

THE EPA JUGGERNAUT

Editor's Note: This is a guest editorial by Jay Holmquist, Nebraska Rural Electric Association Manager

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) continues their crusade against coal-fired electric generation. Proposed EPA regulations will raise electric rates and reduce reliability for the nation's and Nebraska's electric consumers. The regulation I refer to is the Clean Air Act regulation known as the Electric Generation Unit (EGU) Maximum Achievable Control Technology rule. "Maximum Achievable" are the operative words here. They mean EPA doesn't give a hoot what it costs consumers! This rule will cover coal-fired power plants greater than 25 megawatts and is designed to reduce emissions of mercury, non-mercury metallic air pollutants, and acid gases from coal-fired generation through use of new pollution control devices. The rule is to be finalized by the end of November and become effective in February 2012. Facilities will only have 3 years after rule becomes effective to comply.

Most of NREA's members, Cedar Knox PPD included, purchase their wholesale electricity from Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), whose coal-fired plants will be subject to this rule. "Baghouses" already installed at their facilities will enable them to meet the proposed **non-mercury** metallic hazardous air pollutants (HAP) limit. These baghouses already remove a portion of the **mercury** emissions, but additional pollution control equipment will be needed to meet the mercury limit. The biggest concern is they may also have to install very expensive "scrubbers" to meet the proposed acid gases limit.

NPPD's baghouses have virtually

eliminated visual emissions and have reduced mercury emissions by approximately 50 percent. However, NPPD estimates that additional mercury removal equipment will cost approximately 10 million dollars, plus annual operating costs. However, if the rule requires installation of the scrubbers to meet the proposed acid gases limit, it could cost **\$1 Billion**. NPPD estimates it could take 5 years to install these scrubbers.

NPPD and NREA's member-systems have serious concerns with the proposed rules and have written to the EPA urging them to reconsider and abandon portions of the proposed rule. The rule does not provide NPPD or Tri-State with enough time to comply, and that the short time frame for compliance puts our member's consumers at risk of having to absorb dramatic increases in electric rates that could cause them severe economic harm. We are also concerned about reliability of supply, should our wholesale providers have to decrease generation or prematurely retire generation units. Our members support reasonable initiatives to cost-effectively improve air quality but their customers expect reliable, affordable electricity, and are opposed to rules that unreasonably increase costs, impact reliability and ultimately reduce American jobs.

HAP emissions from EGUs are a minor contributor of such substances to the environment in the U. S. Emissions of mercury, the most important HAP emitted by EGUs, continue to decline. In 2005 EGUs accounted for only 29 tons out of global emissions of in excess of 7,000 tons. A thorough analysis would demonstrate that the HAP emission reductions EPA is seeking to achieve through this regu-

lation will have no discernible impact on public health or the environment. Moreover, HAP emissions are already



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subject to pollution controls which apply to numerous industry sources that are more significant emitters than the EGUs. Further, many of the controls that utilities are or will be required to install under various Clean Air Act programs will also result in HAP emission reductions without the imposition of this unnecessary layer of regulation.

EPA must reconsider regulating acid gases. This is not required under the Clean Air Act, and its inclusion will make it much more costly and difficult to comply. EPA has provided no evidence of any health risk associated with emissions of acid gases and metallic HAPS other than mercury. The acid gas control requirements will add tremendous costs to consumers and regulatory burdens to utilities with no positive benefit to public health. **It's time to stop the EPA juggernaut!**



Baby announcement

Brooklyn Faith Fischer was born August 29, 2011. She weighed 5 lbs 6 oz and 19" long. Proud parents are Corey and Ann Fischer. Corey is an Engineer at Cedar-Knox PPD. Brooklyn joins a brother, Cole and sister, Katelyn at home. Congratulations to the Fischer family.

Notice to Customers

The monthly Board of Directors meeting for Cedar-Knox PPD is the second Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the District office in Hartington. Notice of this meeting is also posted in the local paper each month.

EnergyWise Programs for 2011-2012

Some things are changing and some remain the same.

	2011	2012
Refrigerator Recycling Program	\$ 35	Discontinued
Cooling System Tune-ups	\$ 30	Discontinued
Energy Star Window A/C	\$ 30	Discontinued
Residential Heat Pump	14 SEER \$200	\$100
	15 SEER \$250	\$300
	16+ SEER \$300	\$300
Ground Source Heat pump	any SEER \$400	\$400

Not every program is listed, but these are some of the most popular. Contact us to get more details.

Commercial and Irrigation customers should check with us if you are considering any of our current programs.

Call 1-800-891-5196 or 402-254-6291 or stop by the office.

September is Farm Safety Month

Every year, serious accidents involving electricity occur on American farms. Most could be prevented.

September is "Farm Safety Month", and as we approach harvest time, please be extra vigilant, so we have a safe year-end.

Legislative Bill 164 went into effect August 26, 2011. This bill is pertaining to moving a building or object over county roads. The following is the general information that you should know.

Any person moving a **loaded** building or an object over fifteen feet, six inches (15' 6") high or wider than the roadway on a county or township road shall notify the local authority and the electric utility responsible for the infrastructure, including poles, wires, substation, and underground residential distribution cable boxes adjacent to or crossing the roadway along the route over which such building or object is being transported. Notification shall be made at least ten days prior to the move. Notification shall specifically describe the transporting vehicle, the width, length, height and weight of the building or object to be moved, the route to be used, and the date and hours during which the building or object will be transported. Complying with the notification requirements, does not exempt the person from complying with any other federal, state, or local authority permit or notification requirements.

Non-compliance with this law can result in a Class III misdemeanor.

Cedar-Knox PPD has an application that we will make available to anyone who requests to move a building or object over the roadway that is over fifteen feet, six inches high or wider than the roadway of the planned route, within our District area.

Downed Power Lines –Stay Away!

Call 911 and your local power supplier if you see downed power lines. If downed lines are on your vehicle and you are inside, stay inside, as long as you are not in immediate danger. Wait for help to come. Most IMPORTANT – assume all power lines are energized and dangerous.

October is PUBLIC POWER MONTH

Most people don't think about where their power comes from...just that it is there when they flip the switch. October is Public Power Month and as your local publicly owned electric utility, we encourage you to celebrate public power. As a locally controlled electric provider, our employees and Board of Directors are your friends and neighbors and have a deep commitment to our community. When we make decisions that affect rate payers and the community, we make decisions with you in mind, as we live, work and play here too.

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