

Time's Running Out

Filling the Generation Gap



**MESSAGE
FROM
MANAGER
ALAN
LESLEY**

Electric co-ops have important energy choices to make. We can't stall or wait for a single solution to the looming electricity-generation shortage. Tighter government regulations—and the high cost to comply with new rules—may signal lights out for many of the nation's older coal-fired power plants at a time when forecasters predict that energy demand will eventually outpace supply. We're approaching crunch time on our ability to keep the lights on: We need to build new power plants.

The recent economic turmoil, terrible as it was, provided some much-needed breathing room on addressing our growing energy needs. But as the economy rebounds, so will our nation's hunger for electricity. The U.S. Energy Information Administration predicts that when the final 2010 numbers are tallied, energy use will have shot up 5 percent from 2009 levels.

We've encouraged you to be energy efficient both for your sake (lower electric bills) and to help mitigate the need to build new generation sources. You've certainly done your part; between 1980 and 2006, average energy use of each American dropped 2.5 percent. But with an ever-growing population, these measures are not enough to completely offset escalating energy demand.

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the nation's bulk-power grid watchdog, estimates the United States needs to

build 135,000 megawatts (MW) of new generation by 2017 to meet expected demand. Generation facilities on the drawing board, though, will only deliver 77,000 MW—leaving a generation gap.

Compounding this issue, some of our current power plants may soon be shut down by federal regulations. One NERC-commissioned report claims new government rules could force utilities to retire or retrofit 33,000 MW to 70,000 MW of generating capacity by 2015. Meanwhile, every year that we delay building new plants drives up construction costs. If we wait too long, we could see power shortages by the end of this decade.

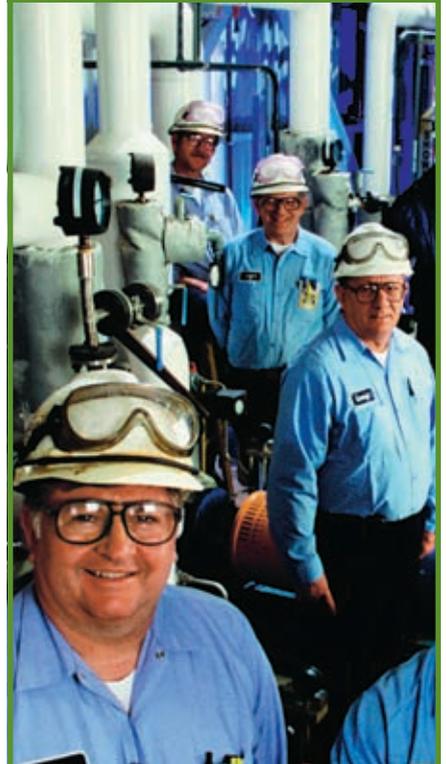
Traditional power plants (coal, natural gas and nuclear) take between three years and a decade to build, not leaving much wiggle room before shortages become a reality.

Renewable-energy resources, notably wind farms, can be constructed more quickly, but they're not perfect options. It may sound cliché to say the wind doesn't always blow, but it's the truth, and you wouldn't be satisfied with only having power 40 percent of the time.

CECA is focused on affordability.

Our nation needs to build new power plants before the need for electricity outstrips current generation resources. Although CECA doesn't build and operate power plants as a distribution cooperative, we focus on delivering power to you. We're working with wholesale power suppliers like Brazos Electric Power Cooperative, our generation and transmission provider, to find the best fuel-mix solution for your future. We appreciate your support as we make these crucial and time-sensitive choices. Balancing your energy needs with electricity reliability and affordability is one more way we're looking out for you.

Looking Out for **YOU**



It's hard to predict the future, but one thing seems certain: New government regulations will increase the cost of electricity. Our energy-efficiency programs help you manage your energy use, and we're deploying state-of-the-art solutions to help control operating costs and improve service reliability. Find out how we're looking out for you at

www.ceca.coop.



Looking Out for You.

Blanket Students Learn About CECA's Mapping Tools

CECA welcomed a great group of high school students from the Blanket school system on February 18.

Eleven students and teacher Justin Hopkins visited the CECA office for a first-hand look at how a computer mapping system can transform a business. Mapping Technician Jim Lester—with the aid of General Manager Alan Lesley, Director of Outside Operations Eddie Strube and IT professionals Chad Foreman and David Cisneroz—took the students on a tour of CECA's mapping history.

The students first became familiar with the old paper mapping system. This system worked for CECA for many years, but new technology available made it obsolete. They were then introduced to the new digitized mapping system. Lester showed them blueprints created in AutoCAD and demonstrated how, by overlaying maps and layers, the maps can be manipulated to display only the information necessary for each application. Hopkins explained to the students how to identify each drawing and what it represented, as well as how a person could read the maps and identify information needed for a particular job.

Students were introduced to the technology available using AutoCAD and/or mapping software. Lesley and Strube also talked to them about career choices within CECA's framework and the utility industry in general.

The new mapping system is a technological advance CECA uses to make its system more reliable. By properly identifying line voltages, phasing and major assemblies, outages are restored in a timelier manner, and there is less of a safety risk to employees.

Thank you to Blanket ISD for allowing these students to visit our facility and for presenting CECA with the opportunity to be a teaching tool to students.



Students from Blanket ISD spent a day learning about the latest technologies in mapping systems currently in use at CECA.



Conservation MATTERS

THE LATEST NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT ENERGY CONSERVATION FROM YOUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Get Your House Ready for Spring



Sparkling-clean windows and patio doors let in more sunlight, reducing the need for artificial lighting. And that saves you money on your electric bill.

It won't be too long until you can regularly open the windows and enjoy fresh air and warm weather. Is your house ready?

Here are five items to add to your springtime to-do list that might help your home feel more comfortable and cared for before it gets hot:

1. Call a qualified service technician to inspect and maintain your air-conditioning system. Paying \$100 or so now could prevent a huge expense this summer if your system breaks down on a hot day, and you have to have it repaired or replaced in a hurry. Maintenance goes a long way toward preventing emergencies and can prolong the life of your

equipment. If CECA members get their air-conditioning units tuned up, they could qualify for a rebate through the ecoPOWR Rebate Program. Contact CECA for details.

2. While you're outdoors planting and pruning, trim all of the bushes and pull all of the weeds near your air conditioner's outside condenser unit. Remove any fallen tree limbs that landed on it, brush off leaves that have collected on or around it, and pick up trash that has found its way there as it sat unused all winter. Anything that touches the unit and prevents air from circulating around it will make it perform inefficiently.

3. While you've got your shovel and spade out, consider planting some shade trees on the sunny side of your house. As they grow, they will filter the sun's rays that can beat so fiercely on your windows in the summer and make your air conditioner work harder.

4. Speaking of windows, if your house still has single-pane versions, this is a good time to replace them with double-pane models. Single-pane windows are energy inefficient and can drive your air-conditioning bills through the roof. You could save several hundred dollars on cooling and heating bills every year if you replace your drafty, old windows.

5. Clean your windows, inside and out. Newer models are simple to clean because you can tilt them toward the inside of the house so you can reach both sides. Clean windows let more sunlight into your house, which means you won't have to turn on as many lights.



CECA Youth Tour Winners Meagan Johnson (left) and Sarah Taylor

Youth Tour Winners

*Comanche High Students To Represent CECA
On Government-in-Action Youth Tour*

Congratulations to **SARAH TAYLOR** and **MEAGAN JOHNSON** of Comanche High School. Sarah and Meagan have been selected to represent CECA's membership in the 2011 Government-in-Action Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., in June.

They will meet with about 125 other Texas students and fly to our nation's capital where they will visit Arlington Cemetery, the Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam War Veterans Memorial, Mount Vernon, Ford's Theatre and the Smithsonian museums. They will also have a photo session on Capitol Hill, meet their congressmen, tour the House and Senate chambers and visit the Supreme Court and the Library of Congress.

Sarah is a senior at Comanche High School and is the daughter of Rick and Kelly Taylor. Sarah serves as secretary of the Comanche National Bank Junior Board and has participated in three years of the state competitions in solo and ensemble on flute, in vocals and in current issues and events. She is part of the All-Region Symphonic Band, is a senior class reporter and plays on the CHS tennis team. Sarah is a member of National Honor Society and Annual Staff, and was voted Most Friendly by her classmates. She is also involved with her youth group and praise band at First Baptist Church of Comanche and participates in Community Rehab. She is at the top of her class, and upon graduation plans to attend Abilene Christian University, where she will major in exercise science.

Meagan, a junior at Comanche High School, is the daughter of Mary Johnson of Comanche and Bruce Johnson of Ohio. Meagan participates in UIL journalism and is a member of the National Honor Society. She won third place in the Nestle Corporation National Essay Contest, is an alumna of the People to People Ambassador Program and is involved in the youth activities at East Side Baptist Church. She plays softball and guitar and was voted Most Likely to Succeed by her classmates.

Sarah and Meagan will receive airfare, transportation, lodging, meals, insurance and admission charges associated with the tour. This trip is available to any student, sophomore and above, who attends a school where Comanche Electric Cooperative has facilities, or if the student's parent or guardian is a member of Comanche Electric Cooperative.

To read Sarah and Meagan's winning essays, log onto www.ceca.coop.

HAPPY EASTER

*We wish you and your family
a blessed and joyful Easter.*



Turning a computer off daily is bad for it, and screensavers save energy. These are two common misconceptions that may be wasting energy in your home.

While it may have been true 20 years ago, turning a computer off does not harm it, but saves energy. Using the sleep mode, not a screensaver, will save energy.