

# 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

## EPA delays CO<sub>2</sub> rule till mid-summer

### Co-op members' voices heard - at least for now

A small victory in an uphill battle has been won in the fight to keep electricity affordable and reliable, and New-Mac Electric members – and their fellow electric cooperative members from across the state – played a part.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has delayed its proposed, highly controversial carbon emission rules until mid-summer. Final federal regulations were expected to be announced on Jan. 8 for new coal-based generation units, and for existing units on June 1. Instead, the day before the first set of rules were to be announced, the EPA told reporters that the release of the new regulations will be postponed until this summer due in part to the volume of public comments received regarding the proposed standards.

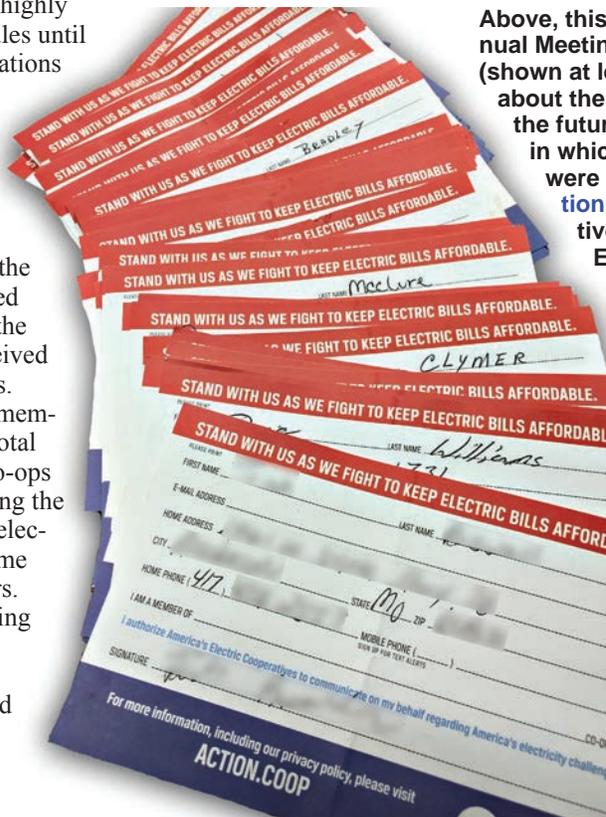
Missouri electric cooperative members sent over 305,000 out of a total of 1.2 million comments from co-ops nationwide to the EPA, expressing the need for affordable and reliable electricity. Over 3,000 comments came from New-Mac Electric members.

“We hope the EPA will be using this additional time to consider, thoughtfully and carefully, the numerous comments on proposed greenhouse gas limits for new, modified and existing power

See EPA, page 3



Above, this past October at New-Mac Electric's 2014 Annual Meeting, co-op members filled out comment cards (shown at left) expressing their concerns to the EPA about the affordability and reliability of electricity in the future. Cards were also filled out at other events in which New-Mac participated. The same concerns were also shared by other members online at [action.coop](http://action.coop). Missouri electric cooperatives collectively sent over 305,000 such comments to the EPA, which recently decided to delay proposed regulations that would dramatically impact both areas of concern.



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New-Mac Electric Cooperative  
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

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.

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, or you can dial 811. Please call three working days in advance.

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

Helpful info during outages

In the event of outages, please call us if you see a downed power line or a large tree branch that has fallen into the power lines.

Also, if you heard a loud noise just before you lost power, please let us know.

Reporting such sights and sounds can greatly reduce the time it takes to restore power. Please call us at **417-451-1515** or **800-322-3849**.

Remember, never touch, attempt to move, or drive over a downed power line.

Pay bill, view usage online

Remember, not only can you pay your bill online, you can also look at usage trends, compare bills from various billing periods, set up reminder texts or emails, and much more.

Visit [newmac.com](http://newmac.com) and click on the “smart hub” link.



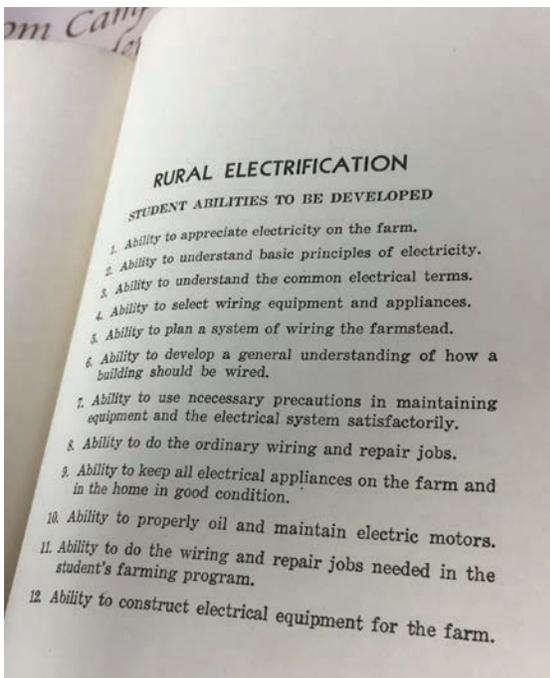
# Reading, writing, 'rithmetic and the REA

## It took some learning when electricity first came to farms

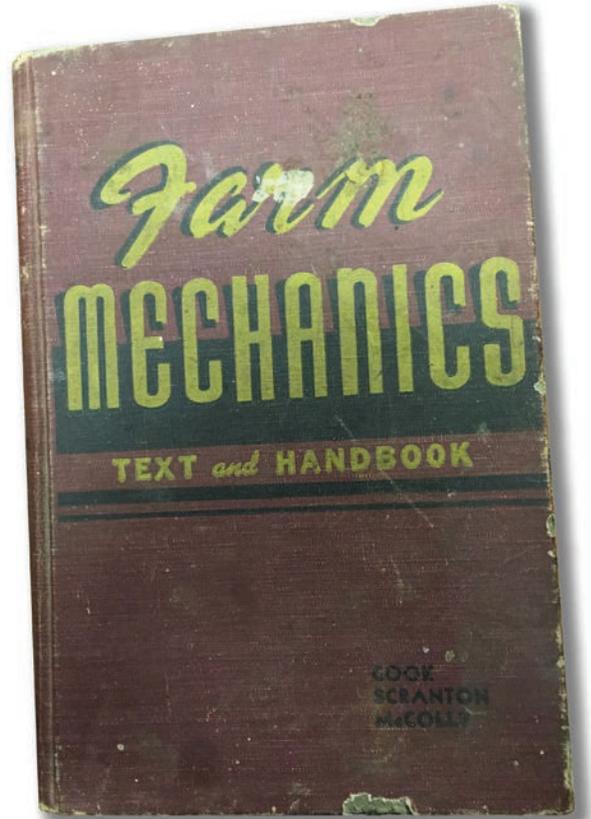
While New-Mac Electric Cooperative was formed in May of 1939, it was Valentine's Day of 1940 before the first members of the cooperative began receiving power from the Rural Electrification Administration (REA).

So, over the next decade, there was still a lot of learning taking place regarding this novelty of electricity on the farm. That's further evidenced by the textbook *Farm Mechanics*, which was originally copyrighted in 1946. This very book was used for vocational agriculture instruction for soldiers at Camp Crowder in the late 40s.

*Farm Mechanics* featured a variety of skill training in practical applications around the farm, such as woodworking, painting, refinishing, rope work,



While the textbook informed of the many applications for electricity on the farm, it offered detailed instruction for wiring, maintaining and understanding the use of this convenience.



***Farm Mechanics*, by G.C. Cook, L.L. Scranton and H.F. McColly, was used to educate soldiers at Camp Crowder in the late 1940s. Among the subjects it addressed was a recent luxury to the farm called electricity, courtesy of the REA.**

welding, motors, machinery and concrete work. It even had an entire section dedicated to “Rural Electrification.” Chapters included “Understanding the Sources of Electricity, Terms and Materials” and “Wiring the Farmstead and Maintenance of Equipment.”

The textbook aimed to impress upon farmers the importance of rural electrification:

*Each year finds an increasing number of farm homes which have installed electricity. Farmers are realizing more and more the vast importance of electricity on the farm. Electricity affords one of the best types of light available at the present time and affords many other uses to the farm home. Its use in addition to lighting should be considered for household conveniences such as washing, ironing, cooking, cleaning, refrigeration, radio, water supply and various uses about the farmstead including feed grinding, operating shop tools, brooding pigs and chicks, heating stock water, charging batteries, milking, separating milk and miscellaneous power jobs.*

Thanks to the REA, electricity had become an option for farmers that previously didn't exist, but in the late 40s, it was still gradually making its way on to farms. According to the textbook:

See *Text book*, page 4

# Come see your co-op at area trade shows

New-Mac Electric will hit the road over the next few months for area trade shows. Be sure to come see us at:

## The HBA Marketplace

- Formerly the HBA Home Show
- At the Joplin (Hammons) Convention Center
- Friday, Feb. 20, 6-8 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 21, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Sunday, Feb. 22, 1-5 p.m.

## Neosho's Business & Industry Review

- At Neosho High School
- Friday, March 20, 5-8 p.m.
- Saturday, March 21, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## McDonald County Business Expo

- At McDonald County High School
- Saturday, March 28, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## ○ EPA

Continued from page 1

plants,” said Jo Ann Emerson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). “If the final rules look anything like the proposed rules, a delay will do nothing to soften their impact on American families and businesses.”

The proposed standards would make new coal-based generation economically impossible in Missouri and present major challenges to existing coal-based generation, which supplies around 80 percent of the state's electricity needs.

While the postponement at least shows the EPA is considering the feedback it has received, everyone needs to continue to let their voices be heard by contacting local legislators and sharing with others the need for keeping coal-based generation in our nation's power mix. For more information and other ways to stay involved in this effort, visit [action.coop](http://action.coop) or click on the link at [newmac.com](http://newmac.com).

## Pay by Phone

Don't forget you can pay your bill by phone anytime – **24/7** – with our automated, toll-free payment line.



## 'So, what are capital credits?'

Capital credits are one of the many benefits of being a member of an electric cooperative, however sometimes they can cause some confusion.

Every year, New-Mac Electric sends each of its members a card informing them of their capital-credit amount for the past year.

So, what does it mean if I've gained capital credits?

Capital credits are your share of the operating margins realized by your cooperative each year. These margins are equally allocated to all participating consumers based upon total dollar billing.

These margins (payments in excess of expenses) become patronage capital and are used by your cooperative for operating capital, necessary reserves, storm damage, and other contingencies. Patronage capital is paid back to the members as the financial condition of the cooperative permits and the by-law provisions are met.

Patronage capital credits are returned in the same order in which they were earned; that is, the capital first paid in will be the first refunded.

Should you cease to purchase energy from the cooperative and change your present address, you should notify the cooperative of address changes so that when future payments are issued they can be forwarded to the proper address.

At New-Mac's most recent annual meeting, this past October, the cooperative returned capital credits to its members for the 17th consecutive year. Payments went to those who were New-Mac members in 1996 and 1997, and the amount was based on their usage in those years. Those not attending the meeting received their capital-credit checks in the mail.

## Energy Partners'

*Recipe of the Month:*

## PEANUT BUTTER PIE

Submitted by New-Mac member: **Sandra Austin**

½ cup peanut butter  
4 oz. cream cheese  
1 cup powdered sugar

8 oz. Cool Whip  
graham cracker pie crust

Mix peanut butter, cream cheese, powdered sugar and cool whip. Put in crust. Makes 1 pie.

Send your recipe, along with your name and account number, to: Recipes, c/o New-Mac Electric, 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.

# Textbook

Continued from page 2

At the present time electricity is used on at least 18 per cent of all farms as compared to 13 per cent in 1930. Several states have over 50 per cent of farms electrified

and 22 states have 25 per cent or more of their farms supplied with electricity.

Just look how far we've come. No longer do farmers need convinced that they need to have electricity. Now, the question is: How could we live without it?



## LEVELIZED BILLING AGREEMENT

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/St./Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Account # \_\_\_\_\_ 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



**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 February 20, your Levelized Billing will start with the bill you receive in March.**



P.O. Box 310 — 12105 East Highway 86  
 Neosho, Missouri 64850  
**Telephone:** 417/451-1515 800/322-3849  
**Fax:** 417/451-9042  
**Office Hours:** Neosho — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
 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  
 Manager of Administration..... Mary Hatfield  
 Manager of Operations..... Stan Irsik  
 Controller ..... Lisa McMeen  
 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 ..... Jason Ruddick  
 District 9 ..... Jamey Cope

**Services Provided to Members**  
 Call our consumer services department for information on the following services:

- Automated Phone Payment**
- Automated Withdrawal Payment**
- Green Power**
- Levelized Billing**
- Online Payment & Usage History**
- Rental Light**
- Meeting rooms available at both locations**
- Credit Card Acceptance**
- Safety Programs (upon request)**
- Surge Protection**

### Questions? Comments?

Contact: Mark K. Rakes  
 P.O. Box 310, Neosho, MO  
[mrakes@newmac.com](mailto:mrakes@newmac.com)

adjustment payment per 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 usage and the 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 March, the form needs to be turned in by February 20. Otherwise, your Levelized Billing will begin as soon as possible, depending on when the form is received.