

# The SOUTHEASTERN

# Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## President's Comments



**Dustin Tripp**  
President/CEO

On January 8, 2014 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published proposed rules on carbon emissions in the Federal Register that would, as a practical matter, eliminate coal as a fuel source for new power plants. More importantly, these rules on new power plants trigger a legal requirement under the Clean Air Act to set new standards for existing power plants which will have a direct economic impact on cooperatives and their members. These rules could result in substantially higher generation costs which will lead to significantly higher energy bills.

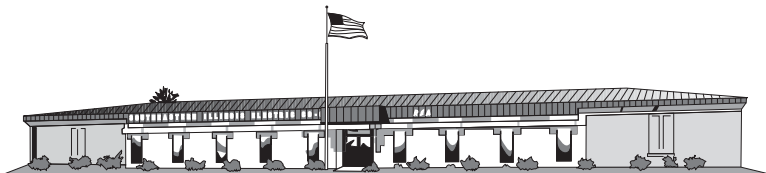
The proposed rule would require any new coal-fired generating facility to implement a technology known as carbon capture and storage (CCS). Unfortunately, this technology is not proven on a utility scale plant and is certainly not cost effective. Numerous studies reveal that the cost of the CCS technology will be prohibitive. Cost estimates vary widely depending upon the type of power plant, the stage of carbon capture, the type of transport system and storage type. Given these variables, studies have revealed that the implementation of CCS technology would increase the cost of energy from a coal-fired power plant in the range of 60 to 85%. In addition, the additional equipment required to perform the CCS technology would decrease the plants efficiency by as much as 20 to 40%. The EPA did not follow the historical standard that requires a technology to be cost-effective which will certainly lead to a court challenge that may take years to complete.

Given the proposed standards by the EPA, it certainly appears they are trying to remove coal as a fuel source for generating electricity. Removing coal as a fuel source for generating electricity will be detrimental to our economy and specifically, the economy in Southern Illinois. In addition, removing coal as a fuel source for future plants will lead to an over reliance on natural gas as a fuel source and at some time in the near future, even higher electricity prices due to higher natural gas prices.

The proposed rules currently apply to future coal and natural gas generation facilities. However, the U.S. EPA is also scheduled to release proposed carbon pollution standards for existing coal and natural gas generation facilities in June 2014 which could impact over 65% of our nation's current energy supply and increase the cost of generating electricity.

The EPA is currently receiving public comments and I urge you to let the EPA know that you support a reasonable energy policy and urge them to pursue fair, affordable and achievable solutions to keep electricity affordable. Please visit the Cooperative Action Network site at [www.action.coop](http://www.action.coop) to share your comments and learn more about the EPA's proposal. We have also included a link to this website on the front page of the SEIEC website at [www.seiec.com](http://www.seiec.com). It only takes a few minutes to let your voice be heard. Thank you for helping in our efforts to keep your electricity affordable.

READERSHIP PRIZE WINNER:  
Dave Valentine, Harrisburg, IL



Illinois Country Living • March 2014 • 16a

# When to pull the plug

By Luann Dart

**S**aying goodbye to an old friend can be daunting. But pulling the plug on an outdated refrigerator or dishwasher might save you money; new appliances are often considerably more energy-efficient.

A new refrigerator consumes 75 percent less energy than a 1970s model. Replace a vintage clothes washer and save \$60 on utility bills and nearly 5,000 gallons of water a year, according to the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers. Not every new appliance is a good bet; always look for the ENERGY STAR label. It signals energy-efficient models.

Ready to save? Walk through your home to find opportunities to pull the plug!

## Cleaning Kitchen, Laundry Costs

In the laundry room, a full-sized ENERGY STAR-certified clothes washer uses 15 gallons of water per load, compared to the 23 gallons used by a standard machine. During the machine's lifetime, this saves 27,000 gallons of water.

Replace your kitchen's classic refrigerator with an ENERGY STAR-certified model to save between \$200 and \$1,100 in lifetime energy costs. Today's average refrigerator uses less energy than a continually lit 60-watt light bulb. Resist the urge to move the old refrigerator to the basement or the garage. Instead, say goodbye and recycle the energy-guzzler.

Was your dishwasher built before 1994? If so, you're paying an extra \$40 a year on your utility bills compared to neighbors with an ENERGY STAR-qualified model.

## Screen Savings

Televisions might be a little more baffling. As screen sizes increase, energy consumption may also rise. You can still be a savvy shopper.

ENERGY STAR-certified TVs are about 25 percent more efficient than conventional models. LED screens use 20 percent less energy than LCD TVs.

Once you purchase a TV, calibrate it by adjusting the contrast and brightness to a moderate level. By default, new televisions are set to dynamic, high-contrast settings. This consumes more power than standard, lower-contrast settings.

## Smart Settings

Attached to old appliances? You can still save with smart settings. For example, heating water creates the greatest expense when washing dishes or clothes. Set your water heater at 120 degrees and be sure your clothes washer or dishwasher is full whenever used.

Here are a few other ways to save without buying new appliances:

- **NOT TOO COOL FOOD:** In the kitchen, don't keep your refrigerator or freezer too cold. Recommended temperatures are 37 to 40 degrees for the fresh food compartment and 5 degrees for the freezer section.
- **TOAST, DON'T ROAST:** Use toaster ovens or microwave ovens for small meals rather than your large stovetop or oven.
- **AIR DRY DISHES:** Use the dishwasher's "eco" option or use a no-heat air dry feature.



Scrape food pieces off the plates, rather than rinsing them.

- **COLD CLOTHES:** In the laundry room, wash your clothes in cold water using cold-water detergents whenever possible. Adjust load settings for smaller loads.
- **LOSE LINT:** Clean the lint screen in the dryer after every use to improve the dryer's efficiency.

Find out how little changes add up to big savings at [www.TogetherWeSave.com](http://www.TogetherWeSave.com).

Sources: Energy Star, Consumer Electronics Association, Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers, U.S. Department of Energy, Natural Resources Defense Council



## South Eastern Illinois Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



**S**outh Eastern Illinois Electric Cooperative has partnered with Air Evac Lifeteam to allow our residential customers the opportunity to join the Air Evac Lifeteam Membership program through an affordable billing plan. You have the option to choose the convenience of paying a monthly fee or an annual fee. Each plan is offered at a discounted rate through your Cooperative. Your options are as follows:



### OPTION 1:

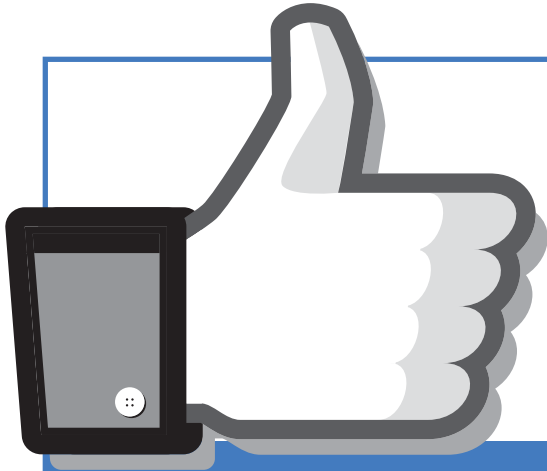
The monthly fee is \$5.00 per month per household with a discount of \$0.50 per month per household from SEIEC. Should you choose the monthly plan your electric bill will reflect an additional \$4.50 per month per household.

### OPTION 2:

The annual fees include a \$10.00 discount through the Cooperative program; however unlike the monthly option these fees will vary with the number of individuals living in your household and will not be reflected on your electric bill. The annual fees are as follows:

\$55.00 per household for a 1 year membership

**Join Air-Evac Lifeteam through your Cooperative today  
and choose which option best suits your needs.**



Find us on  
**Facebook**

**Like us on Facebook!**

## **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