

The SOUTHEASTERN Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

President's Comments



Dustin Tripp
President/CEO

Over the past few months, your Cooperative has been informing members of new, proposed rules issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that could potentially have a significant impact on your cooperative and on cooperative members' electric bills. Your Cooperative has provided an opportunity for members to express their comments and concerns about the proposed rules and members have responded. At the time of writing this article, over 6,000 Cooperative members have responded by providing comments to the EPA. The deadline to send comments to the EPA about these proposed rules is October 16, 2014. I am writing this article again to inform members about the proposed rules and to ask members who haven't provided comments to the EPA yet to visit www.action.coop to submit their comments before the October 16th deadline.

On June 2nd, 2014, the EPA released a 645 page proposed rule to reduce carbon emissions from existing power generation facilities as part of the President's Climate Action Plan. The proposed rule calls for reductions to begin in 2020 and to achieve a national average reduction of 30% by the year 2030. The proposed rule has a specific reduction target for each state and for Illinois, the rule calls for a 33% reduction by the year 2030.

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

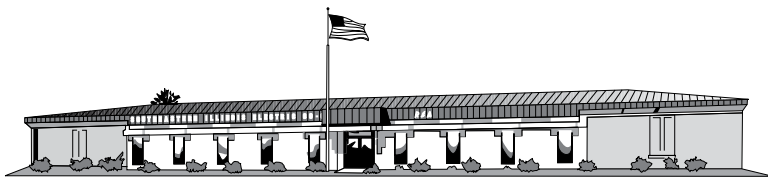
was available to reduce carbon emissions, the cost of electricity from a coal plant equipped with the technology could increase by as much as 80%. Therefore in order to meet this new EPA rule, the utility industry would have to close numerous coal plants across the country and rely much more heavily 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 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

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READERSHIP PRIZE WINNER:
Lanelle Cannon, Harrisburg, IL



Draft dodgers: Weather stripping your home

By Amber Bentley

There is no doubt about it; the cold weather is on its way. Not only is it important to make sure that your heating unit is working properly, but you should check your home to make sure that none of that heat is escaping.

When the weather turns colder, drafts around windows and doors are constantly letting in cool air. Most people will immediately want to raise their thermostat even higher; however, that will cause you to use more energy when you don't necessarily need to. The best solution is to weather strip your home. This is typically an easy fix that will eliminate energy waste and help you save on your monthly electric bill.

Sometimes drafts are obvious, and other times the openings are much smaller. Here are two quick ways to find out if heat is escaping from your home. For doors, look for daylight between the door and its frame, if you see even a hint of light in between the two, you need to weather strip

that area. For windows, place a piece of paper between the sash and the seal then close it. If you can remove the piece of paper from the window without ripping it, you need to weather strip that area as well.

The great thing about all of this is that weather stripping is easy! There is an assortment of materials available to you (like rubber, foam, metal, etc.) and they are all inexpensive. Once you have purchased what you need, keep the following in mind before you begin weather stripping: be sure the surface is dry and clean, measure the area more than once for best accuracy, and apply so that strips compress both sides of the window or door.

To weather strip windows:

- Place the stripping between the frame and the sash.
- Be sure that it compresses the window when shut.
- Check to make sure that the

stripping does not interfere with the moving of the window.

To weather strip doors:

- Choose the proper sweeps and thresholds for your door.
- Weather-strip the entire door jamb.
- Make sure the stripping meets tightly at both corners.
- Use a thickness that allows for a tight press between the door and the ground, but one that does not make the door difficult to shut.

Roughly half of the energy that your home uses comes from heating and cooling. So the next time you feel an uncomfortable draft in your home, do not immediately crank up the heat. Check to find out where the draft is coming from and properly weather strip the area. This will ultimately save you more energy and more money in the end.

WHAT WILL I NEED TO WEATHER STRIP DOORS AND WINDOWS?

There are a variety of materials available to weather strip your home. Here are a few options to help you choose:

**Apply weather stripping around the door frame and stop. At the bottom of a door, install a door sweep, door shoe or threshold; or apply reinforced-foam weather stripping. Apply weather stripping at the top and bottom of window sash.*

FELT

Reinforced with a flexible metal strip.

Should be stapled, glued or tacked into place.

Cost: Low

Advantages: Easy to install and inexpensive.

Disadvantages: Low durability. Do not use where exposed to a great deal of moisture. All-wool felt is more durable but very visible.

ROLLED OR REINFORCED VINYL

Pliable or rigid strip gasket (attached to wood or metal strips).

Cost: Low to moderate.

Advantages: Easy installation, various colors to help with visibility and some types of rigid strip gaskets provide slot holes for height adjustment.

Disadvantages: Very visible.

REINFORCED FOAM

Closed-cell foam attached to wood or metal strips.

Cost: Moderately low

Advantages: Effective sealer, rigid, proven to work well.

Disadvantages: Very visible.



Source: Department of Energy

*For more weather stripping options, visit <http://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/weatherstripping>




Watch for overhead power lines

Each fall the harvest paints an idyllic landscape, but that can quickly turn dark in the blink of an eye. Each year, 62 farmers in the U.S. lose their lives to electrocution as a result of power line contacts. That's why you need to be especially careful when operating farm machinery near power lines.



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TOGETHER WE SAVE

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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.

The U.S. EPA is required to accept public comments on its June 2nd proposed rule. The deadline to send comments to the EPA is October 16, 2014. I respectfully ask that you consider relaying to EPA your support for a "common sense" energy strategy, and not an "all but coal" strategy. Please visit www.action.coop to add your name in support, and to learn more about the new EPA proposed rule – it only takes a minute. If you previously went to the site to send a comment on the "new power plant" rule, I encourage you to consider visiting it again now to register your comments on the recent, and even more important, "existing power plant" proposed rule.

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

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

Did you know October is National Co-op Month? We're proud to be part of a 47,000-business strong cooperative network sharing a common goal: serving our members in the best way possible.

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

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