

Energy Partners

A monthly look at the happenings of and related to:



New-Mac Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner The power of human connections

EPA ignores pleas from cooperative members saying “don’t raise our rates”

Final rules more than 75% higher than what was proposed

Now that the Environmental Protection Agency has released its final rules regulating greenhouse gas emissions from new, existing, modified and reconstructed power plants, electric cooperatives have the task of sorting through the 1,560 pages to gauge the impact of the plan on members. What’s clear is that the EPA ignored the hundreds of thousands of comments sent to them by electric cooperative members in Missouri, all saying “don’t raise our rates.”

The rules are expected to hit Missouri’s electric cooperative members especially hard because 80 percent of the electricity used by them comes from coal, the generation fuel source singled out by the new regulations. And that is troubling to electric co-op leaders because they serve some of the poorest counties in the state.

“There is a lot at stake with these final rules,” says Barry Hart, CEO of the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives. “Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit and member owned. We are focused on the affordability and reliability of electricity

because that is what our members have told us to do. We have a responsibility to ensure their voices are heard. That is why 315,000 members sent comments to the EPA. It’s clear the EPA ignored those comments. In

much worse for Missouri than the draft rule was. Coal generation has been a significant factor in providing our members with reliable electricity at low rates. Unfortunately, these regulations will significantly impact that.”

He added that the rules penalize electric cooperatives for taking early action to reduce emissions by investing in 600 megawatts of renewable energy from wind farms prior to 2013. And it doesn’t take into consideration the millions of dollars in energy efficiency measures already provided to members to reduce demand for electricity.

Under the proposed regulations released in 2014, Missouri had to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide from power plants by 21 percent. The new rules increased those levels to 37 percent. Missouri was one of 22 states that now have to meet more stringent reductions than were proposed.

The rules also are expected to cost jobs,

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YOUR HELP IS NEEDED
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fact, the final rules make it far more likely electric rates will dramatically increase.”

Added Jim Jura, CEO of Associated Electric Cooperative, which supplies wholesale power to electric co-ops in Missouri (including New-Mac Electric) and parts of Iowa and Oklahoma: “The final rule is

NEW-MAC ELECTRIC’S 2015 ANNUAL MEETING

• 10 a.m., Sat., Oct. 31 @ Crowder College Gymnasium • Registration 8-10:15 a.m.

It’s New-Mac Annual Meeting time again, and we are excited about all we have planned this year.

We will have gift drawings for all ages, and babysitting is provided.

The meeting also features a free luncheon. Please help us in planning the food. If you are planning on attending, please clip and fill out this form, and mail it to P.O. Box



310, Neosho MO 64850. You may also return it with your bill payment.

We will place our meal order based on the number of forms we receive.

See you all at the meeting!

Mitch McCumber, CEO/General Manager

Yes, I/we are planning to attend the 2015 Annual Meeting.

There will be _____ family members attending.

Please circle one: For lunch, I/we would prefer: **Pork** or **Beef**



Please detach and send in or return with your bill payment.

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Energy Partners is a monthly publication of New-Mac Electric for the purpose of informing members of the programs, services and happenings of, and related to, the cooperative.

Moving advice

When moving out of the New-Mac Electric service area, please don't forget to leave a forwarding address. You could be leaving capital credits behind.

Please call before you dig

Digging in areas where there may be an underground electric line can be dangerous! So, before any project that requires digging, call the Missouri One Call System at 800-DIG-RITE, or you can dial 811. Please call three working days in advance.

Those who fail to make this call not only face the chance of electric shock – or even electrocution; they also will be held responsible for any repairs that may be necessary if a line is accidentally cut or damaged.

Help yourself to 'Rural Missouri'

Copies of the latest *Rural Missouri* magazine are always available, free of charge, at either New-Mac office.

Pay bill, view usage online

Remember, not only can you pay your bill online, you can also look at usage trends, compare bills from various billing periods, set up reminder texts or emails, and much more. Visit newmac.com and click on the "smart hub" link.

Online
Bill Payment
& Usage Info



○ EPA

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especially in rural areas. National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) CEO Jo Ann Emerson made the following statement about the rules: "Any increase in the cost of electricity most dramatically impacts those who can least afford it, and the fallout from the EPA's rule will cascade across the nation for years to come.

"While we appreciate the efforts intended to help offset the financial burden of rising electricity prices and jobs lost due to prematurely shuttered power plants, the final rule still appears to reflect the fundamental flaws of the original proposal. It exceeds the EPA's legal authority under the Clean Air Act, and it will raise electricity rates for our country's most vulnerable populations while challenging the reliability of the grid.

"We will continue reviewing this extremely complex rule and have additional comments on behalf of America's not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives in the coming days."

NRECA recently commissioned a study that underscores the devastating relationship between higher electricity prices and job losses. The study, *Affordable Electricity: Rural America's Economic Lifeline*, measures the impact of a 10- and

A CALL TO ACTION

New-Mac and the rest of the Missouri Electric Cooperatives are asking for your help in urging the Governor, Attorney General and our legislators to stand against the EPA.

Our elected officials need to fight against these final rules, which could devastate Missouri by raising electric rates, forcing job loss and damaging our economy. They are our last line of defense.

You can make your voice heard by either of the following ways:

- 1.** Go to www.mocoopnation.org or newmac.com and click the "Co-op Nation" link (below). Then click "Take Action" on the "Stand against the Clean Power Plan" banner. Then enter your information and click "Register".



OR ...

- 2.** Visit either New-Mac Electric office and sign the "Petition to Activate Missouri Officials".

25-percent electricity price increase on jobs and gross domestic product (GDP) from 2020 to 2040.

Even a 10 percent increase in electricity prices results in 1.2 million jobs lost in 2021 across the country with nearly 500,000 of those lost jobs in rural communities. And 20 years later, the

economy fails to fully recover.

You can read the entire study here: <http://www.nreca.coop/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Affordable-Electricity-Rural-Americas-Economic-Lifeline.pdf>.

For more information and an interactive map, visit <http://www.nreca.coop/111d>.

Missouri's burden recognized on national level

By Kirk Johnson

Senior Vice President, Government Relations, NRECA

On Monday, August 3, the Environmental Protection Agency finalized its rules regulating greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, dubbed the "Clean Power Plan" and they really put it to Missouri!

The rules are designed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants by 32% below 2005 levels. But this rule is so complex and so far reaching, it might as well be called the "National Energy Policy Regulation of 2015" because it will have far-reaching consequences for how we generate, distribute, and use electricity in this country for decades to come.

The final plan has much more stringent requirements for the state of Missouri. EPA modified the

plan significantly between the proposed rule from over a year ago and the final rule issued in August. Some states saw their requirements get tougher, while others saw EPA loosen up. Unfortunately, Missouri saw a significantly tougher final rule that we'll have to implement unless the Courts overturn the rule – and it will take several years for the courts to rule on this plan.

Over the past two years, co-ops from across the country have been working hard to ask EPA to go back to the drawing board and develop a plan that is more achievable and affordable. We submitted more than 1.2 million comments to the EPA over these rules. That's nearly 30% of all the comments EPA received from all interested groups. And Missouri helped lead the nation in asking EPA to take a step back ... but despite that effort the EPA "put

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the pedal to the metal” as far as Missouri goes and told the state it will have to do a LOT more than originally thought.

We asked co-op members to submit comments because the EPA’s rule will raise the price of electricity and potentially endanger the reliable power that the electric cooperatives of Missouri work hard to provide every day.

And it turns out our concerns were well-founded.

Despite claims from the EPA, this rule will undoubtedly increase monthly electric bills. It’s not yet clear by how much, but the previous proposal had a national average increase of 10 percent in 2025, with some states seeing higher increases and other states seeing lower increases. (And that’s 10 percent over any inflation-adjusted, otherwise normal projections.)

Part of the cost increases come from prematurely shutting down power plants that are in good working condition. Like any business, co-ops plan a particular life-span for these assets and spread out the costs over those decades to keep electricity affordable for members. If we’re forced to shut down those plants early, then we not only lose that source of affordable power, but also will have to purchase replacement power from the marketplace with less price-point predictability. And consumers wind up paying twice. That’s just not fair, especially since the Clean Air Act says EPA is supposed to consider the “remaining useful life” of a power plant when setting standards.

The possibility of closing power plants also raises concerns about reliability. These are connected points on which elec-

tric grid operators rely for power. Without these assets, it will increase stress on the grid – especially during extreme weather events.

EPA expects co-ops and other utilities to make up the lost power with additional renewable resources, natural gas, and energy efficiency. Each of which are very good components of an overall energy mix, and each of which co-ops across the country have been developing. But each of which also have their disadvantages. Co-ops make it a priority to balance all of our energy sources, along with helping consumers save money by conserving energy where possible. But the final rule will put us into a rush to more renewable resources and natural gas without some of the time needed to build new infrastructure (like natural gas pipelines and more electric transmission lines) to make those resources more realistic for states like Missouri.

The EPA is in uncharted waters with this incredibly complex scheme and it’s difficult to predict how the timeline will play out. Each state covered by the rules will have a couple of years to submit a plan to the EPA demonstrating how the state will comply with the EPA mandate. The Missouri plan will have a big impact on what electric cooperatives, along with the other utilities in Missouri, will have to do and how much it will cost.

But rest assured: While that work is going on, NRECA will continue to stand up for co-ops and their members in Washington, DC. We’re pursuing legislative options. We’re pursuing legal options. We’re doing all that we can so that policymakers in Washington understand that their decisions have real-world effects on main streets all across the country.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE NEW-MAC ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

The Nominating Committee, elected at the Annual Meeting held October 25, 2014, did on August 19, 2015, meet at this office of the Cooperative, Highway 86, Neosho, Missouri, pursuant to Section 3, Article III of the by-laws of the Cooperative, to nominate a slate of candidates to be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Membership of the Cooperative, October 31, 2015, and did at such meeting nominate the following persons for Director of the Cooperative.

District #4

Southwest Section Kyle Bridges
 Newton County
 For three (3) year term Beryl Kennedy

District #5

Southeast Section David Baker
 Newton County
 For three (3) year term Billy P. White

District #8

Southwest Section Larry Manning
 McDonald County
 For one (1) year term Jason Ruddick
 (Unexpired)

District #9

Southeast Section Harold Brazeal
 McDonald County
 For three (3) year term Jamey Cope

Published in accordance with Section 3, Article III, of the by-laws of the New-Mac Electric Cooperative, Inc., Neosho, Missouri.

Signed Jacob Cotton
 Donald D. Crabtree
 Lawrence Ray Coirer
 Bill Linton
 George Kirk

Meter tamperers risk their lives to steal from YOU!

Help yourself and the cooperative by reporting suspicious activity

Nothing good can come from tampering with your electric meter.

First, the likelihood of getting away with altering or bypassing a meter’s recording of energy use is becoming increasingly slim, if not impossible.

Secondly, it is illegal. In Missouri, meter tampering is a Class A misdemeanor, and repeat offenders face a Class D felony charge. New-Mac treats every tampering incident as a serious matter. Not only are those who tamper breaking the law, they’re also stealing

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Energy Partners’
Recipe of the Month:

**CAKE RECIPE
 SECRET**

Submitted by New-Mac member: **Sheila Hastings**

Do you want your cake to taste like it came from a bakery?

- 1) Read cake recipe directions.
- 2) Add 1 more egg than recipe calls for (or even 2 for a richer cake).
- 3) Replace the oil with melted butter & double the amount.
- 4) Replace the water with milk (equal amounts).
- 5) Mix & bake according to the directions.

Send your recipe, along with your name and account number, to: Recipes, c/o New-Mac Electric, P.O. Box 310, Neosho, MO 64850; or recipes@newmac.com. If your recipe is selected, New-Mac will apply a \$15 credit to your bill.

Meter tampering

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energy from their fellow electric cooperative members.

Most importantly, tampering with a meter is extremely dangerous, as it could

result in severe electrical burns, shock, or even death by electrocution. Meddling with the meter base can be just as deadly, even if the meter has been removed.

If you suspect meter tampering, please call New-Mac at 451-1515 or 800-322-3849.



New-Mac Electric Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy Partner

AUTO-WITHDRAWAL AUTHORIZATION

I (We) hereby authorize New-Mac Electric Cooperative, Inc., to charge my (our) checking, savings and loan, or credit union account for the amount of my monthly bill. I (We) further authorize the bank, savings and loan, or credit union to debit the same to such account.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Account # _____ Map # _____

BANK OR SAVINGS INSTITUTION INFO.

Name of Bank, Savings & Loan, or Credit Union _____

City, State, Zip _____

Bank Transit Number _____ Account Number _____

Please enclose a voided check.
The deduction will be made on the last business day of the month.

Beginning Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature (if joint account) _____ Date _____

Mail this form and voided check to:
New-Mac Electric Cooperative
ATTN: Billing
PO Box 310
Neosho, MO 64850

Bank draft option can make life easier

Auto-withdrawal means one less check to write

With the help of a bank draft, there's one more way New-Mac Electric Cooperative can help simplify your life.

If you would like to eliminate the need of writing and mailing a check each month, or making a trip to the New-Mac office to pay your bill, that can be accomplished by setting up your New-Mac account with a bank draft (or auto-withdrawal).

With this payment option, each month you will still receive your bill from New-



Clip and fill out this form and return it along with a voided check, and New-Mac will set your account up for bank draft.



P.O. Box 310 — 12105 East Highway 86
Neosho, Missouri 64850

Telephone: 417/451-1515 800/322-3849

Fax: 417/451-9042

Office Hours: Neosho — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Anderson — 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Or visit us on the Web at
www.newmac.com

Management

CEO/General Manager..... Mitch McCumber
 Manager of Administration..... Mary Hatfield
 Manager of Operations..... Stan Irsik
 Controller Lisa McMeen
 Manager of Marketing Mark K. Rakes
 Billing Supervisor..... Vickie Stuart

Board of Directors

District 1 Martin Youngblood
 District 2 Kenneth Daniels
 District 3 Bobby Fields
 District 4 Beryl Kennedy
 District 5 Billy P. White
 District 6 Paul Sprenkle
 District 7 Maurice Mailes
 District 8 Jason Ruddick
 District 9 Jamey Cope

Services Provided to Members

Call our consumer services department for information on the following services:

- Automated Phone Payment**
- Autowithdrawal Payment**
- Green Power**
- Levelized Billing**
- Online Payment & Usage History**
- Rental Light**
- Meeting rooms available at both locations**
- Credit Card Acceptance**
- Safety Programs (upon request)**
- Surge Protection**

Questions? Comments?

Contact: Mark K. Rakes
 P.O. Box 310, Neosho, MO
mrakes@newmac.com

Mac, but when the last business day of the month rolls around, the cooperative will automatically withdraw the exact amount of your bill directly from your bank account.

All you have to do is fill out an "Auto-Withdrawal Authorization" form and provide a voided blank check, and New-Mac will set up your account so that there'll be no need for writing checks again – at least when it comes time to pay the electric bill.

For more information on the bank draft process, call the billing department at 451-1515 or 800-322-3849.

