



Volts and Jolts

Published monthly for the members of
RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

SERVING THE FOUR-COUNTY AREA OF MARSHALL, PENNINGTON, RED LAKE AND POLK

VOL. 46 – NO. 04

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

FEBRUARY 2011

District meetings held recently

Four district meetings were held during the first two weeks of February. The meetings were held throughout Red Lake Electric Cooperative's service territory.

The first meeting was the District 1 meeting held February 1 at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Gentilly. Topics reviewed at this meeting and the other three district meetings included; wholesale and retail rate outlook, wind generation and renewable energy surcharge, RLEC website, sales tax exemption, conservation improvement program, and energy cost comparisons. Bonnie Christians, Crookston, the incumbent director, was unanimously elected as the director candidate from the district.

The District 4 meeting was held February 3 at the Oklee Community Center. Members in attendance unanimously elected incumbent director, Steve Linder, Oklee, as the district director candidate.

A special District 2 meeting was held the afternoon of February 7th at Nazareth Lutheran Church in Holt.

Current director Robert Olson is forgoing the last year of his three year term, therefore a replacement director is needed to fulfill the remaining one year. Director candidates nominated included Gary Kiesow of Goodridge and Stacy Blawat of Thief River Falls. Blawat received the greater number of votes; therefore her name will be placed on the annual meeting ballot as the director nominee.

The final meeting was the District 5 meeting held the evening of February 7th at the Community Church east of Thief River Falls. Incumbent director, Mark Hanson, Thief River Falls, was unanimously elected as the director nominee.

A total of 135 Cooperative members attended the meetings. Door prizes were awarded and lunch was served at each meeting. Thank you to the members that took time to (2325002.02 Dennis Skjerven) brave the cold temperatures to attend the meetings.



135 members attend District Meetings

Four District Meetings were held earlier this month throughout Red Lake Electric Cooperative's service area. Attendance at the four meetings totalled 135. Pictured are many of the 63 members who attended the special District 2 meeting held at Nazareth Lutheran Church in Holt on February 7.

Operation Round Up® grant applications due March 2

Organizations involved in community projects and charities are encouraged to apply for funds from Operation Round Up at this time. Completed grant applications are due in the Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) office by March 2nd.

Operation Round Up is a program adopted by RLEC headquartered in Red Lake Falls. Members choosing to "round up" their monthly electric bill payment provide funds for this effort. More than 80 percent of RLEC members now choose to contribute pennies each month to enhance their communities.

Funds will be donated primarily to nonprofit organizations to help fund specific projects or programs. Since the program began in 1993, \$354 thousand has been (4732003.02 Jason Langseth) granted to community organizations and charities. Money is donated for the betterment of the community within the outside service



area boundaries of RLEC.

The Red Lake Electric Trust Board of Directors determines grants. Board members are Van Swanson, Thief River Falls; Bonnie Cote, Trail; Randy Knutson, Viking; Roger Johanneck and Bonnie Christians, Crookston.

To apply for Operations Round Up grants, organizations should contact the RLEC office in Red Lake Falls at 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068. A short application must be completed and submitted along with a financial statement from the organization. The grant application form is available on the Cooperative's Web site: www.redlakeelectric.com

For more information contact Roger Johanneck, general manager of RLEC, at 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068.

Power Savers programs continue through 2011

Helping your home, farm or business take advantage of cost-effective energy efficiency programs is the focus of Power Savers – a Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) formed by Red Lake Electric Cooperative and other area utilities. This will be the third year to offer the current CIP incentives.

If you have been considering efficiency upgrades, the timing couldn't be better. Many different rebates and incentives are available to you through Red Lake Electric.

Residential incentives range from \$2 for a CFL bulb to \$400 a ton for a closed loop geothermal heating system. CFL rebates are limited to 12 annually and geothermal heat pump rebates are capped at 12.5 tons or \$5,000.

Business incentives apply to lighting measures, motor and VFD measures, food service measures, heating, cooling and air conditioning measures which include air source and geothermal heat pumps.



Incentives for efficiency upgrades are available for new construction and retrofits, both for residential and business. Not all measures are outlined as part of a prescriptive program. Custom projects (4422003.02 Diana Josephson) can be reviewed on an individual basis.

The accompanying tables list many of the incentives.

If you are considering efficiency upgrades at your residence or place of business, additional information can be found on Red Lake Electric's website – www.redlakeelectric.com. You may also call the Cooperative's headquarters at 253-2168 or 1-800-245-6068. Conservation makes sense – dollars and cents.

In this month's *Volts and Jolts*

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Residential Energy Efficiency Incentives

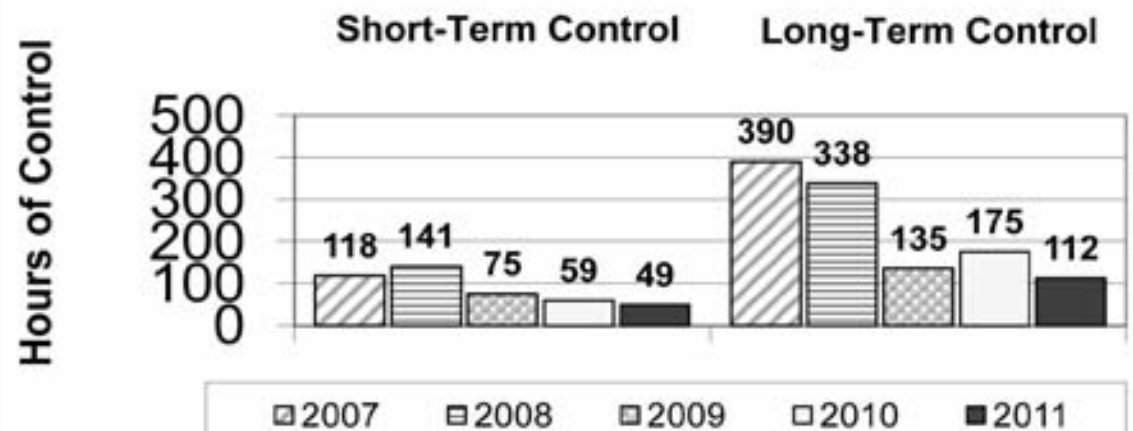
| Energy Efficient Equipment | Rebate Amount | Rebate Maximum |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------|
| CFL Lamp (Maximum 12 lamps) | \$2 per lamp | \$24 per customer |
| Energy Star Clothes Washer | \$50 | \$50 |
| High Efficiency Electric Water Heater 80 gal. or larger, EF ≥0.91, must be on load control | \$150/unit | \$150/unit |
| Programable Thermostat | \$25/unit | \$25/unit |
| High Efficiency Furnace with ECM blower | \$150/unit | \$150/unit |
| High Efficiency Air Source Heat Pump 14.0 SEER, 8.2 HSPF | \$250/unit | \$250/unit |
| Supplemental Electric Heat Added to an Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) Must allow ASHP to operate to 5° F and be on the Cooperative's load control program | \$500/unit | \$500/unit |
| Geothermal Heat Pump - Open Loop Open loop, 16.2 EER. If equipped with backup electric heat, the electric heat must be on load control per Red Lake Electric Cooperative offerings. | \$200/ton | \$2500 |
| Geothermal Heat Pump - Closed Loop Closed loop, 14.1 EER. If equipped with backup electric heat, the electric heat must be on load control per Red Lake Electric Cooperative offerings. | \$400/ton | \$5000 |

QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

The chart below shows the amount of control time for Red Lake Electric Cooperative's Off-Peak customers this heating season compared to the same period the past four years. Even with an increase in systemwide demand for energy, control times have been less the past few years because of renewable (Wind) generation added to Minnkota Power Cooperative's resources. Minnkota's wind energy resources today total 358 Megawatts (MW), about one-third of Minnkota's total generation capacity.

OFF-PEAK CONTROL HOURS Through February 14th



Official Notice of Annual Meeting

All members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. are hereby notified of its annual meeting. The annual meeting will take place at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 30, 2011, at the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls.

The meeting agenda includes year 2010 in review, financial reports and election of directors. Door prizes will be awarded and lunch will be served.

All members are encouraged to attend.

/s/ Mark Hanson, Secretary



Manager's Comments

by Roger Johanneck



Membership meetings

Earlier this month, the Cooperative held four membership meetings in the area of Gently, Oklee, Holt and Thief River falls. I appreciate the chance to visit with those members that were able to attend one of those meetings and share news, along with our staff, about stuff going on at your Cooperative. I thought we had some good questions and discussion at each meeting.

Some of those in attendance told me they wanted to hear first hand as to why rates are going up. Others admitted they come for the pie and coffee. Whatever the reason members come to RLEC meetings; I hope you left satisfied and that we made the time and experience worthwhile for you.

If I forgot to remind those members at the meeting, I will ask all of you now; please share the information you took from the meeting; with your friends and neighbors who were not able to be at a meeting; the next time you visit. I know those of you who attended this

year's meeting left with a better understanding, among other things, of what's driving the increase in wholesale power cost to your Cooperative; why the renewable energy surcharge was extended through 2011, what Minnkota is doing today to meet the energy demands of tomorrow and how members can reduce their monthly energy bills by taking advantage of incentives offered through the Cooperatives Conservation Improvement Program.

Before we put the district meetings to a close for another year though; I'd like to say a few thank yous:

-to the area churches and town halls; thanks for providing a comfortable place for us to hold our membership meetings.

-to the church guilds, 4-H groups and others who provide coffee and pie at each of our meetings; it's one of the only times each year I can get treated to wild blueberry pie -thank you.

-to those that step forward each

year to help run our business meeting, the secretaries, chairman and vote tellers appointed at our meetings -thank you.

-to those willing to serve as a Cooperative director, who represent the interests of your district neighbors and help the Cooperative carry out its mission of being a reliable source of energy for all its members -thank you.

-to my fellow staff employees who help organize our District meetings and do a good job of presenting information I think is interesting and helpful to our membership -thank you.

-and to our members that continue to show an interest by taking the time to join us at our meetings. Thanks for your participation, understanding and support of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, all of us here working for you sincerely appreciate it.

From the Mail Bag

Dear RLEC:

Thank you so much for the electric knife and the electric alarm clock we received at the district meeting at the Community Church in Thief River Falls. The meeting was very informational and we appreciated the fellowship..

Wayne and Susie Koland
Thief River Falls

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for the extension cord I won at the District 5 meeting. Also, thanks for the information we received about our co-op.

Sharon Wagner
Thief River Falls

Dear RLEC:

On behalf of the Red Lake Falls Volunteer Ambulance, I would like to thank you for the generous donation from Operation Round Up. With your donation, we have finally been able to purchase two new cots for our ambulances and new pagers for our services to continue to ensure excellent care to the community.

Thank you so much for your support. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated!

Christina Knott
RLF Volunteer Ambulance

Dear RLEC:

Thank you much for the electric knife I won at the meeting held in Oklee.

Lauretta Stucy
Goodridge



Report from the Office

by Shirley Bregier

If you have been reading the Volts and Jolts or attended recently held District meetings, you have heard about the rate increase Red Lake Electric will have on March 11, 2011. Some of you are already thinking of ways you can reduce your electric bill. We address calls from members every day questioning the usage on their electric bill.

First, when you are comparing electric bills from one month to another please look at the comparison of kWh usage on your electric bill. We compare your usage this billing period to the same billing period a year ago. We also compare your year to date usage to the usage a year ago.

Secondly, if you have an off peak heating system, please look at your bill to be sure you are showing usage on the off peak meter. If you are using your electric heat system and the usage is zero please contact our office. Sometimes when off peak systems are shut off for a period (6010003.03 Lyle Knaack) of time the automated meter reading device, "Turtle", doesn't start up and we need to make a visit to your home and correct the problem.

There are many web sites you can go to and get tips to manage your energy costs. www.redlake-electric.com will give you a link to the Office of Energy Security which gives you many suggestions on using electricity efficiently. There is also a link to an Energy Guide. Some things we can do are free others cost money but will save energy costs.

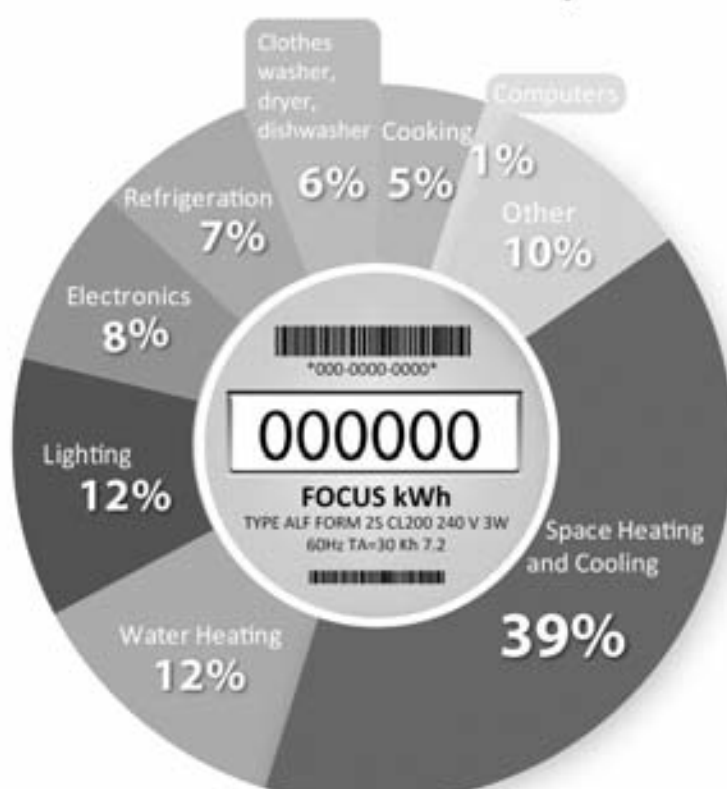
They suggest we clean clothes washer and dryer lint screens after every use. Turn off lights not in use. Reduce bulb wattage and use dimmers. Clean refrigerator coils with a soft brush annually or more often if you have pets that shed. Run major appliances late in the evening or early in the morning when electric loads are less. Never wash just a few clothing items at a time. Fill the washer and use cold water.

Put in weather-stripping around windows and doorways. Replace standard incandescent bulbs with

compact fluorescent bulbs. They are more energy-efficient and last for years. When replacing appliances look for the "Energy Star" label which shows the appliance meets or exceeds standards set by the U.S. Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency. Use a thermometer to set your refrigerator temperatures as close to 37 degrees and your freezer as close to 3 degrees as possible.

Turn down your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees F. Clean or replace air filters as recommended. There are many things we can all do to lower our electric usage and we encourage you to use electricity efficiently. Some tips are very basic but every little bit helps to reduce your electric bill. If you would like more information on energy conservation or if you have a question or concern about your electric usage, please contact our office.

How Your Home Uses Electricity



Source: 2009 Buildings Energy Data Book, U.S. Department of Energy, Table 21.5. Represents an all-electric home.

McLennan named new CEO

The Minnkota board of directors has selected Robert "Mac" McLennan to replace David Loer as Minnkota President & CEO, effective Jan. 10, 2011.

McLennan was employed by Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association based in Westminster, Colo., as senior vice president of external affairs & member relations. In that position he focused on member relations, corporate planning, environmental compliance and (6310002.05 Robert Howard) development of business strategies.

McLennan previously worked for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) as director of environmental affairs and was an assistant to the chief of staff for the retired Sen. Byron Dorgan. He is a graduate of Jamestown College in Jamestown, N.D.



Robert "Mac" McLennan

Mission Statement

It is the mission of Red Lake Electric Cooperative to enhance the quality of life for people of our service area by consistently providing quality electric service and other valued services while holding our employees, our community and our environment in high regard.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

WE PROUDLY PRESENT TO YOU

The Red Lake Electric Cooperative Customer Service Guarantee



It's short and simple! Red Lake Electric Cooperative employees will meet or exceed your expectations of friendly, courteous service and will meet any commitments they make to you. If your expectations of the service provided by our employees is not met, please contact me at the Red Lake Electric Cooperative office, 253-2168. You will receive \$5.00 for your inconvenience and our promise to serve you better in the future. Our employees' commitment to quality customer service makes this guarantee possible.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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ROGER JOHANNECK
General Manager

RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc. VOLTS & JOLTS

(USPS 663-400)

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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT Kelly Lundeen
VICE PRESIDENT Bonnie Christians
SECRETARY-TREASURER Mark Hanson
DIRECTORS Robert Olson, Robert Finstad,
Steven Linder, Colette Kujava,
Randy Versdahl, Peter Mosbeck

Subscription Rate \$2.50 per year

NOTICE

Hidden within the text of the articles of this issue of the Volts & Jolts are the names and account numbers of five RLEC members. They will appear within the articles in parenthesis as such (9999999.99 Roger P. Member). If you find your name and account number, clip it out and send it with your next payment. You will be credited with \$5 on your electric bill.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

Things you should know about your electric service

BILLINGS AND COLLECTION

You will receive your energy bill on or near the 20th of each month.

Payment of your monthly energy bill is due on the 20th of the month. You may pay your bill in person at RLEC during office hours, use the 24-hour drive-up drop box located next to the RLEC office, by Auto Pay, or by mail. Payment must be in the office, drop box, Auto Pay, or in the mail, as evidenced by the postmark, by the 5th day of the following month to avoid a late payment charge. A 1 1/2% monthly late payment charge will be computed on delinquent energy bills, the minimum late payment charge will be \$1.00.

If your payment is not received by the 15th of the month, a final notice of disconnection statement will be included on your following bill. The final notice statement will notify you when your electric service will be disconnected if the delinquent amount remains unpaid. If an employee is sent to disconnect your electric service, a \$50 collection fee will be charged to your account, even if you pay the collector.

To have a disconnected service reconnected, all amounts owing, a \$50 reconnection fee, and a security deposit must be paid. If the service must be reconnected after normal working hours, a \$100 reconnection fee must be paid.

BAD CHECKS

A \$15 charge will be levied each time a check is returned because of nonsufficient funds, account being closed or payment stopped.

OUTAGES

In case your electricity goes out, please do the following:

1. Check your fuses or breakers at the yard pole or meter pedestal.
2. Call your neighbor to see if they are out of electricity also.
3. Call the RLEC office (218-253-2168 or 1-800-245-6068) during working hours or 218-253-2200 after hours. We will accept collect calls for outages only.

METER TESTS

RLEC has a schedule in place to have its meters periodically tested for accuracy. Results from these tests show that meters generally slow down with age; however, if you think that your meter is recording too much usage, RLEC will test it for accuracy. You must pay a test fee in advance of the test. If the meter test shows that the meter was inaccurate, the test fee will be refunded to you.

STOPPED METERS

If you find your meter has stopped and you are using electricity, please contact the office immediately so we can replace it. Average consumption will be billed to the member for the time the meter was stopped so there is no advantage in not reporting a stopped meter.

METER READINGS

An automated meter reading system is utilized to obtain monthly meter readings. Although the system is normally reliable, there is always a chance that the correct reading has not been transmitted to the office for billing. Customers should periodically read their meter and compare it to the reading on the billing statement. If the actual reading is not close to the billing statement reading, please call the office.

GENERAL SERVICE RATES

Facilities charge variable \$19 to \$25 month
First 500 KWH9.0¢ Kwh
Over 500 KWH (April-Dec.)7.2¢ Kwh
Over 500 KWH (Jan.-Mar.)8.0¢ Kwh
Multiphase users add \$18/month cost of service charge.

Standby, \$10/month (meter disconnected but the power line retained; standby is not available on services larger than 15 KVA transformer capacity).

Security light, \$7/month, high pressure sodium, \$8/month, mercury vapor; water heater flat credit, \$5/month (on January-April billing); off-peak equipment charge, \$4.50/month per heat meter; off-peak electric heat rate, 4.2¢/kWh long-term control, 6.2¢/kWh short-term control.

The Gazette . . . only \$29 in Red Lake County

Recipe corner

Mom's Buttermilk Biscuits

2 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup shortening
3/4 cup buttermilk

In a bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt; cut in shortening until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Stir in buttermilk; knead dough gently. Roll out to 1/2-in. thickness. Cut with a 2-1/2-in. biscuit cutter and place on a lightly greised baking sheet. Bake at 450 degrees for 10-15 minutes or until golden brown. Yield: 10 biscuits.

Praline Brownies

1/2 cup packed dark brown sugar
3/4 cup butter or margarine divided
2 tablespoons evaporated milk
1/2 cup coarsely chopped pecans
2 cup. packed light brown sugar
2 eggs
1-1/2 cups all purpose flour
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon salt

In a saucepan, combine the dark brown sugar, 1/4 cup butter and milk. Stir over low heat just until butter is melted. Pour into a greased 8-in. square baking pan; sprinkle evenly with pecans. In a mixing bowl, cream light brown sugar and remaining butter; add eggs. Stir in flour, vanilla and salt until moistened. Spread over pecans. Bake at 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes or until brownies test done. Cool 5 minutes in pan; invert onto a tray or serving plate. Cool slightly before cutting. Yield: 16 brownies.

Peanut Butter Pie

Crust:
1-1/4 cups chocolate cookie crumbs (20 cookies)
1/4 cup sugar
1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted

Filling:
1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
1 cup creamy peanut butter
1 cup sugar
1 tablespoon butter or margarine, softened
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 cup heavy cream, whipped
Grated chocolate or chocolate cookie crumbs, optional

Combine crust ingredients; press into a 9-in. pie plate. Bake at 375 degrees for 10 minutes. Cool. In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, peanut butter, sugar, butter and vanilla until smooth. Fold in whipped cream. Gently spoon into crust. Garnish with chocolate or cookie crumbs if desired. Refrigerate. Yield: 8-10 servings.

Cinnamon Twists

1 package (1/4 ounce) active dry yeast
3/4 cup warm water (110° to 115°), divided
4 to 4-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1/4 cup sugar
1-1/2 teaspoons salt
1/2 cup warm milk (110° to 115°)
1/4 cup butter or margarine, softened
1 egg

Filling:
1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted
1/2 cup packed brown sugar
4 teaspoons ground cinnamon

In a large mixing bowl, dissolve yeast in 1/4 cup warm water. Add 2 cups of flour, sugar, salt, milk, butter, egg and remaining water; beat on medium speed for 2 minutes. Stir in enough remaining flour to form a soft dough. Turn onto a floured board; knead until smooth and elastic, about 6-8 minutes. Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease top. Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled, about 1 hour. Punch down. Roll into a 16-in. x 12-in. rectangle. Brush with butter. Combine brown sugar and cinnamon; sprinkle over butter. Let dough rest for 6 minutes. Cut lengthwise into three 16-in. x 4-in. strips. Cut each strip into sixteen 4-in. x 1-in. pieces. Twist and place on greased baking sheets. Cover and let rise until doubled, about 30 minutes. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes or until golden. Yield: 4 dozen.

Fudge Brownies

True to their name, these rich frosted bars from Inez Orsburn afe BiG on fudgy chocolare flavor! "My family has enjoyed this special treat for years," relates this avid baker and cake decorator from DeMotte, Indiana.

1-1/4 cups butter or margarine, softened
4 cups sugar
8 eggs
2 cups all-purpose flour
1-1/4 cups baking cocoa
1 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
2 cups chopped walnuts

Icing:
1/2 cup butter or margarine
1-1/2 squares (1-1/2 ounces) unsweetened chocolate
3 cups confectioners' sugar
5 tablespoons milk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
Additional chopped walnuts, optional

In a mixing bowl, cream butter and sugar. Add eggs. Combine flour, cocoa and salt; add to creamed mixture and mix well. Stir in vanilla and walnuts. Spread into a greased 15-in. x 10-in. x 1-in. baking pan. Bake at 325 degrees for 40-45 minutes or until brownies test done. Cool for 10 minutes. Meanwhile, for icing, melt the butter and chocolate. Place in a mixing bowl. Add half of the confectioners' sugar; mix well. Add milk, vanilta and remaining sugar and beat until smooth. Spread immediately over warm brownies. Sprinkle with nuts if desired. Yield: about 3 dozen.

Jam Filled Muffins

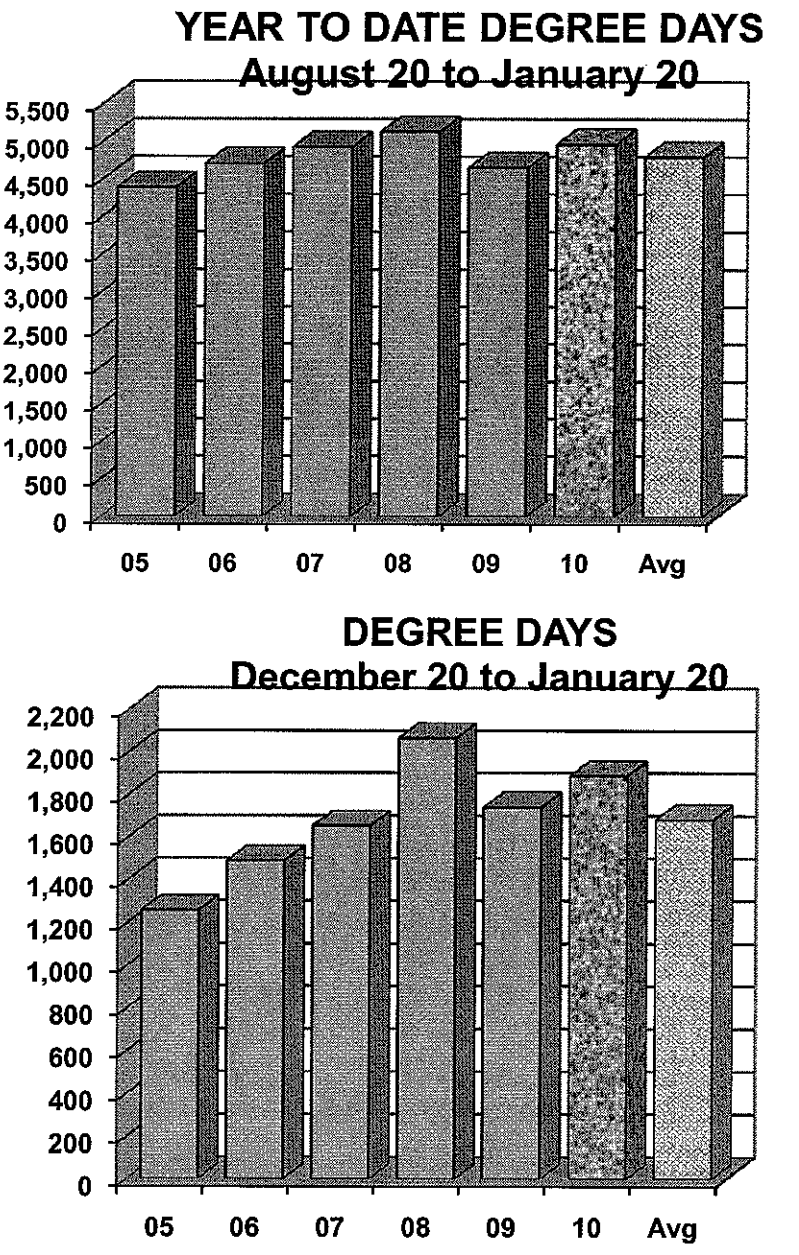
1-3/4 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 cup sugar
1 tablespoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 eggs
2/3 cup milk
1/3 cup butler or margarine, melted
1 teaspoon grated lemon peel
1/2 cup raspberry or strawberry jam

In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. In a small bowl, lightly beat eggs; add milk, butter and lemon peel. Pour into dry Ingredients and stir just until moistened. Spoon half of the batter into 12 greased or paper-lined muffin cups. Make a well in the center of each; add jam. Spoon remaining batter over jam. Bake at 400 degrees for 20-25 minutes or until golden. **Yield:** 1 dozen.

| Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|--|
| Operating Report | | | |
| MONTHLY COMPARISON | | | |
| | DECEMBER 2009 | DECEMBER 2010 | |
| Total Revenue | \$ 1,093,640 | \$ 1,156,771 | |
| Total Margins | \$ (37,730) | \$ 117,649 | |
| Cost of Power | \$ 827,284 | \$ 848,181 | |
| KWH's Purchased | 15,809,160 | 16,941,446 | |
| Capital Credits Paid to Estates | \$ 3,559 | \$ 8,803 | |
| YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON | | | |
| | DECEMBER 2009 | DECEMBER 2010 | |
| Total Revenue | \$10,233,064 | \$ 11,109,141 | |
| Total Margins | \$ 615,622 | \$ 528,812 | |
| Cost of Power | \$ 6,776,105 | \$ 7,629,478 | |
| KWH's Purchased | 142,640,700 | 137,926,886 | |
| New Service Connections | 0 | 0 | |
| Customers Served | 5,096 | 5,162 | |
| Capital Credits Paid to Estates | \$ 1,308 | \$ 5,939 | |
| Miles of Line | | | |
| Overhead | 2,324 | 2,319 | |
| Underground | 231 | 235 | |

DEGREE DAYS

To determine degree days, you must calculate the daily mean temperature for the time period you are measuring. Degree day computation is based on the assumption that a building does not require any heat if the outside temperature averages 65 degrees during a 24-hour period. To obtain a degree day figure, the high temperature and the low temperature for the day are added and the total divided by two. That figure is then subtracted from 65. For example, if the high temperature was 30 degrees and the low temperature 10 degrees, the figure would be 30+10=40; 40/2=20; 65-20=45. This would be a 45-degree day. The higher the degree day figure, the more heat required to warm your home.



CHECK OUT THE EQUIPMENT

- AT -

TITAN MACHINERY

CASE 7088

NEW HOLLAND CR9080

7088 CASE

8010 CASE

CR9060 NEW HOLLAND

CASE II

TC2035 COMPACT TRACTOR W/LOADER

8120 CASE

465 LEXION CAT

MAC DON FD70

HONEY BEE 3655

- MACHINERY -

| | | | | | |
|--------|-----------|--------|-------|------------|-------------------|
| 705936 | CaselH | AF9120 | N | YAG210464 | |
| 705732 | New Holla | CR9080 | SOLD7 | N | YAG113215 |
| 706005 | CaselH | AF7088 | U | NA | \$205,000. |
| 706107 | CaselH | AF7088 | U | Y9G003076 | 230,000. |
| 706108 | CaselH | AF7088 | U | Y9G003078 | 230,000. |
| 706106 | CaselH | AF8120 | U | Y9G208100 | 245,000. |
| 706105 | CaselH | AF8120 | U | Y9G208032 | 245,000. |
| 706118 | CaselH | 2388 | U | HAJ295944 | 155,000. |
| 706119 | CaselH | 2388 | U | HAJ295681 | 145,000. |
| 706120 | CaselH | 2388 | U | HAJ295404 | 137,000. |
| 706122 | CaselH | 2388 | U | JJC276385 | 127,950. |
| 706123 | CaselH | 2388 | U | JJC0275382 | 81,000. |
| 706121 | CaselH | 2388 | U | HAJ296023 | 137,000. |
| 706104 | Cat | 470R | U | 3HZ00473 | 59,500. |
| 706042 | Cat | 585R | SOLD7 | U | 57800762 255,000. |
| 706138 | IHC | 1480 | U | U034649 | 7,250. |
| 706124 | John Deer | 9600 | U | X650563 | 39,500. |
| 705954 | Massey | 860 | SOLD7 | U | 19297 3,000. |
| 706038 | New Holla | CR9060 | U | Y9G112473 | 220,000. |
| 706044 | New Holla | TR96 | U | 526787 | 21,900. |

Great Prices for 2011

- HEADERS -

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| MacDon FD70, 40', 36' | Honeybee 3655 | CIH 1020, 30' |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|

TITAN MACHINERY

AGRICULTURE

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Cecil

Mark

Farmers Union
Oil Company

Thief River Falls218-681-3512



- Fertilizer
- Petroleum products
- Town and country deliveries
- Tires, batteries, accessories
- Farm supplies

WILCOX PLUMBING
AND HEATING, Inc.

RED LAKE FALLS

Plumbing/Heating/Air conditioning

BILL H. MOSER, Master Plumber
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VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH

One man's scrap wood is another man's raw material

It is hard to go even one day without coming across one of the many machines that have made rapid progress possible in our world. These mechanical wonders such as tractors, semi-trucks and earth moving equipment take on a whole new dimension when they catch the attention of Duane Kotrba of rural Thief River Falls.

Mr. Kotrba, has been cutting these machines down to size and reproducing them in his woodworking shop. Small pieces of solid maple are scrolled, mitered, sanded, drilled, lathed, or otherwise reshaped into the myriad of individual components that comprise his machines in miniature.

Once fabricated, the parts are finished and assembled into detailed versions of the original that include control levers, steering wheels, moving hydraulic cylinders, swiveling seats, moving arms, rotating buckets and functioning track systems. The tracks are made up of individual cletes secured with tiny dowels at each pivot point.

Kotrba's working track systems include individual cletes held together by tiny dowels. The track rides on hand turned rollers along the suspension system.

Finishing touches include scale decals he has made locally and sometimes he will insert a coin somewhere on the chassis that denotes the year of production.

Over the years, hundreds of units have been built for himself and for customers who have seen one of his creations and simply had to have one for their own enjoyment. Kotrba once modeled a Bobcat skid-steer loader that he took into a Bobcat dealership so they could muse at his handy-work. He walked out with a request for more just like it.

Encouraged with the interest generated, Kotrba set his sights on an addition to his

Duane Kotrba examines a scale version of a track-hoe he crafted out of maple wood. He most often uses his own plans that are scaled from measurements he takes from the real machine.

workshop that would facilitate more of his hobby and give him the room to stay organized. He funded the building project with his little Bobcat loaders. He's built and sold nearly a hundred of the Bobcat loaders to date.

He usually gets out to the workshop by 8:30 each morning during winter months and goes in for lunch around noon but there is no afternoon snooze or TV indulgence for Kotrba. He heads back out to the shop as soon as he can to keep his mind busy and his hands working. He admits that during the summer months, being outside and working on seasonal projects takes precedence but when the snowballs fly so does the sawdust inside the shop.

Kotrba's first model was of a backhoe that he made from plans he borrowed from a coworker while employed by a store fixture company in Hutchinson. The two traded plans and built the models until Kotrba began making his own plans. He retired after 19 years with the fixture company and

spends the winter months coming up with new ideas and fashioning parts. He is currently looking into modeling two more John Deere tractors - a model G and an H. He owns a model H to copy and is looking for a G to measure.

He is also exploring another model of Bobcat and figures it will be at least as popular as the Bobcats produced thus far.

Kotrba exhibits some of his work at woodworking shows and has sold some items there. He likes to take the opportunity to chat with other hobbyists and see what they are doing. He hasn't come across anyone yet who builds up the models quite the same way he does.

The finished products are a testimony to craftsmanship, patience and persistence. Kotrba doesn't rest until he has accomplished his goals for each model and does not settle for components that do not meet his expectations.

This Bobcat mini-excavator model is a 1/16 scale representation of the full-scale design. Although it does not have a track system, it does ride on tiny maple wheels hidden under what appear to be the tracks.

The sale of some models of skid steer loaders have helped Kotrba to add onto his shop and further explore his favorite hobby. On the left is a Bobcat followed by a Hydra-Mac, center, and a Mighty-Mac on the right.

One of his earliest wooden creations, Kotrba fashioned this big rig out of maple and strips of walnut. The details down to the treads on the tires are added by the hobbyist using a full range of saws, sanders and other shaping tools in his workshop.

No collection in Northern Minnesota would be complete without a later model John Deere model B.

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Pictured are some of the members who attended Red Lake Electric Cooperative's District 4 meeting held February 3 at the Oklee Community Center.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative members enjoy lunch following the special District 1 meeting held February 7 at Nazareth Lutheran Church, Holt. The pie, ice cream and beverages were served by the women of Nazareth Lutheran.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative members listen intently to information presented at the District 1 meeting held at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Gentilly.



Door prize winners at the District 2 meeting held February 7 included (L to R); Vince Dessellier, Oklee; Dale and Sylvia Cole, Middle River.



Cooperative members attending Red Lake Electric's District 1 meeting included (L to R); Willard Brunelle, Mike Dufault and Paul Caillier all of Crookston. The meeting was held February 1.



Cathy Erickson, Middle River, served as the chairperson during the business session of the District 2 meeting held February 7 at Nazareth Lutheran Church in Holt.



Luke Kaushagen, Thief River Falls, served as chairperson and led the business session of the District 5 meeting held February 7 at the Community Church east of Thief River Falls.



James Wright, Plummer, was winner of an alarm clock at the District 4 meeting held in Oklee.



Lauretta Stucy, Goodridge, was winner of an electric knife at the District 4 meeting held February 3.

Top dairy herds for December & January DHIA

Randy Rasmussen, supervisor of the Red Lake-Pennington DHIA, put the following herds at top 10 in the association for December 2010.

| Name | Cows | % in milk | lbs. milk | test | lbs. fat | protein | lbs. protein |
|-------------------------|------|-----------|-----------|------|----------|---------|--------------|
| Northstar Dairy LLC 3X | 1159 | 90 | 71 | 3.8 | 2.7 | 3.2 | 2.3 |
| Walter Bros. Farm | 345 | 86 | 68 | 3.6 | 2.4 | 3.1 | 2.1 |
| Beyer Bros. Farm | 76 | 95 | 67 | 3.5 | 2.4 | 3.2 | 2.2 |
| Spring Prairie Colony | 373 | 84 | 66 | 3.9 | 2.6 | 3.1 | 2.0 |
| Wayra Dairy 3X | 284 | 89 | 65 | 3.9 | 2.5 | 3.0 | 1.9 |
| Amundson Dairy | 65 | 88 | 64 | 3.7 | 2.4 | 3.1 | 2.0 |
| Robert and Terri Dahlen | 58 | 83 | 62 | 3.5 | 2.2 | 3.0 | 1.9 |
| BLY Dairy Farm | 355 | 91 | 60 | 4.1 | 2.4 | 3.3 | 2.0 |
| Amundson Dairy | 66 | 88 | 60 | 4.0 | 2.4 | 3.2 | 1.9 |
| Mark Gladen | 92 | 80 | 55 | 3.6 | 2.0 | 3.1 | 1.7 |

| Name | Cows | % in milk | lbs. milk | test | lbs. fat | protein | lbs. protein |
|--------------------------|------|-----------|-----------|------|----------|---------|--------------|
| Northstar Dairy LLC 3X | 1152 | 90 | 74 | 3.7 | 2.7 | 3.1 | 2.3 |
| Walter Bros. Farm | 343 | 87 | 71 | 3.5 | 2.5 | 3.1 | 2.2 |
| Wayra Dairy 3X | 280 | 88 | 70 | 3.6 | 2.5 | 2.9 | 2.0 |
| Spring Prairie Colony | 384 | 84 | 66 | 3.9 | 2.6 | 3.1 | 2.0 |
| Beyer Bros. Farm | 75 | 93 | 65 | 3.7 | 2.4 | 3.1 | 2.0 |
| Robert and Terri Dahlen | 55 | 82 | 64 | 3.4 | 2.2 | 2.9 | 1.9 |
| Amundson Dairy | 65 | 89 | 63 | 4.0 | 2.5 | 3.2 | 2.0 |
| Mark Gladen | 88 | 86 | 61 | 3.4 | 2.1 | 3.0 | 1.8 |
| Morlyn & Debbie Ornquist | 27 | 93 | 54 | 4.2 | 2.3 | 3.1 | 1.7 |
| CB Farms LLC | 52 | 83 | 50 | 3.6 | 1.8 | 3.0 | 1.5 |

The herd averages are affected by the number of dry cows in the herd. The amount of milk or butterfat is averaged out over all the cows. This gives the farmer a record of the earning power of the herd for the month. If too many cows are included in the herd, then the average for the month may be low, even though the cow that is milking produces a lot of milk.

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Growing Pains: Building an Affordable, Reliable Energy Future

By Magen Howard

Tighter government regulations—and the high cost to comply with new rules—may signal lights-out for many of the nation’s older coal-fired power plants at a time when forecasters predict energy demand will eventually outpace supply.

“Americans could see power shortages by the end of the decade if new generation sources don’t materialize,” cautions Glenn English, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the Arlington, Va.-based service organization of the nation’s more than 900 electric cooperatives.

To meet the challenge, electric co-ops are using energy efficiency measures and innovative technology to reduce electric demand. But these measures will only go so far. Eventually, the need to build new generation to “keep the lights on” will take center stage.

An investment of time, money

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the bulk power grid watchdog for the United States and most of Canada, estimates the country will need to build 135,000 MW of new generation by 2017 to meet demand. Facilities on the drawing board, though, will only deliver 77,000

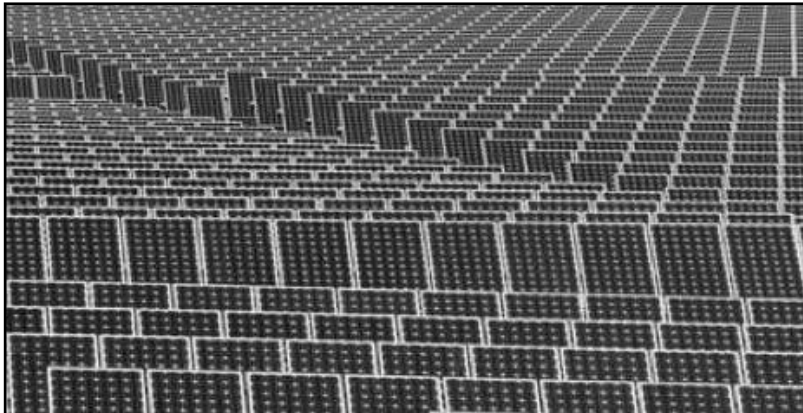
MW—leaving an energy gap.

Planning, building, and launching a baseload power plant is no small feat. Even if the permitting process is non-controversial—meaning there are no significant objections to a facility—a coal-fired generating station takes six to seven years from start to finish, a combined cycle natural gas plant three to four years, while a nuclear plant requires 10 years at minimum, notes John Holt, NRECA senior manager for generation & fuels.

Wind farms and large solar projects, in many cases, need a shorter amount of time to complete—about two years total—but they are handicapped by intermittency issues: even with good location and plenty of breezes, wind generation is available at most 40 percent of the time and seldom operates (due to a lack of wind) during periods of peak consumption on hot, humid summer weekday afternoons or cold weather below minus 22 degrees Fahrenheit; solar power systems operate only during daylight hours and are affected by cloud cover. Wind and solar resources must have back-up, or firming, generation, such as natural gas plants, ready to come on-line when the wind stops blowing or the sun stops shining, and that adds



Natural gas power plants, like this unit operated by Golden Spread Electric Cooperative in Texas, are likely to fulfill our electricity needs in the short term.



Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association, based in Colorado, is part of one of the largest solar projects in the nation, the Cimarron Solar Facility in New Mexico. Solar-powered generation is becoming more popular as states set renewable energy standards.

Lignite-based electricity keeps costs low

The price of electricity from North Dakota’s lignite-based power plants remained a bargain at \$20.85 per megawatt-hour (MWh) in 2009, less than half the price of electricity from natural gas-based generation, which last year cost \$46.37 per MWh, according to Ventyx, an energy consultancy firm.

The Milton R. Young Station, our primary source of power generation located near Center, N.D., produces electricity at \$19.61 per MWh. The Young Station is a mine-mouth plant, which means that it is positioned next to the mines where it buys its fuel. This eliminates transportation costs.

The production costs do not include transmission and distribution expenses, which are added into a customer’s final bill, but do include the price of fuel. Over the past 20 years, the price for a ton of lignite has remained relatively steady – about \$10 to \$12 per ton depending upon individual fuel contracts.

“Electricity from lignite remains a bargain for North Dakotans, Minnesotans and electric customers in neighboring states,” said Steve Van Dyke, vice president of communications for the Lignite Energy Council. “And with an 800-plus year supply of economically recoverable reserves, lignite-based power plants will continue delivering low-cost power for decades.”

The \$20.85 per MWh from the lignite-based plants in 2009 compares favorably to the U.S. average of \$28.57 per MWh for all coal-based power plants.

Besides being a low-cost source of electricity, North Dakota’s lignite industry is also among the top five industries in the state, accounting for 28,000 direct and indirect jobs. The average wages paid to coal miners and electric utility employees are among the highest in the state.

North Dakota is also one of only 12 states in the nation to meet all federal ambient air quality standards. North Dakota’s lignite facilities have invested approximately \$2 billion in environmental control technologies. The cost of operating these technologies is about \$100 million annually.

The Young Station has invested more than \$425 million in environmental control upgrades to reduce nitrogen oxides (NOX) emissions and remove sulfur dioxide (SO2) emissions. By 2012, the Young Station will meet current federal environmental regulations. The upgrades will allow the Young Station to be our primary source of generation, likely until at least 2042.

Minnkota’s key objective to ensure that the Young Station provides safe, reliable and affordable electricity well into the future.

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| T5 Fluorescent Fixtures (Replacing HID or incandescents) | \$Starting at \$60 per fixture |
| CFL Fixture | \$22 per fixture |
| CFL Lamp | \$1.50 per fixture |
| Split System Energy Efficient Air Conditioners and Air Source Heat Pump | \$30 to \$40 per ton |
| Single Packaged Energy Efficient Air Conditioners and Air Source Heat Pump | \$35 to \$50 per ton |
| Geothermal Heat Pump - Open Loop Open Loop, 16.2 EER | \$200 per ton |
| Geothermal Heat Pump - Closed Loop Closed Loop, 14.1 EER | \$400 per ton |
| Energy Efficient Air Cooled and Water Cooled Chillers | \$30 to \$40 per ton |
| Nema Premium Three Phase Electric Motors | \$4 to \$15 per HP |
| Energy Star Commercial Solid Door Refrigerator or Freezer | \$60 to \$250 |
| Energy Star Ice Machine | \$200 to \$600 |
| Energy Star Steam Cooler | \$300 to \$600 |
| Energy Star Fryer | \$500 |

This list is not all-inclusive. There are numerous other lighting retrofits. Other measures may also qualify. Any project totalling \$10,000 or more must receive written approval before project installation. Rebate maximum is 75% of the project cost up to \$15,000.

extra expense.

Federal rules impact energy prices

Rulemakings by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will impact electric bills and put affordability and reliability at risk. According to the report, Potential Resource Adequacy Impacts of U.S. Environmental Regulations, commissioned by NERC, four pending EPA rules would place new and costly hurdles on power generators. In fact, regulations impacting cooling water intake, coal ash disposal, interstate transport of air pollutants, and using Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) to curb emissions from power plants could force electric utilities to retire or retrofit 33,000 MW

to 70,000 MW of generating capacity by 2015. A fifth hurdle, reducing power plant emissions of carbon dioxide, presents an even greater challenge since no viable, commercially tested solution exists.

The Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), an electric utility research consortium that includes electric co-ops as members, contends if EPA designates coal ash, a residue produced by coal-fired power plants that is used as a Portland cement substitute, as hazardous, it could cost utilities—and consumer electric bills—between \$5.32 billion and \$7.62 billion annually.

“Because of these new rules, we’re expecting a number of existing coal plants be shut down,” asserts Kirk Johnson, NRECA vice president of energy & environmental policy. “The cost of compliance will simply be too much.”

Only two alternate baseload generation options are currently available to meet America’s demand for safe, reliable, and affordable electric energy—natural gas, which is priced in a volatile commodities markets, or nuclear power, which requires a long lead time for construction and continues to bump up against ghosts of the Three Mile Island accident in 1979 and issues involving disposal of spent fuel.

Natural gas at present seems like an attractive option to satisfy our nation’s energy appetite because the fuel is relatively cheap, power plants that use it can be brought online more quickly, and burning gas produces less carbon dioxide than coal.

“But right now, we’re in a natural gas price bubble,” Holt cautions. “While economics today favor natural gas, my concern is just two or three years ago natural gas was three times as expensive. So it could easily and rapidly go up in cost. Over the long

term, I expect nuclear power—since it only emits water vapor into the atmosphere—will make a comeback. But there are a lot of ifs.”

Working to keep electric bills affordable

To reduce the need for new power plants, electric co-ops are fashioning a variety of innovative solutions to reduce load during times of peak demand—the electric utility industry’s equivalent of rush-hour traffic when wholesale power costs skyrocket: direct control of electric water heaters, air conditioners, electric thermal storage units, and other appliances in the homes of volunteer consumers; interruptible contracts with commercial and industrial accounts, such as irrigation pumps, large retailers, and factories, that are able to temporarily shut down or run emergency generators; calling on consumer-owned (distributed) gen-

eration to start up; and the new kid on the block, personal energy management—notably in-home displays, web portals, and smart thermostats that inform consumers, in real time, when load peaks are happening, allowing them to voluntarily decide when and how to curtail electric use to save money.

Most co-ops are also ramping up energy efficiency programs. According to NRECA Market Research Services, nearly all electric co-ops offer efficiency educational resources, and 77 percent offer residential energy audits [may want to describe some in your state]. To find out about energy efficiency programs in [your state], visit [your website] or the Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency at www.dsireusa.org.

Sources: North American Electric Reliability Corporation, U.S. Energy Information Administration, Electric Power Research Institute

Magen Howard writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service organization for the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives. Megan McKoy-Noe contributed to this article.

A ‘Two-Pronged’ Approach to Home Electrical Safety

By Christine Smith

Consumers can depend on a pair of important safety devices to protect them from electrical hazards in the home: ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs). Each device protects against different dangers: GFCIs address shock hazards while AFCIs fight fire hazards.

Get Grounded!

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI), GFCIs have cut the number of home electrocutions by half. By detecting ground faults—an unintentional electric path between a source of current and a grounded surface; essentially, current leaking to the ground—a GFCI protects you from severe or fatal electric shocks. It can also prevent some electrical fires.

If you have ever experienced an electric shock, it probably happened because part of your body contacted an electrical current and provided a path for the current to go to ground. If your body provides the path, you could be seriously injured.

GFCIs constantly monitor electricity moving through a circuit. If the current flow differs from that returning, the device quickly switches off power.

Fighting Fire

AFCIs, a relatively recent technology, help prevent home fires caused by arcing faults in damaged or deteriorated wires and cords. Home wiring problems, like sparking, are associated with more than 40,000 home fires each year, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission. These fires kill more than 350 and injure 1,400 victims annually.



Nominal arcs may happen in the brushes of a vacuum sweeper or light switch; dangerous arcs can occur in frayed cords. When unwanted arcing occurs, it generates high temperatures that can ignite nearby combustibles such as wood, paper, and carpets.

Conventional circuit breakers only respond to overloads and short circuits. By the time a fuse or circuit cuts power to defuse these conditions, a fire may have already started. AFCIs use unique current-sensing circuitry to discriminate between normal and unwanted arcing conditions. In the event of an arcing fault, the AFCI shuts off electricity flowing through a circuit.

For more information on where to install GFCIs and AFCIs, visit www.cpsc.gov.

Sources: Electrical Safety Foundation International, Consumer Protection Safety Commission

Christine Smith writes on electrical safety for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.



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