


The SOUTHEASTERN Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

President's Comments



Dustin Tripp
President/CEO

EPA

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. Your Cooperative also provided members with an opportunity to express their comments and concerns about the proposed rules and approximately 10,000 members responded. In this article, I would like to provide a brief history of the new rules and update members regarding the status of litigation surrounding these new rules.

On August 3rd, 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% 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 calls for a 44% reduction in Illinois greenhouse 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.

As soon as the rule was published in the Federal Register, it became the most litigated environmental regulation ever and it will likely conclude with a decision in the Supreme Court. Twenty-seven states and numerous industry groups filed cases against

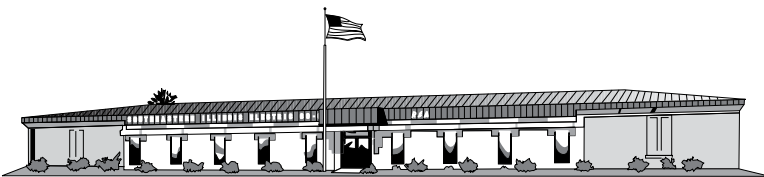
the new rules. These lawsuits have been consolidated and will be heard by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

On January 21, 2016, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals denied petitions to stay the rules during the course of this litigation. This stay in the rules would have halted the implementation of the rules until the legality of the new rules had been determined by the courts. The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals will hear the case on an expedited basis with oral arguments beginning in June of this year. Many believe the ultimate decision will not be made by the court until sometime early next year.

In the meantime, the states that have filed the lawsuits attempted a very rare legal process and have asked Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts to issue a stay (freeze) in the new rules during the litigation process of the U.S. Court of Appeals. I am pleased to announce that on February 9, 2016 the U.S. Supreme Court granted the motion to stay the Clean Power Plan while it is being challenged in court. This appears to be an unprecedented move by the U.S. Supreme Court to issue a stay while the case is being heard by the federal appeals court and many believe this is an early sign that the rule may be met with a skeptical reception by the U.S. Supreme Court Justices.

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READERSHIP PRIZE WINNER:
Don Turner, Golconda, IL



How to clean refrigerator coils

... and why it matters!

Your refrigerator is one of the largest, most-used appliances in your home. It requires only minimal maintenance – just simple cleaning of the condenser coils, which disperse heat. If the coils are covered with dust, gunk or pet hair, they cannot diffuse the heat properly and will not run efficiently. A bigger problem can result if the compressor burns out from having to run constantly because of the grimy coating. This can be an expensive problem. The bottom line? A minor investment in time once a year can save you cold cash down the line.

1. Locate the refrigerator's coil, a grid-like structure, or fan that will likely have a covering or grate protecting it. The coil is usually concealed behind the front toe kick or in the back. Some newer models have internal coils, so if you don't find them in the front or back, this may be the case with your fridge.

2. If the coil is in the back, slide the refrigerator away from the wall, removing the plug from the electrical outlet when possible. You may also need to disconnect the line to the water dispenser or icemaker to allow enough room to work.



3. Gently vacuum and clean the coil. Using the brush or crevice attachment, carefully vacuum the dust and dirt wherever you see it. If you have pulled the fridge out, vacuum and wipe down the sides and back of the fridge and the floor.

4. Once the floor is dry, plug in the refrigerator and rearrange the power cord and supply lines so they don't get a kink or stuck under the weight of the refrigerator. Slide the refrigerator back into place. Be sure to replace the toe kick panel if this was removed.

Office closing

The office will be closed on
Friday, March 25 for Good Friday.



Knowing what to do saved their lives

When teenagers Lee Whittaker and Ashley Taylor saw a power line safety demonstration at their high school, they never dreamed what they had learned that day would be put to test. Only days later, Whittaker and Taylor, along with two classmates, were in a car that crashed into a utility pole, bringing live power lines to the ground.

“When people are involved in a car accident, electricity is usually the last thing on their minds,” explains Molly Hall, executive director of the Energy Education Council’s Safe Electricity program. “We’re usually more concerned about whether anyone was injured or how badly the vehicle is damaged. We can forget that by exiting the vehicle, we’re risking exposure to thousands of volts of electricity from downed power lines.”

If you are in an accident with a utility pole, your vehicle may be charged with electricity. If this is the case and you step out of the car, you will become the electricity’s path to

the ground and could be electrocuted. Loose wires and other equipment may be in contact with your car or near it—creating a risk for electrocution if you leave the vehicle.

While downed lines can sometimes reveal they are live by arcing and sparking with electricity, this is not always the case. Power lines do not always show signs that they are live, but they are just as lethal.

After an accident, stay in the car, and tell others to do the same. If you come upon an accident involving power lines, do not approach the accident scene. If you see someone approaching, warn them to stay away. Call 911 to notify emergency personnel and utility services. Do not leave your vehicle until a utility professional has told you it is safe to do so.

The safest place to be is almost always inside the car. The only circumstance when you should exit the vehicle is if it is on fire—and those instances are rare. If you must exit the vehicle, jump clear of it with your feet together and without

touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Continue to “bunny hop” with your feet together to safety. Doing this will ensure that you are at only one point of contact and will not have different strengths of electric current running from one foot to another, which can be deadly.

Whittaker, Taylor and their friends survived their accident because they had learned what to do. While they waited more than 30 minutes for line crews to arrive and deactivate the power line, Whittaker and Taylor made sure nobody left the car and warned those who came upon the accident to stay far away.

“Knowledge was crucial in keeping everyone involved in the accident safe,” Hall says. “We want to make sure that everyone knows what to do if they’re in accidents with power poles.”

For more information and to see Lee and Ashley’s story, visit [SafeElectricity.org](#).



Ashley Taylor and Lee Whittaker, along with two classmates, survived a vehicle collision with an electric utility pole. The students had recently seen a safety demonstration on what to do in this type of situation, which ultimately saved their lives.

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Once the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals makes a decision on the new rules, regardless of the decision made, it is pretty certain that the decision will be appealed to the Supreme Court for a decision. It is likely that we will not know the ultimate decision regarding the legality of the new rules for a few years as it makes its way thru the legal process.

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 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.

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

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