



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



West Central Electric News



West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. ~ Serving our members' needs since 1939

West Central joins co-ops in call to action

Members are asked to join us in letting EPA know we need diverse fuels to keep electricity affordable

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued new proposed rules limiting the carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions of new coal and natural gas based power plants. Because of this, the Administration has abandoned its "all-of-the-above" energy strategy and embraced an "all-but-one" approach that effectively prevents construction of new coal-based generation. The Administration has now moved on to formulating new regulations for exist-

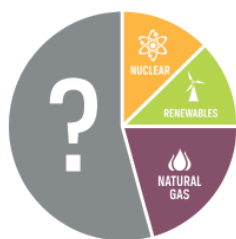
ing plants which could drastically affect your electric rates.

Electric cooperatives strongly oppose this shift and believe the proposed rule

coal to generate electricity. Please join our effort and tell the EPA to reconsider; to work with the electric cooperatives to find a common sense solution

tives will fight to keep your electric bill affordable, as policy changes would result in significant increases in electric rates.

"As we enter yet another challenging time in the electric industry, West Central Electric pledges to keep our members informed on issues that will affect the price you pay for electricity," General Manager Mike Gray said. "You will be receiving a stuffer in your January electric bill with more information and a card to fill out letting the EPA know you value an 'All-of-the-Above' approach to affordable energy. Please fill out the card, and in the name section, please write in the name of every adult in your household because every voice counts."



should be withdrawn. Co-ops support using a diverse fuel mix including renewables, natural gas, nuclear, and



that balances energy needs and environmental concerns.

Your cooperative and its represent-

Protect those new electronics, prevent hazards

Now that you've gotten that great, new Christmas gift, know how to protect it

Big-ticket electronics, such as televisions, computers, and gaming consoles, were at the top of many holiday wish lists—but safety may not be. Purchasing, installing, and operating these items safely protects not only the expensive equipment, but also your entire home. The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) offers the following tips, and for more information, visit holiday-safety.org.

Safety tips

- Always purchase electrical devices from a reputable retailer that you trust. Be especially wary when making online purchases.
- Check that all electrical items are certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA), or Intertek (ETL).

- Always read and follow the manufacturer's instructions before use.
- Send warranty and product registration forms for new items to manufacturers in order to be notified about product recalls. Recall information is also available on the website of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (<http://www.cpsc.gov>).
- Never install an exterior television or radio antenna close enough to contact power lines if it falls.
- Never remove the ground pin (the third prong) to make a three-prong plug fit into a two-prong outlet.
- All appliances and cords should be kept in good condition. Examine them regularly for damage, and repair or dispose of damaged items.
- Keep cords out of reach of children and pets.
- Make sure entertainment centers and computer workstations have enough space around them for ventilation of electronic equipment.
- Keep liquids, including drinks, away from electrical devices. Spills can result in dangerous shocks or fires.

- Unplug equipment when not in use to save energy and reduce the risks for shocks or fires. Power strips or surge protectors make a good central turn-off point.
- Always unplug electrical items by grasping the plug firmly rather than pulling on the cord.
- If you receive any kind of shock from a large appliance or any other electrical device, stop using it until an electrician has checked it.
- If an appliance smokes or sparks, or if you feel a tingle or light shock when it's on, stop using it. Discard and replace it or have it repaired by an authorized service provider.

Extension Cords

- Extension cords are meant to provide a temporary solution. They should not be used as a long-term or permanent electrical circuit.
- Never use a cord that feels hot or is damaged in any way. Touching even a single exposed strand can result in an electric shock or burn.
- Only use weather-resistant, heavy

gauge extension cords marked "for outdoor use" outside.

- Keep all outdoor extension cords clear of snow and standing water.
- Arrange furniture so that there are outlets available for equipment without the use of extension cords.
- Do not place power cords or extension cords in high traffic areas or under carpets, rugs, or furniture (to avoid overheating and tripping hazards), and never nail or staple them to the wall or baseboard.

Surge protector or power strip?

Although surge protectors and power strips both allow you to plug several devices in one location, it is important for consumers to understand that they are not interchangeable. A true surge protector includes internal components that divert or suppress the extra current from surges, protecting your valuable electronics from electrical spikes, while a power strip simply provides more outlets for a circuit.

Source: *Electrical Safety Foundation International*



LEDs meet and exceed 2014 lighting efficiency standards. Here are some tips on things to look for when purchasing LEDs...page 2



WCE is looking for a few good Youth Tour and CYCLE delegates. Maybe we are looking for YOU!...page 3



With winter upon us, do you know your options when reporting an outage? There are several...page 4

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1-816-625-8211

Website:

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Stan Rhodes, Asst. Sect.
Dale Jarman, Director
Max Swisegood, Director
Richard Strobel, Director
Sandra Streit, Director

LEDs meet and exceed 2014 lighting efficiency standards

A new year calls for updated lightbulb efficiency guidelines. No need to use bulbs with a twist; light-emitting diodes (LEDs) can help you switch on savings.

Congress called for improved energy efficiency standards for traditional incandescent bulbs under the federal Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. By 2014, lightbulbs using between 40-W to 100-W must consume at least 28 percent less energy than classic bulbs. The change will save Americans an estimated \$6 billion to \$10 billion in lighting costs annually.

With the next wave of standards kicking in this month, traditional 40-W and 60-W incandescents will no longer be available. In their place, some consumers are filling the gap with a solid solution: LEDs.

SOLID LIGHTING

Incandescent bulbs create light using a thin wire (filament) inside a glass bulb—a delicate connection that can easily be broken, as frustrated homeowners can attest. In contrast, LEDs are at the forefront of solid-state lighting—small, packed electronic chip devices. Two conductive materials are placed together on a chip (a diode). Electricity passes through the diode, releasing energy in the form of light.

Invented in 1960 by General Electric, the first LEDs were red—the color depends on materials placed on the diode. Yellow, green, and orange LEDs were created in the 1970s and the recipe for the color blue—the foundation for white LEDs—was unlocked in the mid-1990s. Originally used in remote controls, exit signs, digital watches, alarm clocks, and car signal lights, LEDs quickly gained momentum for large-scale lighting.

MEASURING LED POTENTIAL

The Arlington, Va.-based Cooperative Research Network has partnered with several electric cooperatives throughout the United States to test LEDs. Researchers are cautiously optimistic; LEDs offer several benefits:

- LEDs could last longer, perhaps for decades.
- The energy to use LEDs could be substantially less than that of compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) or other fluorescents.
- With no mercury content, LEDs are more environmentally-friendly.
- The products are rugged and more resistant to breakage.
- LEDs perform well in cold climates, especially outside.
- LEDs can be dimmed and produce a more pleasing light.

However, some consumers avoid LEDs because the price tag exceeds normal lightbulb costs. But the true value lies in the lifetime of the bulb. It takes about 50 traditional incandescent bulbs, or eight to 10 CFLs, to last as long as one LED lamp.

BUYER BEWARE

Poor quality LED products are flooding the marketplace. Some are manufactured outside of the United States with components that produce low light levels, don't boast a long service life, or make exaggerated energy saving claims.

Don't be fooled. Look for the U.S. Department of Energy's ENERGY STAR logo for guaranteed color quality over time, steady light output over the lifetime, high efficiency, and a warranty.

You can also look for an LED Lighting Facts label. The label helps consumers compare products to manufacturer claims and similar products with a quick summary of performance in five areas:

- **Lumens:** Measures light output. The higher the number, the more light is emitted.
- **Lumens per watt (lm/W):** Measures efficiency. The higher the number, the more efficient the product.
- **Watts:** Measures the energy required to light the product. The lower the wattage, the less energy is used.
- **Correlated Color Temperature (CCT):** Measures light color. "Cool" colors have higher Kelvin temperatures (3,600–5,500 K); "warm" colors have lower color temperatures (2,700–3,000 K). Cool white light is usually better for visual tasks. Warm white light is usually better for living spaces because it casts a warmer light on skin and clothing. Color temperatures of 2,700 to 3,600 K are recommended for most general indoor and task lighting.
- **Color Rendering Index (CRI):** Measures the effect of the lamp's light spectrum on the color appearance of objects. The higher the number, the truer the appearance of the light. Incandescent lighting is 100 on the CRI.

SHEDDING LIGHT ON LEDS

More lighting efficiency changes are coming. Congress' measure mandates lightbulbs become 70 percent more efficient by 2020.

Curious to know if LEDs are right for you? Learn how to show using LED labels at www.lightingfacts.com/content/consumers. Homeowners can visit www.energysavers.gov/lighting to compare LEDs to new energy-efficient incandescent bulbs and CFLs.

By Megan McKay-Noe and Brian Sloboda

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Statement of Nondiscrimination

West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provides that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefit of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Mike Gray, general manager. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

**West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



**West Central Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

The Touchstone Energy® logo signifies that a local electric cooperative is among the hundreds of consumer-owned co-ops which have joined in a nationwide marketing alliance dedicated to providing superior service at affordable rates to all customers, large and small, and the communities they

You could be here in 2014!

WCE is looking for a few good Youth Tour/CYCLE delegates

What do the schools in West Central Electric Cooperative's service area have in common? They have sent some of the best and brightest to both our nation's and state's capitals for the Rural Electric Youth Tour and the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience. If you are a high school junior this year, YOU could be a part of that, too!

What is Youth Tour?

The annual contest for high school juniors is sponsored by West Central Electric Cooperative, which sends delegates on a six-day trip to Washington, D.C. to learn about our nation's history and government while experiencing our nation's capital firsthand.

Electric Cooperatives throughout the country sponsor delegates on the trip which includes students from more than 40 states. Cooperatives from the state of Missouri will send approximately 80 delegates. This year, WCE will send **AT LEAST THREE DELEGATES**, and, depending on the number of entries received, as many as five delegates to Washington, D.C.

When is it?

This year's Youth Tour will be June 13-19, 2014. Missouri delegates will meet in Jefferson City on Friday, June 13 for a banquet and orientation before traveling by plane to Washington, D.C. June 14. Delegates and their families will also have the opportunity to participate in Family Capital Day sponsored by West Central Electric.

What will we do?

While in Washington, D.C., delegates will have the opportunity to meet

with their senators and representatives, as well as visit historic memorials such as the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Iwo Jima and Vietnam memorials. Favorite Washington, D.C. landmarks are also on the agenda, including Mt. Vernon, the Smithsonian museums, Ford's Theatre, the Washington Monument and the Washington Cathedral. Delegates will also enjoy a moonlight cruise on the Potomac River and a MLB game or play at the Kennedy Center.

The Rural Electric Youth Tour provides a chance for high school juniors to learn about government, our nation's capital and electric cooperatives, as well as rural electrification and the impact it has had on our nation's development.

What is CYCLE?

CYCLE is the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience which will be held July 9-11, 2014 in Jefferson City.

WCE will send **FIVE DELEGATES** to this conference sponsored by the

Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives. They will join approximately 95 other delegates from across the state.

Students will hear amazing speakers, participate in team-building and leadership activities, and get a chance to debate their own bill on the floor of the Missouri House of Representatives.

For more information, contact your high school English teacher, FFA advisor, or Heather Hoflander at West Central Electric Cooperative in Higginsville at 1-800-491-3803 or 660-584-2131.



Top right: WCE Youth Tour delegates Jillian Bertz and Nora Faris (far left of photo) visit with Sam Graves on the steps of the United States Capitol Building.



Above: Daokta Markham accepts Rachel's Challenge at the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience.



Above: WCE Youth Tour delegates Lanee Goth, Jillian Bertz and Nora Faris visit the United States Capitol Building while on the 2013 Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.



Left: Lanee Goth (center) relaxes with new friends during the 2013 Rural Electric Youth Tour.

Contest Details:

The contest is open to high school juniors who attend a school in the West Central Electric service area, or whose parents or legal guardians are current members of WCE.

How do I enter?

Submit a 600-word, typed essay on the following topic:

"Members First. From Day One."

Students will use the cooperative's 75th anniversary theme to write an essay showing how the cooperatives exists to serve its members.

For more information:

Visit westcentralelectric.coop and click on "Youth Programs" then "Youth Tour" to download the information packet.

From the Boardroom...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held October 28 2013

The meeting was called to order by President Densil Allen. Robert Simmons, Secretary of the Cooperative, caused the minutes of the meeting to be kept. The following Directors were present: Max Swisegood, Clark Bredehoeft, Paul Nolte, Dale Jarman, Richard Strobel, Densil Allen, Robert Simmons, Stan Rhodes and Sandra Streit.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

After discussion, the agenda was approved with the addition of a review of auditor proposals.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The unapproved minutes of the regular meeting of the board of directors held September 26, 2013, were approved.

REVIEW OF EXPENDITURES FOR AUGUST

An itemized list of expenditures for August was presented to the board, and the payment of the bills was ratified.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following September 2013 reports were approved: Operating Report (RUS Form 7) and Comparative Operating Statement including the Financial Statistical Report with month and budget comparisons and statistical data pertaining to operating revenue, expenses, margins, assets, liabilities, and KWH sales; Treasurer's Report; the written monthly Construction, Retirement, Maintenance and Operations Report and the Safety Report, which included no lost time accidents during the month.

MEMBERSHIPS

The applications submitted for membership in the cooperative were accepted and approved. Directors reviewed a list of requests for termination of membership in the cooperative which, along with their requests that their billings be deducted from their deposits and the remainder, if any, be refunded to them, were accepted and approved.

N.W. ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE, INC. REPORT

Manager Gray and Director Nolte reported their attendance at the October board meeting and shared highlights of the meeting.

NRECA REGION 8-10 MEETING REPORT

Manager Gray and Director Nolte reported their attendance, and provided information shared at the NRECA Region 8-10 meeting.

AWARD SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS CONTRACT

Manager Gray presented the bids for the Systems Improvements Contract. After discussion, the contract was awarded to Croft for \$297,315.08 for a labor-only contract for the 2013-2016 construction work plan, Project No. 392 for reconductoring (upgrading) 7.2 miles from 3-phase to 3-phase.

RATES DISCUSSION

Manager Gray reported on the 2013 actual demand cost and other factors impacting rates.

AUDITOR'S PROPOSAL FOR 2013-14

Manager Gray presented the audit proposal from Schmidt & Company, L.L.C. After discussion, the company's proposal to provide audit services for 2013-14 was approved as presented for a fee of \$8,400.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Mike Gray provided his Manager's Report for the month. He reported on the CFC Integrity Fund, and after discussion, directors agreed to leave the CFC Integrity Fund procedure and fund it the same way it is currently. No additional contributions will be made at this time, and the authorized uses for the funds will remain the same. He also reported on 1) an organizational chart update, 2) the employee recognition banquet to be held Feb. 22, 3) the new FCC rule on forbidding robo calls for payment reminders, 4) AT&T dispute update, 5) the board retreat to be held Jan. 23-14.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Director Bredehoeft reported the AMEC Board had passed the budget and work program for AMEC.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

MEETING ADJOURNED

To report an outage...

Online:

Members may report power outages online at www.westcentralelectric.coop. Click on the tab at the top titled "Report an Outage" and enter your account number or phone number.

By phone:

You may also call to report outages by phone. Call 1-800-491-3803 -- 24 hrs. a day, or Higginsville at 660-584-2131.

***During heavy outages, we will be busy, so please keep trying if you get a busy signal.**

Before calling, have you:

- 1) Checked your fuses or multibreakers?
- 2) Checked with your neighbors to see if they are out of electricity?

When calling, have this information ready:

- A) Your name, or the name your service is under;
B) Your account number (Look on your latest bill to find it.) or your map location number.
(This is the number the co-op uses to locate where you live. It was given to you when you signed up for membership.) Please keep both numbers by your phone for quicker service.

Tracking Outages

Outage information may be tracked on our website, and periodic updates will be posted on our facebook page. **PLEASE DO NOT REPORT OUTAGES ON THE FACEBOOK PAGE** as they have a good chance of getting missed. If you have internet service, go to the website to report instead.

Reminder to our members...

West Central Electric would like to remind members that there is no mail service to our Oak Grove Office.

Any correspondence or payments must be mailed to WCE headquarters in Higginsville to the following address:

**West Central Electric
Cooperative,
P.O. Box 452, Higginsville,
MO 64037**

*(Walk-in and night-drop box services
available at both locations.)*

FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • October 31, 2013

| | This month | YTD 2013 | YTD 2012 |
|--|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Revenue | 1,903,310 | 21,289,756 | 19,722,169 |
| Power Bill Expense | 1,157,545 | 12,710,623 | 12,553,950 |
| Operation & Maint. Expense | 504,765 | 4,901,922 | 4,627,483 |
| Depreciation Expense | 149,553 | 1,479,743 | 1,435,431 |
| Interest Expense | 131,422 | 1,134,350 | 949,076 |
| Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense) | 1,943,285 | 20,226,638 | 19,565,940 |
| Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses) | -39,975 | 1,063,118 | 156,229 |
| Other Margins | 32,851 | 185,203 | 9,131 |
| TOTAL MARGINS | -7,124 | 1,248,321 | 165,360 |