

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS Regarding Proposed Rate Change



**MESSAGE
FROM
GENERAL
MANAGER
RONNIE
ROBINSON**

Comanche Electric Cooperative Association (CECA) proposes to change its rates for electric utility service.

To discuss the proposal and to invite public comments, CECA will hold three public meetings: 1:30 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, September 8, at our Eastland office building; 9:30 a.m. to noon Wednesday, September 9, at our Early office building; and 1:30 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, September 9, at our headquarters building in Comanche.

The proposed change to the existing rates that were implemented in December 2001 is the result of a rate and cost-of-service study conducted by the cooperative's staff and C.H. Guernsey & Company. The board of directors approved the study on May 19, 2009.

The purpose of a rate study is to determine the necessary revenue requirement for each rate class and to provide rate equity among the classes. By doing so, each member is assured that the cost to provide service to each rate class is being recovered equitably.

Utility producers throughout the nation are being forced to evaluate their rates because higher equipment and fuel prices are making it more costly to maintain operations. Materials such as utility poles, cross arms, transformers and conductive wire have increased dramatically in price.

It is anticipated that the proposed rate changes will increase adjusted test year ending September 20, 2008, revenues from \$26,067,248 to \$28,300,930, which is an increase of \$2,233,682 or 8.57 percent.

The rates become effective with October 1 usage. To minimize the impact of these changes on the average member, the cooperative is phasing in the changes over time beginning November 1, 2009.

Members with questions may attend the meetings, contact me at (325) 356-2533 or contact one of our local offices.

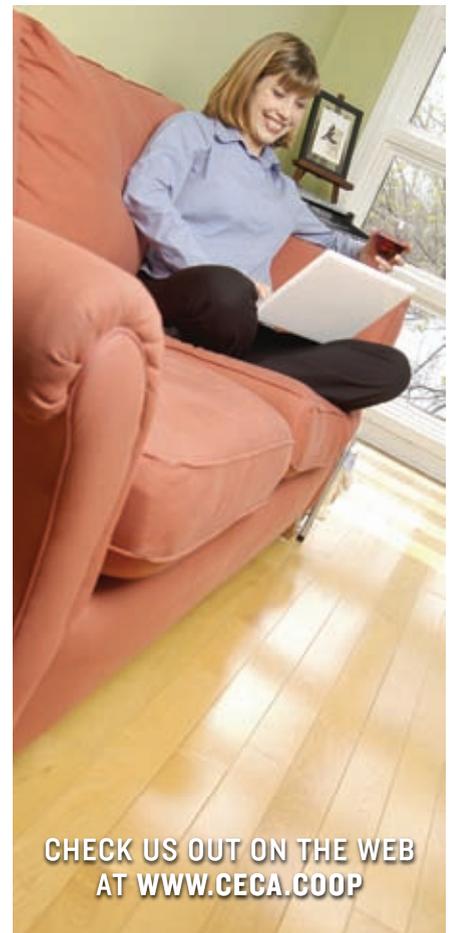


Keep air-conditioning tuneups quick and costly repairs to a minimum with these simple tips for year-round maintenance.

- **Change the filters once every month. This is especially important during the summer when dust and allergens circulate.**

- **Remove plants, branches and debris from on and around outdoor air-conditioning equipment.**

- **Indoors, vacuum return-air registers and air vents regularly.**



**CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB
AT WWW.CECA.COOP**



H A P P Y LABOR DAY!



**Comanche EC will be
closed Monday, September 7,
in observance of Labor Day.**

**We wish you and your family
a restful and safe holiday.**

AT COMANCHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Conservation Matters

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative



Do-It-Yourself Home Energy Audits

One of the first steps to making your home more efficient involves understanding how it uses energy. Just as a doctor has to do a thorough examination of a patient before writing a prescription, your home will need a good inspection before most inefficiencies can be identified and corrected.

You can easily conduct a basic home energy audit with a simple but diligent walk-through. When auditing your home, keep a checklist of areas you have inspected and problems you find. Full lists are available online—Touchstone Energy Cooperatives® Home Energy Saver (at www.touchstoneenergysavers.com) and the Alliance to Save Energy Home Energy Checkup (search for it at www.ase.org) are both useful—and most trouble spots can be found in a few key areas.

Locating Air Leaks

First, make a list of obvious air leaks (drafts). The potential energy savings from reducing drafts in a home may range from 5 percent to 30 percent per year, with a much more comfortable residence the result. Check for indoor air leaks, such as in gaps along a baseboard or the edges of flooring and at junctures of walls and the ceiling.

Inspect windows and doors for air leaks. If you can rattle them, movement means possible air leaks. If you can see daylight around a door or window frame, then the door or window has a leak; you can usually seal these through caulking or weatherstripping.

On the outside, inspect all areas where two different building materials meet, including all exterior corners, siding and chimney junctures, and areas

where the foundation and the bottom of exterior brick or siding join. You should plug and caulk any holes or penetrations for faucets, pipes, electric outlets and wiring.

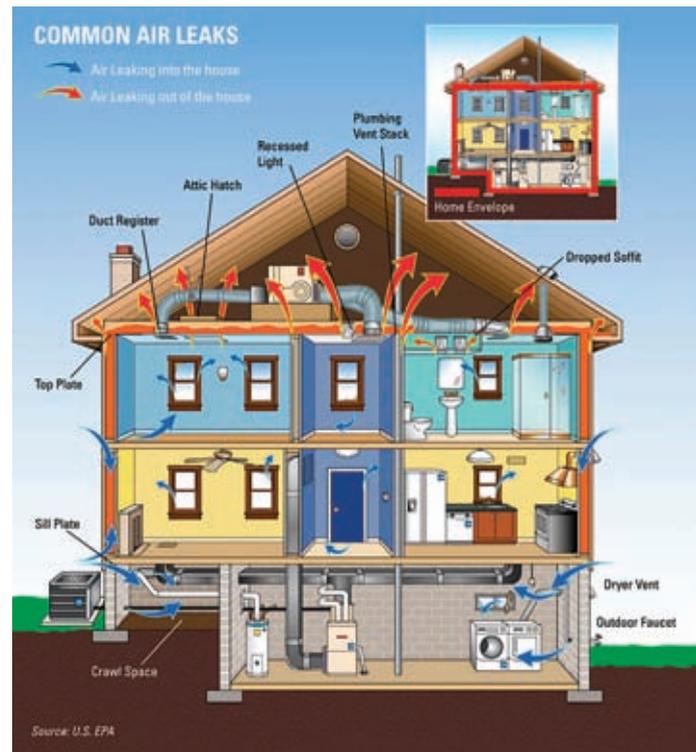
Also, look for cracks and holes in the mortar, foundation and siding and seal them with the appropriate material. Check the exterior caulking around doors and windows, and make sure exterior storm doors and primary doors seal tightly.

Insulation

Heat loss through the ceiling and walls in your home could be very large if insulation levels are less than the recommended minimum. When your house was built, the builder likely installed the amount of insulation recommended (if any) at that time. Given today's energy prices (and future prices that will probably be higher), your insulation might be inadequate, especially if you have an older home. Online energy audits will provide more details on checking insulation levels in the attic, walls and basement.

Heating/Cooling Equipment

Inspect heating and cooling equipment annually, or as recommended by the manufacturer. If you have a forced-air furnace, check filters and replace them as needed. Generally, you should change them about once every month, especially during periods of



high use. Have a professional check and clean your equipment once a year.

Lighting

On average, lighting accounts for about 10 percent of a home's electric bill. Examine the wattage size of the lightbulbs in your house. You may have 100-watt (or larger) bulbs where 60 or 75 watts would do. You should also consider using compact fluorescent lightbulbs for areas where lights are left on for hours at a time.

More information on both do-it-yourself and professional energy audits can be found at www.energysavers.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Comanche Students Give City Park A Face-lift

BY SHIRLEY DUKES



From left: Mandie Johnson, Jeremy Gutierrez, teacher Ronnie Clifton, Rachael Clawson and Fidelia Gutierrez.

You've probably heard the joke "April showers bring May flowers, but what do May flowers bring? Pilgrims!" Well, in this instance those May flowers did not bring pilgrims, but they did bring teenagers! On May 27, nine students from the Comanche High School Leadership group congregated at the Comanche City Park for a workday beneath the shade trees.

This project was conceived by a group of students who attended Comanche Electric Cooperative's S.O.S. (System of Service) Program, formerly known as the John Ben Shepperd Leadership Forum.

Each year, Comanche Electric Cooperative sponsors the forum for all schools in the CECA service district. The purpose of the forum is to teach leadership skills

to students who are already exhibiting leadership qualities. During the forum, students are asked to design a community outreach project. In designing this project, they must identify a need, formulate a solution to that need and develop a plan of action. At the conclusion of the forum, students are encouraged to return to their schools and communities and actually put their plan into action.

The Comanche City Park has four three-tiered wooden planters at the entrance to the park and a concrete outlined planter in the shape of Texas on the hill. When students, along with their sponsor Ronnie Clifton, attended the forum in October, they decided to completely redesign these planters. Armed with shovels, hoes, beautiful flowers and, of course, organic ant treatment, Clifton led his students in a beautification project designed to dress up the park entrance.

Blake Bill, Scott Bill, Rachel Clawson, Fidelia Gutierrez, Jeremy Gutierrez, Isidro Guerrero, Mandie Johnson, Lupe Rios and Tyler Rodriguez joined Clifton and a host of fire ants under the massive oak trees in an undertaking that turned out to be breathtakingly beautiful. The group removed the dead and dying foliage and replaced it with cannas, periwinkles, zinnias, Knock Out and spreading roses, plumbago and sage.

It took the better part of the day, but the result is four beautifully replanted planters and a colorful Texas flower bed. The Texas sun can be harsh on flowers, so if you plan to see the blooms you'd best

hurry! But even if you miss them, be sure to thank this group of dedicated students and their teacher for a job well done!

Comanche Electric Cooperative is proud to offer these opportunities to area youth!



GOVERNMENT-IN-ACTION YOUTH TOUR

Each year, Comanche Electric Cooperative sends two area students on an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. These two join approximately 1,500 other students from electric cooperatives across the nation as they tour our nation's capital.

On the tour, students learn about electric cooperatives, American history and U.S. government. They participate in National Youth Day, visit with their representatives in the House and Senate and explore the sights around Washington, D.C. A few of the many sites the students will see are: Washington National Cathedral, Arlington Cemetery, Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Mount Vernon, Union Station, the Air and Space Museum and other Smithsonian Institution museums.

To qualify for the trip, the student must be a sophomore, junior or senior attending one of the 25 schools within Comanche EC's service area.



CECA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Each year, one deserving student is awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to further his or her education.

To qualify for the scholarship, the student must be claimed as a dependent of parents or legal guardians who are active CECA members residing within the cooperative's service area. He or she must maintain a 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale and meet general entrance requirements at an accredited school. The applicant can be a graduating senior or a student currently enrolled in a college or university. The scholarship recipient is determined through an essay contest.



S.O.S. PROGRAM

The S.O.S. Program is a joint effort between Comanche Electric Cooperative and The University of Texas of the Permian Basin. The purpose of the forum is to draw on the experience of current Texas leaders to develop leaders of the future. The program teaches practical information and skills to students with leadership potential. It is interactive, entertaining and educational.

In September, Comanche Electric Cooperative will send invitations to 25 schools within our service district, inviting them to send their top 10 leaders from their junior class.



CO-OP TEENS POWER TEXAS VIDEO CONTEST

Comanche Electric and *Texas Co-op Power* magazine invite high school students residing in households served by an electric cooperative in Texas to compete for cash prizes—including a \$1,500 grand prize—by creating an original, short video about saving electricity. The Co-op Teens Power Texas competition is your opportunity to show fellow Texans ways to save electricity at work, home, school or in the community. Visit www.texascooppower.com for complete rules and entry forms. Entries will be accepted between September 1 and October 15, 2009.



For more information on any of these programs, please contact Shirley Dukes at 1-800-915-2533 or sdukes@ceca.coop.

Air Evac Lifeteam Services Offered to Comanche EC Members

Do you have what it takes to survive a life-threatening medical emergency? When you are faced with a medical emergency, your best hope for a good outcome rests in the ability to act quickly. Air Evac Lifeteam is your lifeline to emergency medical care.

When you've been injured or stricken, time is precious. The hour after you've experienced a trauma or suffered an acute illness is called the golden hour. That's typically how long

no matter how many times a year you use the service for a life- or limb-threatening emergency.

Build a Stronger Community

When you become an Air Evac Lifeteam member, you will be supporting the healthcare needs of your friends and neighbors. Air Evac's operations include more than 75 helicopter bases in 12 states. Your membership ensures that Air Evac, the largest



you have to get to a trauma center after a heart attack, stroke or life-threatening injury with the best chance to survive. Air Evac medical specialists are standing by 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to respond to your medical emergency.

Comanche Electric Cooperative has teamed up with Air Evac Lifeteam to offer our members access to this valuable service. As one of over 700,000 Air Evac members, Air Evac will work with your benefits provider to secure payment for your flight. Whatever your benefit provider pays will be considered payment in full for your flight

membership-supported air ambulance service in the U.S., is available to you and your community.

Peace of Mind

When a medical emergency occurs, take charge of the situation and get the emergency services you need. The Air Evac teams of more than 1,000 professionally trained nurses, medics and pilots, have safely flown over 150,000 missions. Knowing you have an Air Evac Lifeteam membership will give you the peace of mind and sense of control you need in the event of a crisis.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Air Evac Lifeteam?

Air Evac Lifeteam (AEL) is a medical helicopter that is ready to respond to emergencies 24/7.

Does Air Evac Lifeteam have a membership program?

Yes.

What is a helicopter membership?

It is not insurance. It is a membership in the event you should be flown by AEL or Texas Lifestar. If you are a member, you will not receive a bill.

I have insurance. Do I still need a membership?

Yes, you do. Some insurance policies pay only a small portion of the flight bill, leaving you with a big balance. Even if you don't have insurance, you can still become a member of AEL.

How much is a flight?

Each flight is a different emergency, so charges vary, but you can probably count on about \$14,000.

Where will Air Evac Lifeteam take me?

You will be flown to the closest appropriate facility for your injury/illness.

Can I call Air Evac myself?

No. Your first step in activating the helicopter is dialing 911. Your local EMS, fire department or hospital will contact Air Evac Lifeteam.





Who can be covered under one membership?

Our memberships are sold by the household. Whoever resides at the address you put on the membership is/can be covered. Medicaid recipients cannot purchase a membership.

How long is my membership good for?

It is good for a year from the date of purchase if you pay the one-time fee. If you apply with Comanche Electric Cooperative, it is good as long as you are paying your monthly fee.

Does the membership cover more than one flight?

Yes. You are entitled to unlimited flights for the duration of your membership.

I have a medical history. Can I still get a membership?

Yes. We do not consider any pre-existing conditions you may have.

How will anyone know I am a member of Air Evac Lifeteam?

Once your application is received and processed, you will be sent a member ID card and stickers for your vehicle.

If there is a change in my household, what do I do?

It's easy. You can call 1-800-793-0010 or (325) 642-4872.

When can I sign up to become a member of Air Evac?

Anytime! Enrollment is open all year.

How much is a membership through Comanche County Electric Cooperative?

\$5 a month will be added to your monthly electric bill.

For more information on Air Evac Lifeteam, please contact Shirley Dukes at 1-800-915-2533 or sdukes@ceca.coop.



(325) 356-2533
1-800-915-2533

HEADQUARTERS

201 W. Wright St.
Comanche, TX 76442

EASTLAND OFFICE

1311 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448

EARLY OFFICE

1801 CR 338
Early, TX 76801

OFFICE HOURS

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday
Eastland and Early offices
closed from 1 to 2 p.m.

FIND US ON THE WEB AT WWW.CECA.COOP

YOUR "LOCAL PAGES"

This section of *Texas Co-op Power* is produced by Comanche EC each month to provide you with information about current events, special programs and other activities of the cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Shirley at the Comanche office or at sdukes@ceca.coop.

COMANCHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

