

Northwestern Electric News

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

December 2014

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One last call to action!

We must stop the U.S. from becoming the next Germany

Like an out-of-control carnival ride, the EPA's energy plan goes too far, too fast - jeopardizing the wellbeing of millions of American families in the process, including members of Northwestern Electric. Unless sidelined, the proposal will force our nation down the road to more expensive energy – but don't just take our word for it.

The German government spent the past 10 years changing their energy portfolio by government decree, and it has cost consumers dearly. To boost the expansion of renewable energy production, the German government taxed consumers heavily through fees on their electric bills. In the end, Germany did see expanded renewable energy production, but they also saw extremely high electric bills.

In the wake of the proposal, German residential consumers pay approximately 40 cents US/kWH, compared to about 11 cents for American residential customers.

And, while the Germans raised their rates to pay for clean energy, Germany's use of coal is actually at its highest level since 1990. While Germany's renewable subsidies did have some impact on the nation's CO2 emissions, those reductions cost them a mind boggling \$259/ton.

According to Der Spiegel, a German news magazine, more than 300,000 German households a year see their power shut off because of unpaid bills – forcing electricity to become a luxury good and spawning what German charity groups call the 'energy poor.'

Make no mistake, the EPA's proposal picks winners and losers and sets the U.S. down the path that's been paved by Germany. In addition to fundamentally altering how Americans use electricity, the proposal will trigger higher prices for many consumers and local businesses. The German "all pain, no gain" model cannot become an American reality.

Supporting the environment and a true all-of-the-above energy policy are not mutually exclusive. America's Electric Cooperatives recognize that a true all-of-the-above energy policy provides a gateway to affordable and reliable electricity for our consumer-members. (17523001)

In fact, since 2009, electric cooperatives have doubled their renewable energy capacity and have made long-term investments in wind, solar and hydro energy production (without German-style mandated fees).

Turning affordable and reliable electricity into a relic of the past is the wrong approach. Already, hundreds of thousands of people from both sides of the aisle have made their voices heard against this proposal. We hope you'll take the chance to join with us.

Visit www.action.coop today and help us tell the EPA that the U.S. can't afford to become the next Germany.



RENEWABLE ENERGY



NUCLEAR POWER



NATURAL GAS



CLEAN COAL

America needs an
ALL OF THE ABOVE STRATEGY
to keep electric bills affordable

TELL THE EPA TO RECONSIDER
ITS "ALL-BUT-ONE" APPROACH

ACTION.COOP

**NORTHWESTERN
ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

Woodward, Oklahoma
Operating In
Beaver, Dewey, Ellis, Harper,
Major, Woods and Woodward
Counties in Oklahoma

**TYSON LITTAU
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kenny Knowles, Pres. Arnett
Ray Smith, Vice-Pres. Taloga
John Bruce, Jr., Sec.-Treas. Sharon
Marvin Wilkinson Buffalo
Clair Craighead Woodward
Wayne Hall Mooreland
Duane Henderson Mooreland
Lee Huckaby Selman
Gilbert Perkins Gate

Jonna Hensley Editor
Michael W. Mitchel Attorney

**IN CASE OF TROUBLE CALL:
24 HOUR EMERGENCY
1-877-9NOPOWER
877.966.7693**

If no answer call:
John Kirkwood 580.866.3245
Bob Appell 580.273.4088

NOTICE

A copy of NWEK Bylaws will be made available for any member upon request.

**Web page: www.nwecok.coop
E-mail: nwec@nwecok.coop**

NWEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call 866.632.9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax 202.690.7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Filing period opens Jan.2

Board seats in Districts 1, 3 & 5 up for election

The filing period for three Northwestern Electric board member seats opens Jan. 2. The seats up for election are: District 1, Kenny Knowles of Arnett; District 3, Duane Henderson of Mooreland; and District 5, Ray Smith of Taloga.

Members wishing to place their names on the ballot should contact the administrative assistant, Rhonda McMakin, for an official nomination form. Members seeking nomination must be a bona fide resident in the district in which they are a member.

Candidates must obtain the signature of three other qualified members from the same district on the nomination form. The forms must be completed and returned to McMakin or the sec-

retary of the Cooperative, John Bruce, Jr., no later than the first business day in the month of February prior to the date of the district meeting. In accordance with the Bylaws, the current director of each district shall call a separate meeting not less than 30 days nor more than 60 days before the annual meeting. Northwestern Electric will announce the meeting dates, which will fall between Feb. 10 and Mar. 10, in the January issue of *Northwestern Electric News*.

Questions should be directed to the CEO, Tyson Littau, or McMakin, at 580.256.7425 or 800.375.7423. See related article concerning nominations and elections on page 4.

**Northwestern Electric will close
December 24th and 25th,
and again on January 1st
in observance of the holidays.**



**In case of an outage,
call our
24 hour hotline:
877.966.7693.**

September 2014 Operating Report

	2013	2014
Revenue - Billing	2,943,277	3,201,887
Cost of Power	1,678,048	1,999,303
Miles of Lines	4,943	4,963
Members Connected	11,722	11,857
Density per Mile	2.37	2.39
Average Member KWH	2,699	2,669
Average Bill	251.09	270.04
KWH Purchased	30,513,617	31,204,082
KWH Sold	31,641,335	31,645,338
Income per Mile	599	649
Expense per Mile	552	602



'Tis the season to give

If you are looking for ways to give this holiday season, Northwestern Electric can help you.

Instead of an "angel" tree, each year we display an "energy" tree in our main lobby. It has light bulbs on it with account numbers of NWEK members who are in need of assistance during the

holiday season. Only account numbers are listed, as the names are to remain anonymous.

Anyone may come into our lobby and pick out a light bulb and donate to an account that is hanging from the tree. Any donation is appreciated no matter how big or small.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Be merry and bright, but don't let your holiday lights shine all night. Save money on your electric bill by installing a light timer for your decked out home. It can help lower your electric bill and reduce energy consumption. Use a manual timer plugged into an electrical outlet to automatically turn lights on and off as scheduled.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Open house

Northwestern Electric is hosting an open house on Friday, Dec. 5, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Stop by and join us for hot wassail and cookies. While you are here, sign up for \$100 cash.

And bring your children or grandchildren and we'll give them a ticket for a free ride on the Kiwanis train at Crystal Christmas.

Hidden account number contest

Congratulations to Lyndol Hussey for recognizing his number is last month's newsletter. The other number belonged to Keith McKee.

We have hidden two account numbers somewhere in the articles in this newsletter. The numbers will always be enclosed in parentheses and will look similar to this example (XXXXXX).

If you recognize your account number, all you have to do is give us a call on or before the 8th of the current month and we'll give you a credit on your bill for the amount stated.

This month's numbers are worth \$25 each. Happy hunting!

Cooking

Peppermint Brittle

2 pounds white chocolate
30 small peppermint candy canes



Line a large jellyroll pan with heavy-duty foil.

Place white chocolate in a microwave-safe bowl. Heat in microwave on medium setting for 5 to 6 minutes. Stir occasionally, until chocolate is melted and smooth.

Place candy canes in a plastic bag, or between two pieces of waxed paper. Using a mallet or rolling pin, break the candy canes into chunks. Stir peppermint into melted white chocolate. Spread evenly in pan, and chill until set, about one hour. Break into pieces by slamming pan on counter.

Yield: 2 1/4 pounds

Nomination and election of trustees

The following information is being published to comply with REA Bulletin Number 20-19 in the interest of NWECC Members.

ARTICLE III MEETING OF MEMBERS

Section 7. Nomination and Election of Trustees.

• 7.1.1. Nominations

During the month of January before the district meeting, candidates desiring to be nominated must pick up an official nomination form which may be secured at the headquarters office of the Cooperative. Candidates must obtain the signature of three other qualified members from the same district on said form and be delivered back to the Secretary of the Cooperative or his representative not less than the first business day in the month of February prior to the date of the district meeting.

• 7.2 District Meetings

Not less than thirty days nor more than sixty days before the annual meeting, the Board of Trustees shall call a separate meeting of the members of each district in accordance with Article IV Section 2 of these Bylaws, at a suitable place in or near such district for the purpose of electing a Trustee to represent the members located within such district. The meeting shall, however, be open for discussion of any other matters pertaining to the business of the Cooperative, regardless of whether or not such matters were listed in the notice of the meeting. Recommendations with respect thereto may be submitted to the Board of Trustees or the entire membership. (989529001)

• 7.3 Order of Business of District Meetings

The district meeting shall be called to order by the Trustee

representing the district, or by another designated representative of the Board of Trustees, or in their absence, by any member residing within said district. The members shall then proceed to elect a chairman, who shall be someone other than the Trustee, and who shall appoint a secretary to act for the duration of the meeting. Five percent of the members residing in the district present of such a duly called district meeting shall constitute a quorum. Members of other districts present at the meeting may be heard but shall have no vote. Candidates must be members residing in the district and must possess the qualifications for Trustee as specified in Section 2 of Article IV of these Bylaws.

• 7.4 Voting and Minutes

Voting shall be by ballot. Each member may vote for one candidate. The candidate from such district receiving the majority of votes present shall be considered elected as Trustee. The minutes of such district meeting shall set forth, among other matters, the name of each person nominated and the number of votes received by each, and shall specify the person elected as Trustee from such district. A certified copy of the minutes, signed by the Secretary and the Chairman of the district meeting, shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Cooperative within five days after such district meeting.

• 7.5 When Quorums Cannot Be Obtained at District Meetings

In the event a quorum cannot be obtained at a district meeting provided for herein, said Trustee's position shall be declared vacant for the forthcoming three year term by the Board of Trustees at their next regular board meeting, and said vacancy shall be filled in accordance to the terms and qualifications listed in ARTICLE IV, Sections 2 and 4 of these Bylaws.

ARTICLE IV TRUSTEES

Section 2. Qualifications and Tenure

• 2.1 Eligibility for Trustees

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a trustee or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative who:

(2.11) is not a member of the Cooperative.

(2.12) is not a bona fide resident of the particular district of which that person is a member.

(2.13) does not purchase from the Cooperative electric energy at that person's principal place of residence.

(2.14) is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative.

(2.15) is the incumbent for candidate for an elective public office in connection with which a salary or compensation in excess of one thousand dollars per annum is paid.

(2.16) has been employed by the cooperative within five years of his/her employment termination date and the scheduled district meeting for which member desires to run.

Section 4. Vacancies

4.1 Vacancy Occurring Due to Failure of Quorum

In the event a vacancy was caused by the failure of a quorum at a district meeting called for the purpose of electing Trustee, the vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees at the next regular board meeting. The member elected as Trustee to serve the upcoming full term must meet the qualifications in ARTICLE IV, Section 2 of these Bylaws, and reside in the same district as the Trustee to whose office he succeeds.

See related article about the filing period on page 2.