


# The SOUTHEASTERN Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative Eldorado, Illinois

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## President's Comments



**Dustin Tripp**  
President/CEO

Over the past several years, your Cooperative has been informing you of pending legislation and new environmental regulations that if enacted would impact the cost of generating electricity. The most recent development occurred in September with a new proposed regulation by the U.S. EPA.

On September 20, 2013, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced proposed carbon pollution standards for coal and natural gas power plants built in the future. In addition, the EPA announced that it is in the process of engaging with states, stakeholders, and the public to establish carbon pollution standards for currently operating power plants.

The proposed standard would require any new coal-fired generating facility to implement a technology known as carbon capture and storage (CCS). This technology would require capturing the carbon formed during

the generation process, compress it into a liquid form, and transport it via pipeline to a site suitable for injecting it underground permanently without leakage.

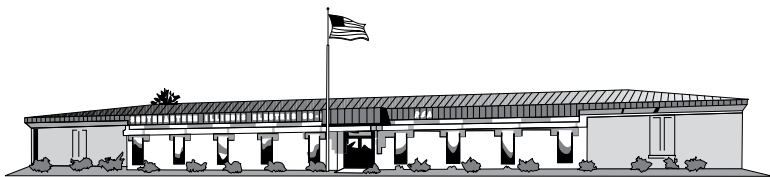
Given this new proposed standard, one would think that CCS technology is commercially proven and available for deployment in new coal-fired generation facilities on a cost-effective basis. Unfortunately, that is not the case. There are a few commercial size generation plants that are under construction and scheduled to become operational in the next few years that will attempt to utilize CCS technology. However, numerous studies reveal that the cost of the

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### READERSHIP PRIZE WINNER:

James Russell,  
Creal Springs, IL

**Our office will be closed on Monday, November 11 in observance of Veterans Day and Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29 for the Thanksgiving holiday.**



# Cooking Efficiently

## Control energy costs while preparing holiday feasts

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that cooking alone accounts for 4 percent of total home energy use, and this figure doesn't include the energy costs associated with refrigeration, hot water heating, and dishwashing.

As holiday parties and potlucks gear up, keep these tips in mind to control energy costs:

- **Don't peek.** Every time the oven door is opened, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees, forcing it to use more energy to get back to the proper cooking temperature.
- **Turn it down or turn it off.** For regular cooking, it's probably not necessary to have your oven on as long—or set as high—as the recipe calls for. For recipes that need to bake for longer than an hour, pre-heating the oven isn't necessary. And residual heat on an electric oven or stovetop will finish the last 5 to 10 minutes of baking time. Just remember to keep the oven door closed or the lid on until time is up. Alternately, if you're baking in a ceramic or glass dish, you can typically set your oven for 25 degrees less than the recipe calls for. Because ceramic and glass hold heat better than metal pans,

your dish will cook just as well at a lower temperature.

- **Give your burners a break.** For your stovetop to function effectively, it's important that the metal reflectors under your electric stove burners stay free of dirt and grime.
- **Don't neglect your slow-cooker.** Or your microwave, toaster oven, or warming plate. For example, the average toaster oven can use up to half the energy of the average electric stove over the same cooking time. Information to help you estimate how much energy your own appliances use is available on [EnergySavers.gov](http://EnergySavers.gov).
- **Give your furnace the day off.** If your next party involves

a lot of work for your stove, think about turning down your furnace to compensate. The heat of the oven and all those guests will keep the temperature comfortable.

- **Make contact.** Electric stovetops can only transmit heat to pans they are in direct contact with; the less contact your pan has with the burner, the more energy the stovetop will have to expend to heat the pan. If cooking with your warped pan is taking longer than it should, it may be time for a flat-bottomed update.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy





## It's Their Day – Honor Them


Veterans Day is November 11. It's a day when ALL American veterans, both living and deceased, are to be thanked. We need to make certain that veterans know that America deeply appreciates the sacrifices they have made to keep our country free and honor them with the respect they deserve.

To all men and women who have bravely served their country,

*Thank you and God Bless.*



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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 CCS would decrease the plants efficiency by as much as 20 to 40%.

Like any other new technology, the cost of CCS could come down with several years of continued research, development and implementation. However, electric utilities are unlikely to make a decision to invest in a new plant with this new technology given the increased costs and reduction in efficiencies, especially given the current market price of alternative fuels such as natural gas. This leaves the need for a significant amount of public sector investment to make CCS technology a cost-effective reality. 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.

This proposed standard currently applies 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.

Given the proposed standards by the EPA, it certainly appears they are trying to remove coal as a fuel source for generating electricity. This will lead to an over reliance on natural gas as a fuel source and at some time in the near future, potentially higher electricity prices due to higher natural gas prices. If you are concerned about these proposed standards as they are currently written, you can visit [www.action.coop](http://www.action.coop) and send an email message to the EPA and urge them to pursue fair, affordable and achievable technological solutions.

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

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