

# Another Rule May Add to Price of Power



**MESSAGE FROM MANAGER ALAN LESLEY**

Those of you who read these local pages of Texas Co-op Power regularly may have seen articles informing you about coming governmental regulations that almost certainly will drive the price of electricity higher.

One of those regulatory decisions is due to affect Texas in a big way. Recently, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) enacted its Cross-State Air Pollution Rule, which takes square aim at coal-burning power plants by mandating broad reductions in two types of emissions.

The concept behind the rule is that emissions generated in one state don't stay within its borders, thus the federal government claims power to regulate those emissions. Burning coal to make steam to turn electric turbines produces two byproducts affected by this new rule: sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide, which are linked to ozone and fine particulates in the air.

Texas officials, including the chairmen of the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the Texas Public Utility Commission (PUC), are questioning both the need for the rule and the economic burden it will place on the state's residents.

Texas is dependent on coal-fired generation to supply affordable electricity. Forty percent of the electricity generated in 2010 was supplied by coal-burning power plants, according to the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, the grid manager for more than 85 percent of the state's electric load.

"A large percentage of Texas coal-fired generation is [Texas-mined] lignite or lignite blended with Wyoming coal," said then-PUC Chairman Barry Smitherman. "In fact, we have approximately 18 plants, totaling over 11,000 MW of generation, that could be forced to add expensive equipment, further blend with more expensive out-of-state coal, or worse case, prematurely shut down."

Smitherman and TCEQ Chairman Bryan Shaw are both concerned that the EPA rule will result in significant increases in the cost of power by forcing curtailment or shutdowns of existing coal-fired plants in Texas. Other sources of electricity will not compensate for these shutdowns, especially in light of the January 2012 compliance date, according to the TCEQ.

This is expected to have far-reaching consequences for energy consumers, particularly elderly and low-income populations whose health and welfare depend on reliable energy. Not only will your utility bill go up, the price of almost everything else will be affected by rising electricity rates.

The directors and staff at Comanche Electric Cooperative are also concerned that ill-timed regulation will drive up the price of electricity for the cooperative, and for you, our members. We are all for reducing pollution, but that concern must be balanced with economic reality. Even more government regulation of the power industry is on the horizon, and each new rule could take successive bites out of your budget.

If you are concerned about the rising price of energy, please contact your elected representatives in Washington and check out [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop) for information on our national program to keep power costs fair, affordable and achievable. Together, we can make our voices heard.

## 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.

We're committed to updating you on government policy changes as we work together to keep your electric bills affordable.

Visit [www.ceca.coop](http://www.ceca.coop) to find out how we're looking out for you.



*Looking Out for You*



## Efficiency MATTERS

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

### Solar Lights Add Ambience, Save Energy

If you want to skip some wiring and cut the cost of an outdoor lighting job, consider mixing solar fixtures in with low-voltage outdoor lamps—or using them instead.

Here are seven things to consider before investing in solar lights:

**1.** Manage your expectations for light output. You might think solar lights will glow as brightly as traditional, low-voltage lighting, but they don't. One manufacturer estimates that incandescent lights are 10 times brighter. The reason: A limited number of light-emitting diodes (LEDs) can fit into the tiny solar collection panel of a post cap solar fixture. The fewer LEDs in the fixture, the dimmer the light.

**2.** Rely on solar lighting more for ambience than function. Consider solar for soft accent lighting.



Solar lights are convenient to install and provide cost-effective lighting for a variety of outdoor areas.

**3.** Don't write off solar fixtures just because the area is shady or not sunny every day. On a summer night follow-

ing a bright day, most solar fixtures will stay charged from dusk until dawn, manufacturers estimate. After a cloudy day—or if the fixture is in a shady spot, it might run for six hours instead of all night. For most people, that's long enough.

**4.** Solar fixtures are simple to install: Screw them onto a deck post or poke them into the ground, activate the batteries and walk away.

**5.** Batteries in solar fixtures need changing about every three years, manufacturers estimate.

**6.** You'll pay more per fixture for a solar light than for a typical incandescent lamp, but you'll save on wiring and power supply, so the cost comes out about the same for either.

**7.** Because solar lighting requires no wiring, it requires no electrician or building permit.

### Windows and Doors—Seal and Save

When you are looking for ways to save money on your heating and cooling bills, aside from changing a few habits, your home's doors and windows are two key areas on which to focus.

Windows and doors are unique because they connect you and your house to the outside world. They can open and close, letting air from the outside move into your home—and let air from inside the home move outdoors.

And because they open and close and are used so often, there is an even greater opportunity for their insulative protection to wear thin or fail.

Older windows might develop small gaps or cracks that allow cold air to seep inside. Or in the summer, they could allow cold air within the house to seep out, and warm air from outside to come in.

The average house has 15 to 20 windows and two doors leading directly to the outdoors. Some have more—many more. The more windows and doors you have, the better chance there is to lose cool air, or in the case of the colder months, heated air.

Take the time to carefully examine each door and window at least once

per season. Look for cracks, gaps and other openings. Even the smallest opening can move a lot of air in the wrong direction.

Caulking and weatherstripping are the top two fixes for leaky doors and windows. Typically, it's a do-it-yourself job with minimal expense for supplies.

If your windows are single pane or in really rough shape, you should consider replacing them with high-efficiency double- or triple-paned models. Doors also come in a variety of insulative values, so do some homework and make the best choice.

## LOCAL YOUTHS SAY *'Thanks'*

Dear Mrs. Dukas and  
Comanche Electric Members,

*I cannot fully express my gratitude about receiving the Comanche Electric Scholarship. It would be difficult, if not impossible, for me to attend Baylor University without scholarship money.*

*You have been a blessing to me and I am so thankful.*

*Humbly,*

**SUSAN COFFEE**

Dear CECA,

*Thank you so much for sponsoring me on the 2011 Government-in-Action Youth Tour. I had so much fun and learned a lot as well. My favorite parts of the trip were Mount Vernon, the Museum of American History and the All-States Dinner and Dance. I met so many people and have stayed in contact with many through Facebook. Thank you for helping to make this trip one of the best weeks of my summer.*

*Sincerely,*

**SARAH TAYLOR**



◀ **Vehicle #5: 2006, 3/4-ton 4x4 Chevrolet Pickup. V-8 engine, automatic transmission. Mileage 152,783.\* Minimum bid: \$3,500.**

**Vehicle #15: 2001 Mercury Marquis. V-8 engine, automatic transmission. Mileage 141,700.\* Minimum bid: \$1,500. ▶**



◀ **Vehicle #17: 2004 Ford Expedition. V-8 engine, automatic transmission. Mileage 176,920.\* Minimum bid: \$3,000.**



## Vehicles Up for Bids

CECA has three "retired" vehicles that will be auctioned to members through a closed bid process. These vehicles have a few battle scars, some chipped paint, and are well broken in, as you would expect from work vehicles.

Additional photos can be viewed on our website at [www.ceca.coop](http://www.ceca.coop). You may also come by the office at 201 W. Wrights Ave. in Comanche for an in-person view.

Sealed bids can be mailed to: CECA, Attn: Sealed Vehicle Bid, P.O. Box 729, Comanche, TX 76442. Please include the vehicle number you are bidding on in all correspondence. Questions can be directed to Shorty Hatley or Dale Ogle at 1-800-915-2533 or (325) 356-2533. Deadline for bids is September 19, 2011. Bid winners will be notified on September 21.

CECA reserves the right to reject any or all bids at the discretion of the board.

\* Mileage current as of August 1, but subject to change, as these are working vehicles.

## HAPPY LABOR DAY!

*CECA will be closed Monday, September 5, in observance of Labor Day.*

As always, crews will be on standby in the event of an outage.

We wish you a safe and happy holiday.



# Bottled Up

*Year after year, Dr Pepper die-hards make the pilgrimage to Dublin to swap out old bottles for ones filled with their favorite sweet elixir.*

**By Wes Ferguson**



My friend Todd Hilliard speaks in the hushed tone reserved for rare and sacred things: “Do you want to see the bottles?”

I do. He opens the trunk of his car, and there they are—24 glass bottles, glinting in a flood of sunlight. They’re scuffed, scratched and old—three decades old—the same age as Todd and me.

I pull one of them from a wooden crate. It’s heavy. It bears a logo that hasn’t appeared on the side of a Dr Pepper bottle since the 1980s: Dr Pepper in white letters on a red oval in the upper left corner and below, Dr Pepper in larger white letters along a diagonal red stripe against a maroon background.

The sight and feel evoke childhood memories of hot Texas afternoons prying off bottle caps and wiping away slushy condensation.

“Just like I remember,” I say, and I put it back with the others.

These bottles are all empty, and they seem old and tired. But not for long. That’s because Todd, who lives in Austin, is driving them to Dublin, where the Dublin Dr Pepper Bottling Company will exchange them for filled bottles. The returned empties go into rotation, where machine-bottling equipment will pour new life into them.

Dublin, about 80 miles southwest of Fort Worth, is home to the oldest and longest continuously operating Dr Pepper bottling facility in the world. America’s oldest major soft drink was invented by a pharmacist in Waco in 1885, and in 1891, the Dublin facility was the first plant built specifically to bottle Dr Pepper.

There are more than 170 Dr Pepper bottlers in the United States and Canada. In the 1970s and 1980s, those operations and others in the soda industry began to sweeten their drinks with high-fructose corn syrup, a substitute for more costly sugar. But the Dublin Dr Pepper plant never stopped using the traditional sweetener: Imperial Pure Cane Granulated Sugar. Today, the Dublin plant continues to churn out original-formula Dr Pepper as well as a handful of other old-fashioned soft drinks—SunCrest Orange, Triple XXX Root Beer, NuGrape and Big Red.

These days, though, Dublin’s machinery is so exhausted—its newest piece of equipment was produced in 1965—that it only operates one day each month, typically the third Wednesday (if you want to see the operation, call before heading out). Soapsuds flow across the concrete floor as an antiquated assembly line washes old glass bottles like the ones Todd owns. Then the contraptions wheeze and whir as they spurt in a dollop of syrup, slowly mix in the carbonated water, punch on a bottle cap and mix it all up into a tasty concoction.

But there’s a catch: Dublin’s legendary bottling apparatus only works on sturdy returnable glass bottles—which Dr Pepper stopped making in 1993, in favor of lightweight and flexible, nonbreakable plastic. While you can still buy Dublin Dr Pepper in a 12-ounce aluminum can or a small, nonreturnable 8-ounce glass bottle, those beverages are filled at an off-site Central Texas plant and then sent back to Dublin.

As Todd puts it, “If you want to truly experience the stuff that comes out of Dublin’s old-timey bottling machine, you’ve got to have old-timey bottles.”

That old-timey machine-bottling equipment in Dublin draws people from all of Texas and beyond who bring their old Dr Pepper bottles by the case and exchange them for filled ones for a nominal fee: It costs \$16 to swap out a case of 10-ounce bottles and \$15 to swap out a case of 6½-ounce bottles. Generally speaking, the bottles can be swapped for the same or similar designs from the same era, depending on what the plant has available.

Twice a year, a lawyer from Brownsville—nearly 500 miles away—hauls 25 cases to be exchanged, according to Lori Dodd, Dublin’s special events coordinator. Another family drives down from Missouri. A guy in Illinois comes by once a year to trade in his empties.

These people are so enamored of Dr Pepper, they have a fan club with about 250 dues-paying member-families, an annual convention, a newsletter and a page on the Dublin Dr Pepper website.

Bill R. Hall, president of the Dr Pepper 10-2-4 Club, lives 150 miles away from Dublin in Taylor. He remembers the day in the late 1980s when he first called the Dublin plant. He said, “I’m coming out with 50 cases.”

“And they switched ‘em all out or refilled ‘em for me,” he said. The process took the better part of a morning. Then “I loaded up that Dr Pepper from one end of my Suburban to the other and drove back to Taylor. They rattled the whole way back. It was like music.”

So why do people travel such great distances for this particular soft drink? Not surprisingly, the folks in Dublin credit a superior product. Every Dr Pepper starts with the same base, a concentrated formula that is manufactured at a plant in St. Louis, Missouri, and then shipped to independent bottlers around the U.S. and Canada. But only Dublin and a handful of other bottling plants use real cane sugar instead of the cheaper corn syrup.

And, depending on what’s in stock, only Dublin lets people drink from the same bottles they remember from childhood—whether it’s a “Good for Life!” bottle from the 1920s through the 1940s or an “I’m a Pepper” bottle that was introduced in the 1970s.

“There’s just something about the experience and taste of a Dublin Dr Pepper after it’s been chilled in those heavy glass bottles that should never, ever cease,” Dodd says.

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*Wes Ferguson is a frequent contributor to Texas Co-op Power.*

*Editor’s Note: At presstime, Dublin Dr Pepper is being sued by Dr Pepper Snapple Group Inc.,—which owns the brand and licenses sales territory—over trademark rights violations and sales outside the approved territory.*



# Comanche County Honors a Legend



*Winston Churchill said, "There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man." Earl Albin, if he were still alive today, would agree with that statement. Earl knew and loved a good horse: Royal King.*



Earl was born and raised in Comanche County, where he and his father, C.M. Albin, were among the first to register mares when the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) registry was opened in 1941.

Earl's roots in Comanche County run deep. Earl was born to Clarence Motia and Mary Melissie Edwards Albin on May 5, 1907. His family tree in Comanche County can be traced back to 1857. Earl's great-grandfather Harrison Wiley Albin floated down the Mississippi on a raft and finally settled his family in 1857 in Comanche County before the county was organized. In 1859, he permanently planted those roots at the family homestead about four

miles northeast of Newburg.

Of course, horses were a necessity at the time Harrison Albin and his son Ike were building their empire. But even after they ceased to become a necessity, Earl and his father never lost their love for the stately equine. In fact, Earl's father was a horse buyer for the U.S. Army.

Earl had a passion for horses and was a pedigree fanatic, which would help explain why he and Clarence were so instrumental in the AQHA registry. Before and for some years after the AQHA book was opened, Earl made numerous trips throughout his home region to check on bloodlines for the secretary of the AQHA.

## COMANCHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

One September day in 1944, Earl arrived home with a very young stud and told his wife, Charlie Mae, "I've found the horse I've been looking for." That horse was Royal King, the colt of King P-234 and Rocket Laning. The purchase of that horse would later prove to be the turning point in the career of Earl Albin, one that would bring Earl and his family notoriety for years to come.

Our story begins in September 1944, when Earl Albin and his friend Jack Whiteside made the trip to Llano to check out the 17-month-old stallion. Earl had been searching for that perfect horse long enough to recognize quality when he saw it. He and Jack pooled their money and came up with the \$250 purchase price. Royal King was then transported back to the Albin farm in Comanche, where he would spend the remainder of his 26 years. He belonged to the partnership of Albin and Whiteside until April 1945, at which point the pair were offered \$1,500 for him. Whiteside wanted to sell. By this time Earl not only had a close relationship to the horse, but recognized his ability as well. Earl wrote out a check for \$750 to Whiteside and became the sole owner of his beloved horse, a decision he never regretted. At this point, Albin had \$1,000 invested in the horse, a considerable amount at that time. It was time to start seeking a return on his investment, so Albin made the decision to start breeding Royal King as a 2-year-old. Thus began an incredible bloodline that is still active today.

As a breeding horse, Royal King would become recognized as the founder of one of the quarter horse breed's most accomplished arena performance lines. He sired 590 registered foals. Between 1959 and 1964, he was either first, second or third on the AQHA annual list of leading sires of performance contest winners. From his bloodline came

such leaders as Major King, Miss Nancy Bailey, Royal Lighting, Royal Angel, Royal Dandy, Royal Jazzy, Royal Chess, Jazzy Socks, Royal Royals, White Sox Lady and many more. He sired 10 AQHA Champions, 88 working ROM horses, 12 Superior cutting horses, two Superior Reining horses and one Superior western pleasure horse.

As a cutting horse, Royal King began his career in 1949 at the age of 5 when he won his first cutting at the show in Dublin. In 1951, at the age of 8, he became a top contender. In 1952 he placed second at the National Western Livestock Show in Denver, a very prestigious event. Royal King competed in California, Oregon, Minnesota and then back in Texas, winning or placing in most of his contests during that busy season. He then went on to win the cuttings at the state fairs in Illinois, Minnesota and Missouri, as well as a win at San Francisco's Cow Palace. At the end of 1952, Royal King stood third among the top 10 cutting horses.

In the following years, Royal King continued to rack up winnings and points. But the most notable win still being talked about today, is the duel at the Cow Palace between Royal King and Skeeter, a horse with the title of World Champion Cutting Horse. Exact opposites in size, both horses possessed determination and ability. The competition was one that had spectators talking for years to come, as the final tally of the judges proved to be a tie between the pair.

In 1954, Royal King remained in the top 10, finishing in sixth place. In 1955, as a 12 year old, he finished at ninth place. He continued to compete on a much lighter scale in subsequent years. The National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA) records credit Royal King with winning \$23,976 in contests sanctioned by their organization. He received the



OPPOSITE: Royal King on the Albin Ranch in 1948. ABOVE LEFT: Royal King and Earl Albin after being named the grand champion stallion at the 1954 Wyoming State Fair. ABOVE RIGHT: Royal King with three of the Albin children; Billy, Sue and Lou. It is easy to see in this photo how Royal King became an integral member of the Albin family.



Billy Albin, Lou Albin Fulton, and Sue Albin Magers at the unveiling of the Royal King historical marker

NCHA Bronze Award and the NCHA Silver Award.

In the cutting arena, Royal King became well known for his unique style. While most cutting horses drop their front ends when engaged in head-to-head competition with a cow, Royal King's entire body hunkered lower, a trait that he would pass on to his offspring.

In his book, *King P-234, Cornerstone of an Industry*, Frank Holmes wrote: "With his purchase of Royal King as a yearling in 1944, Earl Albin of Comanche, Texas, altered the course of cutting horse evolution."

What an honor for both man and horse! He has also been credited with an X-factor that brings incredible performance capabilities forward through his daughters.

In 1960, at the age of 17, Royal King was permanently retired from competitions. His final NCHA winnings over the course of his career stand at \$24,003.

Sue Albin Majors, daughter of Earl Albin, has been quoted as saying: "My mother, Charlie Mae, was never much of a horseback rider. But like all of us, she was very fond of Royal King. He was such a kind, intelligent horse to be around. When Royal King got old, mother made a big thing out of seeing that he always had feed and fresh water. She worried over him just like a mother hen."

In May 1971, the prestigious and celebrated Royal King passed on at the age of 28. He was laid to rest beneath a grove of live oak trees near the ranch headquarters. Charlie Mae, still feeling the need to care for Royal King, became disturbed by the number of cattle that paraded over his grave site and had a pipe fence installed to protect the site.

Fourteen years later, in 1985, Earl Albin passed away. While arranging a headstone for her beloved husband, Charlie Mae commissioned an additional headstone for Royal King's grave. In this way, both Earl and his beloved horse were memorialized, a fitting ending for the twosome.

Perhaps the most notable event for Royal King came in 1997, when he was inducted into the AQHA Hall of Fame. But for Comanche County, it came on May 28, with the official dedication ceremony of the AQHA historical marker on the northwest corner of Comanche's historic downtown courthouse square. Approximately 250 people attended the ceremony in Royal's honor. Earl's children, Sue and Randy Magers of Comanche, Lou and Don Fulton of Stephenville, and Billy and Glenda Albin of Comanche, were on hand for the unveiling of the marker. Daughter Mary Jo Liles and husband Don of Granbury were unable to attend. In addition to the Albin family and the citizens of Comanche, former Royal King riders and horsemen from around the nation came to pay tribute to this AQHA legend. Further proof that the effect Royal King had on the quarter horse industry is still being felt today.

The Albin family and the citizens of Comanche invite you to visit this monument to Royal King and visit the other historical sites around the celebrated Main Street, as well as throughout the city. For information, contact the Comanche Chamber of Commerce at (325) 356-3233.

*A special thank you to Sue Albin Magers, who provided the statistics and photos for this story*