety presentation at Westview Elementary School.**

Students are educated about numerous situations where they need to be careful to avoid encounters with electricity, and lessons are learned through the mis-adventures of Leon and Liz.

Many schools invite New-Mac every year, while others bring us into the classroom every few years. Some schools have yet to take advantage of our free community service.

Although our program is designed for third and fourth graders, it can be customized for any age

group. If you have school-aged kids in your family, ask them if they've seen New-Mac's safety program. If not, call their school and encourage them to invite New-Mac. We'd love to come and share our message about electrical safety.

Each year, we teach hundreds of kids, but it's not just in the classroom. From 4-H clubs to scout troops, New-Mac



**Neon Leon and Lightning Liz always manage to grab the attention of the usually third- and fourth-grade audiences at area schools. Kids learn lessons through the misadventures of the two neon characters.**



# Running out of daylight? New-Mac may be able to help

If the evening seems to be setting in too soon, and you've still got chores to do, or perhaps you'd just like the security of some additional lighting, then New-Mac Electric may have the solution for you.

Dusk to dawn lights, also commonly called security lights, are available from New-Mac for a monthly fee.

New-Mac will install a 100-watt, high-pressure sodium light on an existing meter or transformer pole. The co-op will then maintain and supply the electricity to the light (it does not go through your meter) for a \$10 monthly rental fee. If the light ever stops working, New-Mac will come out and repair or replace the light at no additional charge.

Higher wattage lights or installations requiring the setting of new materials may also be available for additional fees.

Also, if a light owned by a customer is in need of repair, New-Mac is willing to make those repairs for the cost of parts (if the co-op has the necessary parts). These repairs will take place as work orders permit when a truck is in your area.

If you are interested in a security light at your location, contact our billing department at 451-1515 or 800-322-3849.



New-Mac will install and maintain a security light on an existing meter or transformer pole at your location for \$10 a month.

## ○ Safety

*Continued from page 2*

is willing to present to any civic group that calls. The co-op also attends the kids safety fairs, held by the local health departments.

If you are interested in scheduling New-Mac for a safety presentation, call **Tom Bower** in our member services department at **451-1515** or **800-322-3849**; or you can

email him at **tbower@newmac.com**.

Don't forget, New-Mac also has valuable safety information and activities on our website, [newmac.com](http://newmac.com). By clicking on the link, *Safe Electricity*, site visitors are taken to a wealth of resources.

For kids there's numerous interactive games teaching them to respect electricity and also how to save energy around the house.

There's also plenty for adults, such as compelling stories, pictures and videos showing the effects of electricity.

The website is also particularly useful for teachers. There is a page dedicated to "Teacher Materials," offering printouts, lesson plans, activities and much more.

Remember, we at New-Mac put *safety first*, so if we can be of assistance, don't hesitate to give us a call.



Don't forget to "like" New-Mac Electric on *Facebook*.

You can find us (whether or not you choose to be actively involved in *Facebook*) at:

[www.facebook.com/NewMacElectric](http://www.facebook.com/NewMacElectric), or you can go to [www.newmac.com](http://www.newmac.com) and click on the link **VISIT US ON FACEBOOK**.

By regularly following the co-op's page, you'll find a wide variety of helpful information, such as updates on restoration efforts following storms, energy-efficiency tips, reminders of upcoming events, *Peak Alert* notifications, the announcement of new services, and much more.

However, if you choose to "like" us, as a *Facebook* user, keeping up with New-Mac is easily done. You'll see any additions to the New-Mac site appear directly in your *News Feed*.

## Energy Partners' *Recipe of the Month:*

### MUSHROOM BURGERS

Submitted by New-Mac member: **Victor Elbert**

1 lb. hamburger meat  
1 can mushroom soup  
½ can water

Form meat into patties and fry in skillet. Remove hamburgers and drain grease. Then pour soup and water into skillet and stir. Then return burgers into skillet simmering until ready. Serve over biscuits.

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

## ○ Annual meeting

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to pay more for electricity next year, however the co-op won't know specifics about its 2012 electric rates until the budgeting process is completed at the end of the year. He said the co-op will inform members about next year's rates immediately in the January co-op newsletter.

A series of wholesale price increases forced New-Mac to raise its rates to members in 2008 and 2009. But the co-op has been able to maintain stable rates during the past year, and has only had to implement general rate increases two times in the past twenty years.

McCumber told members that 2010 was another strong financial year for the co-op. In its annual report, New-Mac Electric revenues topped \$35 million in 2010, and the co-op now shows more than \$91 million in total assets.

McCumber told the gathering that the electric utility industry is experiencing "winds of change" in the generation of power.

"It used to be that nearly all of the electricity we use was generated at power plants that burned coal," McCumber told the gathering. This past summer, New-Mac's power suppliers, KAMO Power in Vinita and Associated Electric in Springfield, brought online a new 540-megawatt power plant at Chouteau, Oklahoma, which uses natural gas and special heat-recovery technology to generate electricity.

In addition, earlier this year Associated signed an agreement to buy additional wind power from a new generation farm being built near Pawhuska, Oklahoma, and last year also began operating a fourth wind farm

### 2011 Annual Meeting at a glance

Thanks again to everyone who participated in the 2011 Annual Meeting and made it a success!

**Attendance:** approximately 1,600 New-Mac members and family.

#### Board Member Election Results:

District 1 .....Martin Youngblood  
District 3 .....Bobby Fields  
District 6 .....Paul Sprenkle

#### Newly Chosen

##### 2012 Nominating Committee:

District 4 .....Robert Laytham  
Alternate .....Gary Bond  
District 5 .....Bobby Banks  
Alternate .....Bill Linton  
District 9 .....Jamey Cope  
Alternate .....Brenda Meador  
Newton Co. at large .....Geoge Kirk  
McDonald Co. at large...Lance Meador  
Alternate .....Dwayne Hudson

in northern Missouri. In one recent month, about five percent of Associated's electric generation came from wind power.

"Think about it this way. Now when you flip on a light switch, it is likely some of the electricity to light that bulb was generated – literally – by the winds of change we've been talking about," McCumber said.

McCumber went on to say that the Environmental Protection Agency is planning to implement tougher regulations on

power plant emissions, even though Congress has failed to approve a carbon tax. Nonetheless, since 1994, McCumber said Associated has spent about \$1 billion to meet environmental regulations at its power plants.

Also at the meeting, McCumber paid tribute to the victims and survivors of the Joplin tornado. He said the storm



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Anderson — 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Or visit us on the Web at  
[www.newmac.com](http://www.newmac.com).

#### Management

CEO/General Manager .....Mitch McCumber  
Controller .....David Childers  
Manager of Administration .....Mary Hatfield  
Manager of Operations .....Stan Irsik  
Manager of Marketing .....Mark K. Rakes  
Billing Supervisor .....Vickie Stuart

#### Board of Directors

District 1 .....Martin Youngblood  
District 2 .....Kenneth Daniels  
District 3 .....Bobby Fields  
District 4 .....Beryl Kennedy  
District 5 .....Billy P. White  
District 6 .....Paul Sprenkle  
District 7 .....Maurice Mailes  
District 8 .....Virgil Winchester  
District 9 .....Dewey Allgood

#### 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  
P.O. Box 310, Neosho, MO  
[mrakes@newmac.com](mailto:mrakes@newmac.com)



The national-award-winning family band, *The Martins*, provide bluegrass entertainment for those in attendance at the 2011 New-Mac Annual Meeting.

also did considerable damage to parts of the New-Mac system and to incoming electric transmission lines, producing some lengthy power outages. He also said co-op crews worked tirelessly to make sure outages were minimal during last February's snow and bitter cold, and last summer's extreme heat.

The co-op reported steady progress during the past year in completing construction projects, such as substation upgrades, pole change-outs, re-conductoring and line conversions. In addition, New-Mac will spend approximately \$1.7 million this year on right-of-way brush clearing in order to improve electric service reliability.

New-Mac Electric, headquartered in Neosho, Mo., serves some 17,000 member accounts primarily in Newton, McDonald and Jasper Counties.