

CLIMATE ISSUES

Cost for new energy legislation comes from members' wallets

Drastic changes are being proposed for the electric industry. Congressional leaders and the Obama Administration have been making a hard push to quickly pass energy, climate change and appropriations bills—all aimed at creating a new "green economy."

The President told Congress in his February address that "cap-and-trade" tax legislation will be a key element to transforming the nation's energy and electricity systems and consumers' energy habits. In reality, a cap and trade system will be the same as a tax on carbon, designed to reduce the use of fossil fuels like

coal and natural gas.

Even though such a plan has not yet been formally adopted, the Administration's proposed 2010 budget includes revenues from such a program—\$80 billion a year beginning in 2012 that will come straight out of electric consumers' pockets. And the cost could conceivably be much higher.

Any legislation based on such proposals will have significant effects for consumers in the Southeast, because the region primarily uses fossil fuels to generate electricity. Electric costs are lower than most of the country, which is good because consumers in

the Southeast use more kilowatts throughout the year because of the climate. If these plans go through, consumers in other areas of the country, such as California, the Northwest and the Northeast, will feel smaller cost impacts.

Congress has also announced plans for development of mandatory renewable resources nationwide. While that is a worthy pursuit in general, large scale use of renewables in this part of the country is not realistic. The Southeast simply does not have the levels of wind and sun necessary to meet the needs of millions of consumers.

For reliable and economical electric service, a diversified mix of fuels is necessary and should include coal

and nuclear. It does not make sense to artificially add costs to our current generating resources to make renewables more cost competitive.

It is our responsibility of the electric cooperative leaders to be advocates for its members and keep electric costs as low as possible. Energy policies that result in higher costs will damage economic development in Mississippi and lead to higher prices for other products and services.

Representatives from the Electric Power Associations in Mississippi asked our leaders in Washington to speak up for Mississippi's consumers and help craft a wide-ranging, sensible energy plan that protects the environment, the economy and quality of life for residents of the Southeast.

Equal Employment Opportunity Policy Statement

It is hereby declared to be the policy of East Mississippi Electric Power Association to provide equal employment opportunity in all aspects of employment—including recruitment, hiring, transfer, promotion, compensation, benefits, training and educational assistance—to all employees without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, handicap, Vietnam era or disabled veteran status.

This policy is in conformance with the requirement of Presidential Executive Order 11246, the Age Discrimination Employment Act, the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Act and the Rehabilitation Act.

East Mississippi Electric Power Association has developed affirmative action plans to ensure the full utilization of minorities, females, handicapped persons, Vietnam era and disabled veterans in our workforce. Such elements of these programs, which enable such employees to know and avail themselves of their benefits, will be made known on request to The Equal Employment Opportunity Officers.

Responsibility for ensuring compliance with and full implementation of this policy has been assigned to Sherry Wallace, Director of Human Resources, whom I have designated as our Equal Employment Officer. The Director of Human Resources is also charged with designing and implementing audit and reporting systems, which will keep management informed of the status of the equal employment opportunity area. Any questions concerning our Equal Employment Opportunity Program should be directed to the Director of Human Resources.

This policy shall be adhered to by all persons having the responsibility to implement the company's personnel actions so as to further the principles of equal employment opportunity.

H. Wayne Henson, General Manager
East Mississippi Electric Power Association
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Statement of Nondiscrimination

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (voice) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (relay voice users). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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