

# The SOUTHEASTERN Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## President's Comments



**Dustin Tripp**  
President/CEO

For over a year now, your Cooperative has been informing members of proposed rules issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that could potentially have a significant impact on your cooperative in the future. The Cooperative provided an opportunity for members to express their comments and concerns about the proposed rules, and members responded. Approximately 10,000 Cooperative members responded by providing comments to the EPA. This was a tremendous response from the Cooperative members.

The initial proposed Clean Power Plan was released by the U.S. EPA on June 2, 2014, which was a 645 page proposed rule to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from existing power generation facilities as part of the President's Climate Action Plan. The proposed rule called for reductions to begin in 2020 and to achieve a national average reduction of 30 percent by the year 2030. The proposed rule had a specific reduction target for each state and for Illinois, the proposed rule called for a 33 percent reduction by the year 2030.

On August 3, 2015, the U.S. EPA released the final version of the Clean Power Plan, which consisted of over 1,500 pages aimed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from existing and new power generation facilities. The final rule calls for a 32 percent national average reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2030. The final rule is significantly different than the proposed rule and is much more stringent for Illinois than the proposed rule. The final rule now calls for a 44 percent reduction in Illinois green-

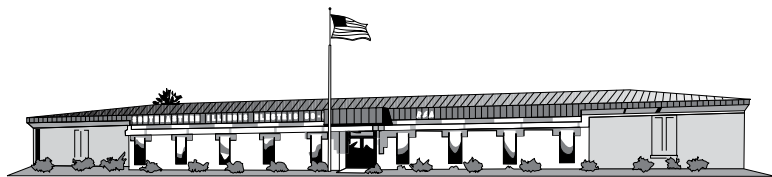
house gas emissions by the year 2030. This is a very complex rule and is one of the most aggressive and controversial regulations in our nation's history.

At the present time there are no proven, commercially-available, economical technologies available to capture and sequester carbon emissions from coal plants. Studies have indicated that even if the technology was available to reduce carbon emissions, the cost of electricity from a coal plant equipped with the technology could increase by as much as 80 percent. Therefore in order to meet this new EPA rule, the utility industry would have to close numerous coal plants across the country and rely much more heavily on natural gas. Given the historic volatility in natural gas prices and the delivery infrastructure problems encountered in the first quarter of 2014, such policies are putting the reliability and affordability of our nation's electric grid at much greater risk.

In the past, coal has proven to be the most abundant, reliable and economical fuel to generate electricity in the United States. Over the past, the industry has proven that coal can be used to produce more electricity, more efficiently, while reducing emissions. Since 1970, coal used for electricity has increased approximately 170 percent while key emissions have decreased 90 percent per unit of power produced. Advances in coal

*Continued on page 16d ▶*

**READERSHIP PRIZE WINNER:**  
Javan Parsons, Stonefort, IL



# Don't cook up a stormy electric bill for the holiday

**W**hile you're busy in the kitchen preparing your family's holiday feast, Safe Electricity wants to help keep your family safe and your energy bills low.

According to the National Fire Protection Agency, cooking equipment is the cause of approximately 40 percent of home structure fires. As you prepare to show off your cooking and baking skills this holiday season, remember the following tips to avoid shocks or fires:

- Inspect all small appliances and electric cords to make sure they are in good condition before using. Don't use appliances if cords are cracked or frayed.
- Read the operating instructions of any appliance before use.
- When purchasing new kitchen appliances, look for UL-Listed appliances with automatic shut-off features.
- Never plug more than one high-wattage appliance, such as a blow dryer, microwave or toaster oven, into a single outlet.
- Stay focused and attentive to baking, brewing, and simmering foods.
- Make sure outlets near sinks are equipped with properly tested ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI's) to prevent shocks.

Always know the location of a working fire extinguisher, and know how to operate it. Cooking is also a great area to save energy. Keep these energy efficient tips in mind while preparing your holiday meals this year:

- Think small - opt for a smaller appliance, such as a toaster

oven or microwave, whenever possible. Efficient microwave ovens use around 50% less energy than conventional ovens.

- Turn the oven or stove burners off a few minutes before your food is ready - they will remain hot enough to finish cooking the food.
- Don't preheat the oven unless you are baking or a recipe requires it.
- Bake with ceramic or glass pots and pans - this will allow you to lower the oven temperature by about 25 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Self-cleaning ovens use less energy for normal cooking because of the higher insulation levels built into them. If you own one plan to clean it right after you've finished baking something so it doesn't have to heat up a second time.
- Don't peek - opening the oven door can lower the internal temperature as much as 25 percent.
- Don't cover oven racks with foil - this reduces heat flow and increases cooking time.
- Make sure your pan covers the coil of your range - if you can see coil peeping out from the sides of your pan, you need a



bigger pan (or a smaller burner).

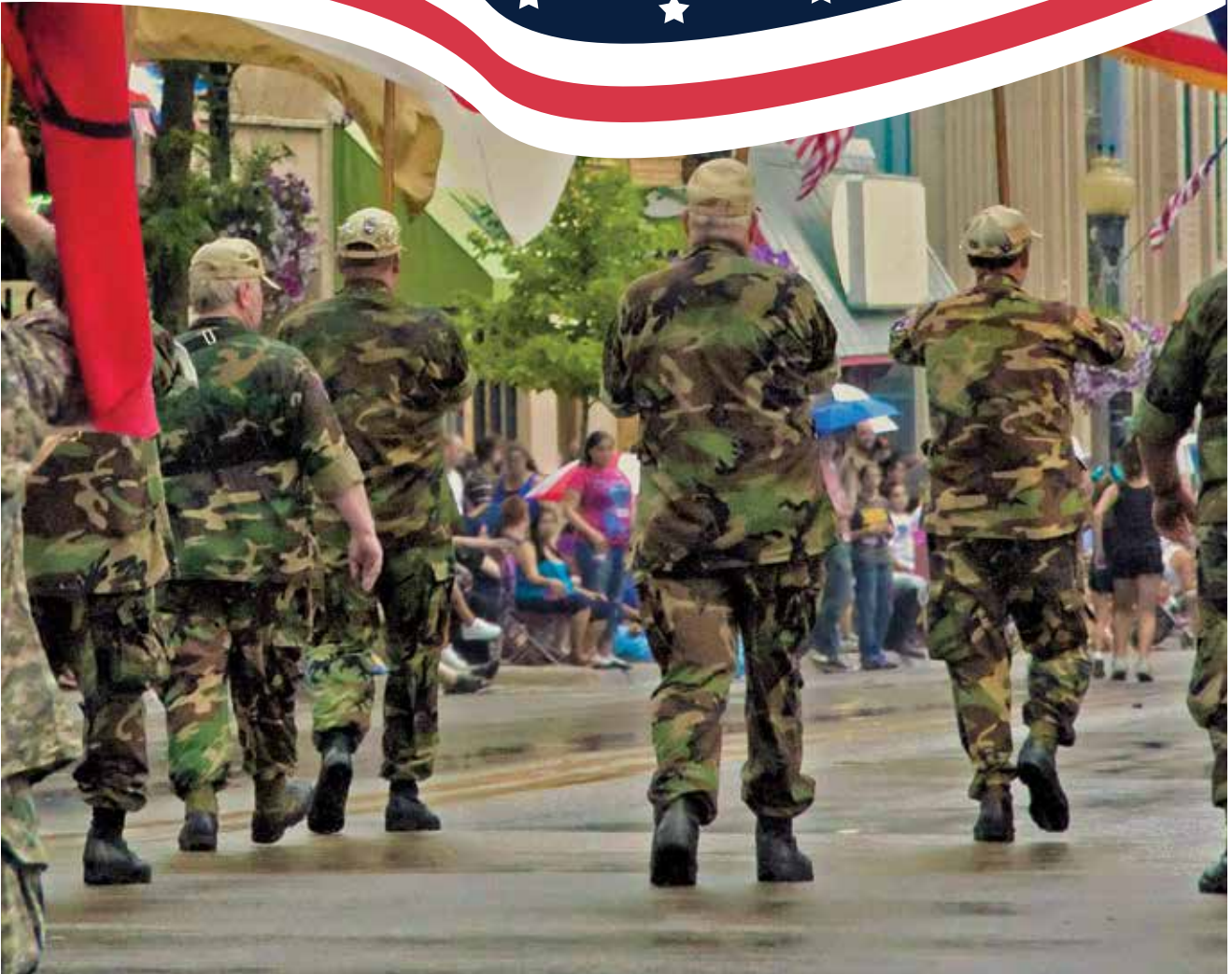
- Put a lid on it - cover pans while cooking to prevent heat loss.
- Plan ahead - defrosting food in a microwave may be convenient, but defrosting it at room temperature is free.
- In warmer months, try to use a grill to keep the heat outdoors - remember that the less energy wasted in heating food, the less work your air conditioner will have to do to keep your home cool.

These steps are easy to follow and come at no extra cost. Making a habit out of them will save you both energy in the kitchen and money on your electric bill.



Find us on  
**Facebook**

# MAKE VETERAN'S DAY ABOUT VETERANS



Droves of people stand along Main Street, their flags waving to the beat of the marching band. They impatiently crane their necks to catch the first glimpse of camouflage uniforms. Suddenly, they see them—worn, yet elated, men and women marching in formation. The sound of cheers, whistles and clapping is deafening. Their mothers, brothers, fathers, sisters and cousins are home from deployment.

This year on Veteran's Day, think about the people who have protected this country's virtue. Your freedom has been their sacrifice.

Brought to you by your local Touchstone Energy cooperative.



Touchstone Energy®  
*The power of human connections*



*Continued from page 16a*

technologies deployed at the Marion plant, and new plants installed with state-of-the-art technologies like Prairie State Generation Campus, continue to improve efficiencies and reduce emissions.

Your Cooperative's power supplier has made significant investments in coal-fired generation and in emission control equipment to utilize coal in an environmentally-responsible way. Your Cooperative's power supplier utilizes a diversified portfolio of electricity generation including coal, natural gas, hydro and wind power. Your Cooperative has long promoted a variety of energy efficiency measures to benefit Cooperative members. However, the vast majority of your Cooperative's

power production (like that in many other Midwestern states) remains coal-fired.

Your Cooperative remains concerned about the rule and how it will impact the cost and reliability of electricity for this nation, especially due to the premature generation plant closures and the stranded costs associated with those facilities. Over the next few years, the State of Illinois will be developing a plan in order to meet the new federal rule. I will update you in the near future regarding the status of the plan that is being developed by Illinois.

See you next month and as always, "We'll keep the lights on for you."

The cooperative will be closed on Wednesday, November 11 in honor of Veterans Day and on Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

# POWER OUTAGE

## If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions

1. Check the fuses or circuit breakers in your service panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the "ON" position.
2. If you have a meter pole, check the main breaker panel just below the meter socket. If the breaker is in the "OFF" position, check all of your wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears to be okay, reset the breaker to the "ON" position.
3. If you still do not have power, check with neighbors to see if they have power.
4. To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 1-877-399-8405. This phone number is monitored around the clock, 365 days per year to accept your outage and emergency calls.
5. Your phone call will be handled by SouthEastern's automated outage reporting system and will be identified automatically through ANI (Automatic Number Identification). An outage record will then be generated

for your location. Please note that the phone number from which you place the call will be the number used to generate the record. If the system fails to recognize your phone number, members having touch-tone phones may simply enter their seven-digit phone number (without area code) in order to report the outage. Members not having touch-tone phones will be asked to leave a message. It is important you leave your name, phone number and location of the outage. Retrieving messages and entering them into the system is time consuming; therefore, please leave only a message that will help in restoration of electric service. Do not remain on the line for an operator because a live operator is not there to respond. In order to keep a current listing of all numbers, it is important that you notify the Cooperative of any changes in your telephone number.

6. Handling outage calls electronically allows you to report power failures very quickly. Once your outage has been reported, it will be dispatched to repair personnel who will restore your outage as soon as possible. Calling back repeatedly will not shorten the length of the outage, but may hinder the efforts of other members who are trying to report outages.

**OUTAGE CALLS ONLY 1-877-399-8405**

### SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc.

585 Highway 142 South • P.O. Box 251 • Eldorado, Illinois 62930  
618-273-2611 or 800-833-2611 • Office hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. M-F