



Co-ops push for common-sense replacement rule in place of Clean Power Plan

In October, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced plans to repeal the Clean Power Plan, a regulation that would have increased costs and impacted many electric co-operatives across the nation. Now the EPA, informed by public comment, must work to develop a common-sense replacement plan.

Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE) is glad to see the rule change. We're working with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), our national trade association, to encourage the EPA to replace the rule with a plan that focuses on individual power plants. We hope the agency will craft a replacement rule to address power plant emissions legally, provide co-ops with the certainty and flexibility they need to meet their members' needs, and support co-ops in their mission to provide affordable and reliable electricity.

Electric co-ops depend on a diverse fuel mix to meet the energy needs of 42 million members across the nation, protect reliability of the energy system and ensure affordable power. The fact is that no two electric co-ops are exactly alike. The nation's 900 electric co-ops rely on

a diverse fuel mix to meet members' energy needs, maintain reliability and ensure affordability. Each one makes strategic long-term investments in energy sources that make the most sense for them. Any new regulation needs to account for this reality.

This flexibility to pursue a diverse fuel mix allows co-ops to respond to local and regional factors and member preferences while ensuring affordable and reliable power. Past federal policy pushed cooperatives away from natural gas use for electricity to developing coal-based electric generation. In many cases, co-op members are still paying for those (23-41-9SL) facilities—and the roughly \$12 billion in pollution control measures that were added to them since the early 1990s.

But as it turns out, electric co-ops and other utilities are already making significant changes in how they generate power. Co-ops and their members value a healthy environment and vibrant rural community. Market forces and members' interests are driving co-ops to further diversify their electric generation portfolios. As a result,

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Energy saving tip

Looking for an easy way to make your home cozier? Try using an area rug to increase the insulation levels of your floors. Area rugs are stylish and can keep cool air from entering through your floors. Your toes will thank you!

Mark your calendar

Jan. 25	Electric bills due
Feb. 2	Groundhog Day
Feb. 12	Lincoln's Birthday
Feb. 14	Happy Valentine's Day!
Feb. 19	Presidents' Day



Manager's message



Apply for the Youth Tour
February 28 deadline



ETS water heating
save money while you sleep



A word from your General Manager **Adam Tromblay**

2018 Begins with great news

It's wonderful to start off a new year with some great news that will help your cooperative for many years to come.

With the help of our legislature in Washington, D.C., we will receive over \$1.6 million from FEMA to offset the costs of rebuilding our lines from the 2013 Ice Storm. It has taken hundreds of man hours at the cooperative and federal offices to get the task completed. NCE has been notified to expect the funding in early 2018. Last summer we completed the work to repair the system back to pre-storm or better condition. The FEMA funding represents approximately 67 percent of the total construction costs. There is potential to receive up to 75 percent or \$1.8 million upon a final FEMA review.

Statement of nondiscrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

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Transmission line sold to GRE

In December, NCE sold a 28-mile span of transmission line from the SMEC acquisition to our power supplier, Great River Energy (GRE). NCE is not in the high voltage transmission business and felt our members would be better served to have a transmission company, like GRE, own and operate the line that runs from Fulda to Lismore. Part of our work

plan for 2018 will remove the members that are directly served by the transmission line and connect them to our distribution system. Thereafter, the line will only be (36-25-76) used to feed our substations. Per RUS funding rules, the \$1.35 million dollars received from the sale will be used for upcoming construction work plans.

2018 Budget and Work Plan

The 2018 Budget and Work Plan was approved by your board of directors. This work plan includes the work on the transmission line, upgrading two miles of overhead line and converting 18 miles of overhead to underground. The total number of miles is down from previous years due to the additional amount of labor to remove those members on the transmission line we sold. Our plan is to return the number of overhead miles converted to underground to normal levels in 2019.



Students don't miss out on a trip of a lifetime and a chance at a scholarship

Youth Tour: NCE sponsors a high school student to go on an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. This trip is a life changing opportunity. The deadline to apply is February 28.

Scholarship: NCE offers a \$500 scholarship to one high school senior that applies for the Youth Tour. Be sure to have your student apply today!

Some people argue that leaders are born, not made. While it's true that some people are born with certain traits that make them more comfortable in leadership roles, all great leaders need help developing their skills. Many others who (504-38-054) might not be perceived as "natural" leaders can become exceptional leaders if given the right coaching and an opportunity to shine.

Do you know a student that would be a perfect choice? Let them know about this great opportunity to participate in a nationally recognized leadership program.

Every summer, more than 1,500 bright and talented high school students from across rural America converge in Washington, D.C., for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, including a representative from NCE.

These young men and women represent our next generation of leaders. They are the people who will make our communities better places to live and lead businesses that will provide good jobs and valuable services.

Participants in the Youth Tour spend a week in Washington, D.C., where they:

- Learn about electric cooperatives and the cooperative business model

- Spend a day on Capitol Hill, including face-to-face meetings with their senators and members of Congress
- Visit monuments and memorials
- Explore museums
- Build lifelong friendships with other young leaders from across the country



This isn't just a field trip to Washington, D.C. It's a transformational experience that shows students the power of democracy and the importance of leadership.

Youth Tour boasts many distinguished alumni, including Apple CEO Tim Cook, who represented Baldwin Electric Membership Corporation in Summerdale, Ala., on the 1977 Youth Tour.

In a commencement address to George Washington University's Class of 2015, Cook cited the Youth Tour as a moment that helped shape his view of the world.

This experience is offered at no cost to the student or family. The only out-of-pocket expenses are for incidentals, such as souvenirs (539-37-201) and snacks.

Electric cooperatives have sponsored the Youth Tour for more than 50 years because they believe it is their responsibility as not-for-profit, community-based organizations to invest in the next generation of leaders.

For more information about NCE's Youth Tour program, call 800-776-0517 or visit www.noblesce.coop.

Spot your location number

If you find your location number (as it appears on your monthly electric bill) in this issue, you will receive a \$10 credit.

We apologize for inadvertently forgetting them in last month's Current Matters.

\$10



Are you concerned about your loved one's safety?

Enjoy peace-of-mind with a Medical Alert

Only \$29.99 per month



Save money while you sleep.

ETS water heaters take advantage of bargain electricity, available in times of low demand, while it's less expensive, and while we're all sleeping. Heat your water, while you sleep, and save up to 50% on your water heating costs.

**Price \$300
Plus \$35 rebate**

Learn more at EnergyWiseMN.com or by calling 800-776-0517.

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Replacement plan needed for Clean Power Plan

co-op-owned coal-fired generation has dropped nine percent since 2014, and co-op solar capacity (4-27-17T) has increased five times in just the past two years.

We live in a carbon constrained world and electric co-ops are reducing their carbon footprint. In fact, since 2005, co-ops have increased electric generation by 15 million megawatt-hours while reducing carbon dioxide emissions by nearly 10 percent.

Given the progress happening without the Clean Power Plan, you may

ask why we want the EPA to go back to the drawing board to come up with a replacement rule. The main reason is certainty. A workable, common-sense rule that adheres to the law clarifies the rules of the road for co-ops, which will then be better able to make smart, long-term investments in electric generation. Regulatory certainty is an essential ingredient in ensuring a reliable supply of affordable power.

Co-ops are looking forward to working with the EPA on a plan that gets it right this time around.

Country Cupboard Cajun Chicken Linguine

Kathy Henderschiedt
Worthington


2 boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into thin strips	
4 oz. linguine cooked al dente	2 tsp. Cajun seasoning
2 T. butter	1 thinly sliced green onion
1/2 c. heavy whipping cream	2 T. chopped sun dried tomatoes
1/4 tsp. dried basil	1/8 tsp. ground black pepper
1/8 tsp. garlic powder	1/4 c. grated parmesan cheese

Place chicken and Cajun seasoning in a bowl, toss to coat. In a large skillet over medium heat, saute chicken in butter until chicken is tender. Reduce heat and add green onion, heavy cream, tomatoes, basil, salt, garlic powder and black pepper, heat through. Pour over hot linguine and toss with parmesan cheese.

Send your favorite recipe with **potatoes** in it to Nobles Cooperative Electric, ATTN: Tracey, P.O. Box 788, Worthington, MN 56187-0788. Entries must include your name, address, telephone number and NCE location number. All entries must be received by **January 25**. The winning recipe will be featured in the next edition of *Current Matters* and the winner will receive a **\$10 credit** on their electric bill.



**Nobles Cooperative
Electric**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Next Board Meeting

January 18, 2018

*This cooperative is an equal
opportunity provider and employer.*

