



Bluestem NEWS

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Cold Weather Rule

Effective November 1–March 31

Bluestem Electric Cooperative members who are unable to pay their electric service bills during the cold weather period may qualify for this program. The requirements members must meet to qualify are summarized below:

- ▶ **Members must notify** Bluestem Electric of their inability to pay their bill in full.
- ▶ **Members must apply** to federal, state, local, or other financial assistance programs for which they may be eligible to receive aid in paying utility bills.
- ▶ **Members and Bluestem Electric will reach** a mutually agreeable payment arrangement.

Please note that failure to follow the above requirements, illegally diverting utility service, receiving service by tampering, or defaulting on a payment agreement will disqualify the member from receiving benefits under the Cold Weather Rule.

Bluestem Electric will: Send one written notice mailed first class at least five days prior to termination of service. A member may not be disconnected until the National Weather Service predicts a 24-hour forecast above the activating temperature.

The Co-op shall make at least one telephone call attempt and a personal contact attempt with the member of record on the day of termination of service prior to termination of service.

In no event will Bluestem Electric disconnect service if the temperature is forecast to fall below 35 degrees Fahrenheit within 24-hours following the time of disconnection.

The Cold Weather Rule is to ensure that human health and safety are not unreasonably endangered during the cold weather months.

KEPCo Receives FERC Approval of Power Contract

After two years of negotiations, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, Inc., (KEPCo), Bluestem's wholesale power provider, received approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on a power purchase contract with Westar energy.

The 36-year cost-based formula rate agreement for wholesale electric service will enable KEPCo and its members access to Westar's fleet of generating resources and mitigate the risk of being vulnerable to price fluctuations in the open market.

"This agreement is a critical component in KEPCo's resource mix. It ranks right up there with KEPCo's decisions to participate in Wolf Creek and Iatan II," said Stephen Parr, KEPCo Executive Vice President and CEO. "The agreement establishes a long-term, economical, and stable power supply at a time when uncertainty abounds within the utility industry."

Under the agreement, KEPCo will purchase wholesale electricity based on Westar's cost to produce the power and combine it with



Stephen Parr, KEPCo, (left) and Bill Moore, Westar, execute a 36-year power purchase contract.

KEPCo's resources to meet all of its members' energy needs. KEPCo and its members will also benefit by having Westar help manage KEPCo's resources and by participating in joint power supply planning. The agreement allows KEPCo and Westar to "pool" their respective loads and generating capabilities to make the most efficient use of both companies' resources.

KEPCo will also be able to meet future requirements for renewable power by having access to Westar's renewable resources. Since Westar provides power for the agreement from its entire generating fleet, KEPCo will receive access to additional nuclear power from Wolf Creek. KEPCo will also have the option to participate in future Westar base-load generation projects.

Stay Safe this Halloween



Encourage children use caution while trick-or-treating.

Halloween is one of the best times of the year for both children and adults. Nonetheless, with decorative lights, fog machines, black lights and animatronics, this spooky holiday can be full of electrical hazards if you are not cautious. Use the following tips to

keep safety hazards from haunting you this Halloween:

- ▶ Children should always stop at the curb or the edge of the road and look left, then right, and then left again before crossing. They should continue looking in this manner until they are safely across the street.
- ▶ Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, walls or other firm supports. Do not use nails or tacks that could puncture light strings or electrical/extension cords.
- ▶ Provide well-lit walkways and porch lighting for trick-or-treaters. Make sure the walkways are clear for trick-or-treaters.
- ▶ Plug lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold.
- ▶ Make sure decorative lighting is well-ventilated, protected from weather and a safe distance from anything flammable like dry leaves and shrubs. Do not coil power cords or extension cords while in use or tuck under rugs or drapes.
- ▶ Turn out all lights and decorations before leaving or going to bed. Always have at least one fire extinguisher available and know how to use it.

Morton Celebrates 25 Years at Bluestem

Mike Morton, Bluestem's Assistant Manager, recently celebrated 25 years with the cooperative.

Morton was recognized for his years of service with a commemorative rural electric cooperative watch and a gift certificate. Congratulations on this great achievement!

General Manager, Ken Maginley (left) congratulates Mike Morton, Bluestem's Assistant Manager, on 25 years of service.



Bluestem Trustee Nomination and Election Process

This is an excerpt from the Bluestem Electric Cooperative bylaws.

SECTION 4.05 NOMINATION OF TRUSTEES. The Board shall appoint a nominating committee, on or before the first of October of each year, consisting of not less than one, nor more than five members from each district for whom a Trustee is to be elected. Board members may not serve on the nominating committee.

Only committee members from each district will nominate their own candidate. Committee members from districts one and two will meet together at Clay Center and committee members from districts three and four will meet together at Wamego. Nominating committees shall meet during the month of October.

On or before the first day of November, the nominating committee shall prepare and post a list of nominations for Trustee at the Wamego office if a Trustee is to be elected from districts three or four and at the Clay Center office if a Trustee is to be elected from districts one or two. The committee shall nominate one or more candidates for each position.

Nominations may be made by petition, filed on or before the close of business, December 1, at the Wamego office for Trustees to be elected from districts three and four, and at the Clay Center office for Trustees to be elected

from districts one or two. The petition must be signed by no less than five percent of the membership of the district for whom the Trustee is to be elected. The secretary shall immediately post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations by the committee is posted. Nominations made by the petition shall appear on the ballot in the order received.

SECTION 4.06 ELECTION OF TRUSTEES. The election of Trustees shall be by mail ballot. Only those nominees selected by the nominating committee or nominated by petition shall appear on the ballot. There may be write-in votes for a qualified member not named on the ballot.

The ballot shall first list the name(s) nominated by the committee, then the name(s) nominated by petition in the order received and, at the end, a place to write in a name. Failure of strict compliance with provisions of this section shall not affect the validity of any election of Trustees.

The secretary shall mail the ballots to the respective members on or before the 10th day of December of each year. On or before the first day of January of each year, ballots must be postmarked or received at the Bluestem Wamego office or the Clay Center office. If you have any questions about the nomination and election process please call your local Bluestem office.

What is an Electric Cooperative?

Each October, cooperatives all across America celebrate the role, accomplishments and contributions of our nation's cooperatives.

Research shows that when consumers find out a business is a cooperative, they are more likely to do business with them. And with consumer trust in cooperatives topping investor-owned companies, doing business with a cooperative is a win-win proposition.

Co-op History

History is loaded with many cooperation success stories. In 1620, two days after the Mayflower anchored in the rolling waters off Plymouth Rock, representatives of the 102 persons aboard pledged their commitment to each other by signing the Mayflower Compact. This simple act united them in a cooperative.

In 1752, inventor and statesman Benjamin Franklin persuaded his neighbors to share a common risk by forming the Philadelphia Contributorship for the Insurance of Homes from Loss of Fire.

During the 100 years following Franklin's insurance cooperative, a scattering of membership associations began to pop up across the country.

Rural Americans turned to cooperatives in 1935, when only about 10 percent of the nation's farms had electricity when President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued an executive order making federal funds available to provide rural electric service and creating the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), now the Rural Utilities Service (RUS).

The idea was not to own electric utilities for profit, but to provide service to those living in rural areas. The cooperative was a not-for-profit solution that met this goal.

After the creation of the REA, electric cooperatives began to form across the United States. Those early electric cooperatives were formed by

farmers and local businessmen. Membership fees were between \$5 to \$10 for each customer.

Upon formation, the cooperative could borrow money from the REA in order to build an electricity system to bring central-station electricity into the countryside.

That's how the lights were turned on along the country roads in Kansas and across America.

Co-op Values

- ▶ Co-ops are owned and democratically controlled by their members—the people who use the cooperative's services or buy its goods—not by investors.
- ▶ Co-ops return surplus revenues (income over expenses and investment) to members proportionate to their use of the cooperative, not proportionate to their ownership share.
- ▶ Co-ops are motivated by service to their members, not by profit.

Types of Co-ops

Cooperatives fall into four categories: consumer, producer, worker and purchasing shared services. Bluestem Electric falls under the consumer-owned cooperative category.

Consumer cooperatives are owned by the people who buy the goods or use the services of the cooperative. Consumer cooperatives include electric and telecommunications cooperatives,

farm cooperatives, credit unions, child care cooperatives, food cooperatives, health care cooperatives, housing cooperatives, and many more.

Capital Credits

Since cooperatives are not-for-profit, any margins made belong to the members. Sometimes these margins are retained by the cooperative for a limited period to provide capital.

The individual member is credited on the cooperative's books with having provided this capital in direct proportion to the amount of patronage supplied by the member to the cooperative. When economically possible, these "capital credits" are refunded in cash.

Today's Cooperatives

Today, America's 930 non-profit, member-owned rural electric cooperative systems provide electricity to more than 42 million people in 47 states.



Touching Lives.

Member-owned cooperative businesses touch the lives of virtually all Americans every day.

We provide almost every product and service imaginable, from the coffee you drink in the morning to the news you watch at night.

And we do it with a difference.

Since we are owned by our customers, you know you are getting a good deal and that more of the money you spend stays in your community.



Cooperatives.

Owned by Our Members,
Committed to Our Communities.

Oh My! What to Do?

BY DOUG RYE



Doug Rye

“...Building a house or making an existing house more energy efficient is not only the smart thing to do, but the right thing to do.”

Everywhere I go, the electric companies have the same concerns. Primarily, how they can continue to provide electricity to customers at an affordable rate. Although I do not claim to be an expert in this field, it appears to be an extremely difficult task.

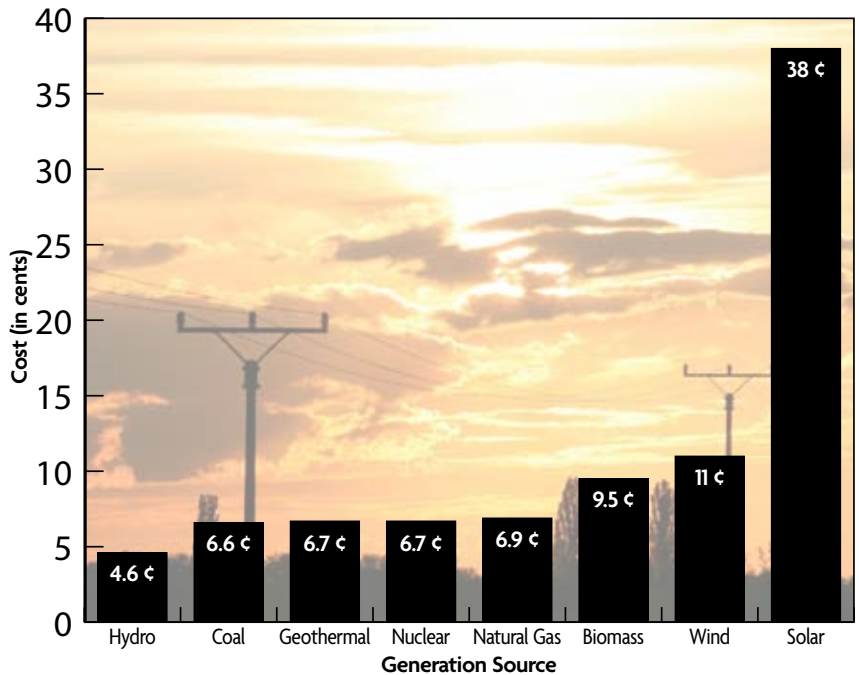
In one case a state government has asked the electric industry to provide 25 percent of their electric generation by using renewable sources by the year 2025. That may not sound like such a difficult thing to do but that particular state has almost no hydro-electric generation options, very little wind generation options and even less solar generation options. There are some possibilities for bio-mass generation, but it would be a very small percentage of the need.

I have learned that many states are in the same situation. As nuclear and coal generation appear to be becoming an unacceptable option for some, I ask, what is one going to do?

Well, the electric companies have embraced the idea of energy efficiency as one of the ways to help reach their goals. Energy efficiency simply lowers the total amount of electricity needed. A percentage of a smaller number is more obtainable. For example, 25 percent of 100 equals 25, but 25 percent of 75 equals 18.75.

I have always felt that building a house or making an existing house more energy efficient is not only the smart thing to do, but the right thing to do. Everybody wins with energy efficien-

Cost Per Kilowatt-Hour by Generation Source



The chart above is the approximate cost of generating electricity with the different types of fuel.

cy. I feel honored and blessed to have the opportunity to teach others across the country how to have a more energy efficient house by writing this article, by hosting a weekly radio program and presenting seminars across the nation.

Every week, many of you tell me that I have helped you and you encourage me to keep up the good work. Sometimes when I pray I say, “Lord, I know right from wrong and I know what I am supposed to do. Please help me to always to do right.”

I wish that each of us would make these improvements to our own house. Then we could say that we have done our part to reduce the total demand which would help us reach the desired goals. You, my readers, are smart enough to understand why this is so important. See you next month.

Doug Rye, is a licensed architect and the popular host of the “Home Remedies” radio show. You can contact Doug at 888-Doug-Rye. Source: Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Corporation.