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Visit us at www.ocec-inc.com

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF OTERO COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OP

August 2009

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A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative



Concerns Shown Over HR 2454, "American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009"

During the last week of June, the House passed H.R. 2454, called the "American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009" (ACES).

NRECA, our national organization, worked continuously with Henry Waxman, Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee to make improvements that will make the bill more affordable and fair than the initial versions of the bill. There is still much work ahead of us to improve this bill before it is enacted into law.

This bill uses a cap and trade system to set a cap on the amount of CO2 emissions being allowed each year. The base year to establish the cap was chosen as 2005. Those entities that emit CO2 into the atmosphere would either be given permits for that CO2, or would have to buy permits for the CO2. Then, at the end of each year, the emitters, such as electric utilities, car companies or even ranchers, would be required to submit one allowance or permit to the EPS for every ton of CO2 emitted during the year. The number of permits available would be capped and gradually decline over time. **The current estimated cost of these permits is \$20. Using the info contained in H.R. 2454 it would cost the Members of this cooperative an additional \$2,226,000 per year or about \$126 per meter per year. However, many are saying the actual cost will be closer to \$50, which would translate into \$5,567,000 per year or \$315 per meter.**

NRECA and its member cooperatives continue to have significant concerns about the bill. Now the NRECA will be working with the members of the U.S. Senate to make significant improvements to this bill to make it even more workable, affordable, and fair.

The problem with a "cap and trade" system is that nobody knows what the actual cost may end up being. Considering our current economic conditions, the question to our elected officials about Climate Change should be, is this the right thing to do to combat climate change. Will the legislation passed require that the money derived from the system be spent on the necessary technology improvements to meet our electric needs, such as clean coal technology or will it spend it on government bailouts. These are questions we need to ask our legislators. You may contact your elected officials by completing the form at www.ourenergy.coop.

INFORMATION REQUESTED BY COOPERATIVE

When you as a member of Otero County Electric Cooperative, Inc. perform some type of improvements around your home or property and you add electrical load, please notify OCEC so we can be assured that the equipment we have at your location is sized properly. Failure to do so may result in damage to your equipment and also the cooperative's equipment. So to avoid unnecessary outages or damages to equipment, please contact OCEC when you add a load at your location.

**INFORMATION YOU CAN
FIND AT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.OCEC-INC.COM**

- Make a payment with your credit card, debit card, or pay by e-check.
- Check your balance, payment history, consumption history and a detailed copy of your billing information.
- Online Energy Audit
- Kids Corner for educational purposes.
- Regulatory Information
- Existing Rates
- Products and Services offered by OCEC.
- Job Opportunities
- Net Metering Information
- Contacts at OCEC
- Energy Calculator
- Energy Library
- Information on Coop Connections Card.

Check it out today and see what's available

**HEAT TRANSFER IN
YOUR HOME.**

Why is it important to know how a house loses heat in the winter or gains heat in the summer? A sound understanding of how a house loses

(continued next column)

and gains heat can help when making energy-improvement decisions. The first step is learning the basics of heat transfer.

Heat moves through your home in three ways. Conduction is how heat moves through solid material, such as the handle of a cast iron skillet on a stove top. In your house, this is how most of the heat flows through insulation in the walls and ceilings.

Conduction isn't an issue when outside and inside temperatures are similar. The temperature difference between air on each side of a wall determines how fast heat will flow through it. So, if it is 68 degrees indoors and 28 degrees outdoors, about twice as much heat will be lost through the wall than when it is 48 degrees outdoors.

Convection is similar to conduction, but it occurs in fluids and gases. When it is windy outdoors, the cold air increases the heat loss from the wall more than if the air, at the same temperature, was still. This creates the "wind chill" factor weather forecasters often mention.

Radiation does not need a transfer material to move heat. This is how the sun heats the Earth. Radian heat transfer increases exponentially as the temperature difference between two areas grows. For example, when a black roof reaches 160 degrees and the inside of your house is 80 degrees, the heat transfer can increase significantly.

With the causes of heat loss and gain now named and known, you should be able to inspect your home and do a reasonably accurate energy evaluation before tackling improvement projects.

**KILOWATT HOUR
AND YOU**

It is hard to realize the benefits received from electricity because it is not a visible commodity such as a gallon of gas.

Electricity is one of the few things we, the consumers use before we pay for it. By the time we receive our bill from OCEC, we have already used about 40 days worth of electricity. Also when the bill arrives, should we realize we have more KWH than we intended to, we can't return the unwanted KWH's for credit.

Our electrical usage is measured by a watt hour meter, which is a device used to measure the number of KWH's of electricity that passes through it.

What is a Kilowatt hour? A KWH is 1,000 watts, or a kilowatt of electricity, used for one hour. Ten 100 watt light bulbs are equal to 1,000 watts. For instance, if you burn them for one hour then you will have consumed one KWH of electricity. One KWH is also equal to 1.34 HP, 3,253,200 foot pounds, or 3413 BTUs of heat.

What dose a KWH cost? At present OCEC charges its members approximately 10 cents for residential service. To calculate the approximate operating cost of any appliance, multiply its wattage times the hours of operation, and divide by 1,000.

**OTERO COUNTY ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

**P.O. BOX 227
CLOUDCROFT, NEW MEXICO 88317**

- Office hours are 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. If service is interrupted, check your fuses and circuit breakers. If all your service is off, check with your neighbors.
- Report promptly if you think the trouble is on Otero County Electric Cooperative, Incorporated lines.
- When problem is on consumers side of the meter, the consumer will be charged for a false call for service.
- Please examine this bill carefully as it will be considered correct if we are not notified within 30 days.
- The statement enclosed does not include payments made after billing date.
- If you desire information on the use of electricity for any job, large or small, do not hesitate to call your Cooperative, come by the office, or write for information at any time.
- FOR EMERGENCIES OR POWER OUTAGES CALL (800) 548-4660.