



Quantum leaps are coming for our future

I've spent a lot of time lately telling you about the serious energy problems we face, but recently I was reminded of why "We Care." I had the opportunity to attend a children's musical production at a local school.

Approximately 1,200 men, women and children packed a local gymnasium to see Pre-K through third grade perform on a Saturday night. The small children always bring out parents, grandparents and friends as they dutifully gather to watch the children. But that night, the children captured the crowd's imagination and most everyone became attached to the performance. People seemed to forget the problems that accompanied them into the gym that evening and found a moment of release, led by the children.

As the program began, one child led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Visualize with me everyone standing with their hand over their heart reciting this well worn pledge in unison.

Another child sang a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem; she was small but her voice was huge. She received a thunderous round of applause. You could sense the crowd had experienced so many poor and tasteless versions of this patriotic

anthem and appreciated one done extremely well. This set the stage for the performance.

Another young man, maybe a fourth grader, came out in a tuxedo and top hat to introduce the program and its acts. His strong young voice and calm yet forceful demeanor again demanded silence from the crowd and they responded.

Assisted by teachers, assistants and older fourth graders the children began a series of performances that were well done, and each group seemed pleased that they performed well.

Actually, it wasn't the performance that impressed me; it was the spirit that I saw developing. All the children were

orderly and well behaved with teachers assisting and instructing. Everyone knew their role and each child and helper assumed their task as part of a team of more than 300.

Between acts as the teachers arranged the other children and the announcer introduced the next act, the gym floor was cleared and set up simultaneously by the fourth grade helpers. There was very little idle time.

What I observed was children making quantum leaps of development. Progressively, from the youngest 4-year-olds to the oldest fourth graders I could see them assume roles to which they were previously unaccustomed. I could see qualities that would ultimately lead them to fill roles as community leaders, teachers and parents (the patience the older children showed with the 4-year-olds was especially noticeable). Several stepped up to leadership roles while many also learned how to follow effectively.

"We Care" because of these children and young people. We sense the obligation we have to both serve our fellow-



General Manager Wayne Henson

man and to provide opportunity for these children. They will soon take our place and we owe them a chance to succeed. That's why we must be diligent to lay the groundwork for a successful future in East Mississippi.

The quality of life we enjoy today deserves to be provided for future generations.

Each child learned they have a role to play. One of life's great lessons! More quantum leaps are coming for these children and I hope they are just as positive.

"We must be diligent to lay the groundwork for a successful future in East Mississippi."
— Wayne Henson

EMEPA 4th Annual Severe Weather Safety and Energy Efficiency Fair

The time to prepare for severe weather is now.

EMEPA encourages its members to visit us on June 8-10 and June 12, 2009, for the fourth-annual Severe Weather Safety and Energy Efficiency Days.

The event will include booths and educational materials on preparing for hurricane season as well as other severe weather occurrences.

Live demonstrations related to storm safety,

such as proper use of a generator, will better equip individuals to provide for and protect their family during a severe weather situation.

This year, we will also provide useful tips and information on saving on your electric bill through practicing energy efficiency in your home and business.

Call your local EMEPA office for more information.

Visit your local EMEPA office from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday, June 8 - Quitman
Tuesday, June 9 - DeKalb
Wednesday, June 10 - Louisville
Friday, June 12 - Meridian

CLIMATE ISSUES

Tough questions for our Congressional leaders

Congress is looking to reshape electricity generation in the United States. Before lawmakers make these decisions, they should consider several issues - most importantly, the economic welfare of Americans.

Protecting the environment is certainly important, but there must be balance in legislation between providing reliable, affordable electric energy for our citizens and protecting the environment.

Do we have a national energy plan?

No. We do not have a national energy plan that sets long term goals for our nation's energy future. There are discussions about a renewable mandate - requiring that a certain amount of electricity come from wind, solar, biomass or geothermal. In addition, there is discussion about curtailing coal as a resource, and no new nuclear plant has

been approved in 30 years.

Congressional leaders need to look at the long term picture and consider several factors before making any type of decision. They should consider long-term availability of fuel resources, the aging transmission grid, new technology for clean coal and renewables, cost of electricity for consumers and the environment. Lawmakers must consider all of the components and look at the broad picture.

Will upcoming legislation increase the cost of electricity?

Yes, but no one knows how much. Upcoming legislation centers on reducing the amount of emissions, specifically carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere. This change in environmental regulations will change the present mix of fuels used to generate electricity.

Coal-fired generation will be greatly

affected. Curtailing the use of coal as a generating resource for electricity will raise the cost electricity because it is one of the cheapest fuel sources.

Currently, 50 percent of the electricity produced in the U.S. is generated by coal. Replacing coal with higher cost options, such as wind energy or natural gas, will raise energy costs.

Are energy efficiency and conservation efforts enough?

Do we have to build new power plants?

New power plants must be built. Making repairs to your home - energy efficiency- or changing your behavior so you use less electricity - energy conservation - are valuable tools and can help reduce the need for additional power plants in the U.S. However, electric energy demand continues to grow in the U.S. at a rate of one percent per year due to the growth in population

and the widespread use of more electronic devices.

Americans should try to use less energy, but new power plants will need to be built if Americans want to enjoy reliable electric energy in the future.

What is EMEPA doing to help protect its members?

The board of directors and management are concerned about potential legislation that could be introduced in the next few months. Representatives from the Electric Power Associations of Mississippi, including EMEPA's General Manager Wayne Henson, are making regular visits to Washington D.C. They are meeting with the Mississippi delegation to discuss these issues and are specifically expressing concerns about rising energy costs.

As details on specific legislation are made available, EMEPA will work to keep its members informed.



Thank you for your continued support of East Mississippi Electric Power Association's efforts to provide you with reliable and affordable electric power. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you, your family and friends in meeting your electricity needs.

"We Care" is more than a slogan. Our employees and directors truly care about you and your well being.

Sincerely,

H. Wayne Henson

Wayne Henson
General Manager

Innovation, accountability, integrity and commitment to community are core values that we have upheld for many years and will continue to uphold as your member-owned electric cooperative. We are committed to improving the quality of life in our communities and for the members who live there.



With Co-op Connections Card

\$60,000 on prescription savings expected

The Co-op Connection Cards have been well received by EMEPA members.

Since the cards were sent to EMEPA's members in July 2008, over 4,200 prescriptions have been filled with an average of over \$5,000 in savings a month. Members have saved well over \$46,000 so far, and savings are expected to reach over \$61,000 by July 2009.

"Our members have been very receptive to the Co-op Connections Card program. We are proud

that we are able to offer these discounts to our members," General Manager Wayne Henson said. "Hopefully, the card will help families with their monthly budgets."

New members to EMEPA should receive their Co-op Connections Card by mail within a month of joining the Association. If a member hasn't received their card, contact your local EMEPA office, and a card will be mailed to you.



Shop at these local retailers and save!

Meridian

- Lincoln-Mercury, Inc.
- Broadmoor Home Center, Inc.
- Cartmell Gallery & Frame
- Chicken Basket
- Company of Angels
- Ed Chaney Tire Center, Inc.
- Graphic Printers
- J&B Athletics
- Little Acre, LLC Home & Patio Furnishings
- Morgan Tile Carpet One
- Mr. D's Laundry
- Popeye's Chicken and Biscuits
- Seal-Laird Veterinary Hospital
- The Service Company
- Quick Prints
- Quiznos Subs

Louisville

- Beverly's Baskets, Gifts & Flowers
- Hathorn Law Office
- K&W Auto & Appliance, Inc.
- Stephanie's Shenanigans
- Tabor Drugs
- The Dynasty
- The Framin' Shoppe & Keepsakes
- The Jewel Shoppe
- The Radio Store

Quitman

- J&B Athletics
- Majure Jewelry and Gift Shop
- Ole Tyme Butcher Shop

DeKalb

- Auto Parts Center & Hardware
- The Furniture Outlet
- Timberview Lodge, Inc.

Remember . . . You must have your card or key fob with you for a business to honor the discount! Visit emepa.com for an up-to-date list of businesses, their hours and contact info.



— Call it —

Conservative Economical Efficient Prudent Sparing Thrifty Frugal Stingy

Use it, and people will call you brilliant.

No matter what you call it, the Co-op Connections Card will save you money on goods and services of all kinds. Just take it with you wherever you go. Pull it out anywhere you see a Co-op Connections sticker. And say hello to the savings.

The card is yours. The savings are yours. All because you're a member of a Touchstone Energy cooperative. And we're always looking out for you. To learn more, visit www.emepa.com.

Looking out for you.

Pharmacy discount frequently asked questions

How much will I save?

The discounts save you 10% to 60% on prescriptions at over 56,000 pharmacies nationwide, including CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, Target and more.

How much does the feature cost?

Your pharmacy discounts are provided as part of the Co-op Connections® Program at no cost.

Does everyone in my family need an individual card?

No. One card may be used by the entire family.

I just received my card. Can I use it right away?

Yes, just present your card and prescription at a participating retail pharmacy to receive a discount at the time of purchase.

I've lost my card. How can I get a replacement?

Please contact your EMEPA office.

How are these pharmacy discounts different from traditional prescription insurance?

This plan is not insurance; it is a pharmacy discount offer. The card provides immediate discounts at the pharmacy. Upon presenting your card to the pharmacist, you will pay the lower of a discounted price or the pharmacy's regular retail price. There is no paperwork to fill out and no limit to the number of times you can use the card. These discounts are available only at participating retail pharmacies.

Can I use my Co-op Connections card with my current insurance benefit to reduce my costs?

Your card cannot be used in conjunction with insurance. However, use your card to purchase prescriptions not covered by your insurance plans at a discounted rate.

Where can I get a list of pharmacies that accept the card?

The Co-op Connections card is accepted at over 56,000 retail pharmacies nationwide, including CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, Target and more. You can find participating pharmacy locations at www.locateproviders.com.

Will I always receive the lowest price?

Yes. You will receive the best price available to you through this program at the pharmacy. On occasion, pharmacies will price a particular medication lower than the discount rate provided by the card. If that occurs, you will receive the lower price.

Can I find out the discounted price of my prescriptions before going to the pharmacy?

Yes, if you know the name, strength and quantity of the medication, you can find the discounted price of the medication by visiting www.rxpricequotes.com.

Why did the price of my prescription change since my last purchase?

Drug prices are different from pharmacy to pharmacy. Even chains have different prices in their stores depending on the population they are servicing. Additionally, manufacturers' drug prices change periodically.

What is the mail order program?

To ensure members always save money on their prescription drugs, a unique mail order program was created to complement the network pharmacy benefit. Since most maintenance (long term) medications are purchased in 90 day supplies, members maximize savings and have the convenience of home delivery (at no additional charge) by ordering through the mail order option.



Local participating pharmacies in the Co-op Connections Card

Meridian

- Anderson Pharmacy
- Wal-Mart Pharmacy (all locations)
- Greater Meridian Health Clinic
- Winn Dixie (all locations)
- Walgreens Drug Store
- Point Rexall Drug
- CVS Pharmacy (all locations)
- Southern Family Market
- Rite Aid Corporation

Quitman

- Hammack Drugs
- Quitman Drugs

Waynesboro

- Wal-Mart Pharmacy
- Stanley Discount Drugs
- Lab Discount Drugs, Inc.

Louisville

- Charley McCool Pharmacy
- Wal-Mart Pharmacy
- DWC, Inc.
- Tabor Drugs

Philadelphia

- Wal-Mart Pharmacy
- Walgreens Pharmacy
- Browns Discount Drugs
- Neshoba County General Hospital

This may not be a complete list of participating pharmacies. If you don't see your local pharmacy listed, ask if they accept the Co-op Connections card. You may also visit www.locateproviders.com.

Use Your Co-op Connections Card with these National Companies

- Alamo Rent A Car
- American Standard
- AmeriHost Inn®
- Anna's Gourmet Goodies
- AutoAnything
- Barnes & Noble.com
- Baymont Inn & Suites®
- Best Western Hotels
- BowlingShirt.com
- Cabot Creamery Cooperative
- Calyx Flowers
- Cherry Moon Farms
- Clarion
- College Parents of America
- Comfort Inn
- Comfort Suites
- Computrain Solutions
- Costco Wholesale
- Cruises Inc.
- Days Inn®
- DiscoveryStore.com
- Econo Lodge
- Everything But Water
- GetYourTools.com
- Goodyear Company-Owned Stores
- Guardian Automatic Standby
- Generator
- GymSource
- Hertz
- Howard Johnson®
- Husky Liners
- iPlayMusic
- Kentucky State Parks
- Knights Inn®
- La Quinta Inns
- Liz Claiborne

- Lobster Gram
- Magazines.com
- MainStay Suites
- Meineke Car Care Centers, Inc.
- MREfoods.com
- National Car Rental
- No Haggles
- Omaha Steaks
- Original Rug Company
- PajamaGram
- ProFlowers
- Quality Ramada®
- Red Roof Inn
- Rodeway Inn
- Sheplers
- Sherwin-Williams
- Sierra Trading Post
- Six Flags Theme Parks
- Sleep Inn
- Solar Direct
- Sprint
- Stone Mountain Park
- Suburban Extended Stay Hotel
- Super 8®
- Thousand Trails
- Tilden
- TiVo®, Inc.
- Travelodge®
- Vacations Direct
- Vehicle Advantage
- Vermont Teddy Bear Company
- Wingate®
- Wyndam Hotels
- XM Radio®

East Mississippi Electric Power Association NOTICE OF PURPA PROCEEDING

East Mississippi EPA (the "Association") is holding a proceeding to facilitate the consideration and determination of certain new standards established by the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, as amended by the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (hereinafter referred to as "PURPA").

The following new PURPA standards will be considered as part of this proceeding:

1. Integrated Resource Planning (26 U.S.C. § 2621(d) (16)).
2. Rate Design Modifications (26 U.S.C. § 2621(d) (17)).
3. Smart Grid Information (26 U.S.C. § 2621(d) (17)).
4. Smart Grid Investments (26 U.S.C. § 2621(d) (16)).

This proceeding is to be governed by the "Rules for Conducting Proceedings Required by the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (as amended by the Electricity Modernization Act of 2005)." Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 2631 (1), the United States Secretary of Energy, any affected electric utility, and any electric consumer of an affected electric utility has a right to participate as a formal party to the proceeding.

In order to participate, Association members may submit a "Notice of Comment" form regarding any or all of the new PURPA standards by June 30, 2009. Notice of Comment forms, as well as other information pertaining to the proceeding and the respective PURPA standards, may be obtained on the Association's website or at any of the Association's offices.

Subsequent to receiving all public comment, the Association Board of Directors will deliberate and make a final determination by December 1, 2009 (prior to the PURPA deadline for such determination, which is December 19, 2009). This determination will be based upon all of the evidence and public comment in the official proceeding record as it supports the three purposes of PURPA: to encourage (i) conservation of energy supplied by electric utilities, (ii) optimal efficiency of electric utility facilities and resources, and (iii) equitable rates for electric consumers.

Below are descriptions of the new PURPA standards to be considered as required by the Energy Information and Security Act of 2007 (EISA). Note that the reference to "electric utility shall" means that the utility shall consider implementing the standard, and does not mean that the legislation requires the utility to implement the standard.

EISA Section 532, PURPA 111(d) (16) INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANNING.
Each electric utility shall –
(A) integrate energy efficiency resources into utility, State, and regional plans; and
(B) adopt policies establishing cost-effective energy efficiency as a priority resource.

EISA Section 532, PURPA 111(d) (17) RATE DESIGN MODIFICATIONS TO PROMOTE ENERGY EFFICIENCY INVESTMENTS.
(A) IN GENERAL.—The rates allowed to be charged by any electric utility shall—
(i) align utility incentives with the delivery of cost-effective energy efficiency; and
(ii) promote energy efficiency investments.
(B) POLICY OPTIONS.—In complying with subparagraph (A), each State regulatory authority and each

nonregulated utility shall consider—

- (i) removing the throughput incentive and other regulatory and management disincentives to energy efficiency;
- (ii) providing utility incentives for the successful management of energy efficiency programs;
- (iii) including the impact on adoption of energy efficiency as one of the goals of retail rate design, recognizing that energy efficiency must be balanced with other objectives;
- (iv) adopting rate designs that encourage energy efficiency for each customer class;
- (v) allowing timely recovery of energy efficiency-related costs; and
- (vi) offering home energy audits, offering demand response programs, publicizing the financial and environmental benefits associated with making home energy efficiency improvements, and educating homeowners about all existing Federal and State incentives, including the availability of low-cost loans, that make energy efficiency improvements more affordable.

EISA Section 1307, PURPA 111(d) (18) CONSOLIDATION OF SMART GRID INVESTMENTS.
(A) IN GENERAL.—Each State shall consider requiring that, prior to undertaking investments in nonadvanced grid technologies, an electric utility of the State demonstrate to the State that the electric utility considered an investment in a qualified smart grid system based on appropriate factors, including—

- (i) total costs;
- (ii) cost-effectiveness;
- (iii) improved reliability;
- (iv) security;
- (v) system performance; and
- (vi) societal benefit.

EISA Section 1307, PURPA 111(d) (19) SMART GRID INFORMATION.
(A) STANDARD.—All electricity purchasers shall be provided direct access, in written or electronic machine-readable form as appropriate, to information from their electricity provider as provided in subparagraph (B).

(B) INFORMATION.—Information provided under this section, to the extent practicable, shall include:
(i) PRICES.—Purchasers and other interested persons shall be provided with information on—
(I) time-based electricity prices in the wholesale electricity market; and
(II) time-based electricity retail prices or rates that are available to the purchasers.

(ii) USAGE.—Purchasers shall be provided with the number of electricity units, expressed in kwh, purchased by them.
(iii) INTERVALS AND PROJECTIONS.—Updates of information on prices and usage shall be offered on not less than a daily basis, shall include hourly price and use information, where available, and shall include a day-ahead projection of such price information to the extent available.

(iv) SOURCES.—Purchasers and other interested persons shall be provided annually with written information on the sources of the power provided by the utility, to the extent it can be determined, by type of generation, including greenhouse gas emissions associated with each type of generation, for intervals during which such information is available on a cost-effective basis.

MEMORIAL DAY



Join us in honoring the men and women who have sacrificed their lives so we may enjoy our freedom.

Our offices will be closed Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day.

For an emergency or to report an outage, call 601.581.8600.



May is electrical safety month EMEPA reminds you to be safe when using electricity

Summer storms bring dangerous lightning

Follow these tips to protect you and your loved ones.

Outdoors is the most dangerous place to be during a lightning storm. Because lightning can travel sideways for up to 10 miles, blue skies are not a sign of safety. ESFI recommends following these guidelines to stay safe during electrical storms:

- If possible, go indoors.
- Once indoors, stay away from windows and doors.
- Do not use corded telephones except for emergencies.
- Unplug electronic equipment before the storm arrives and avoid contact with electrical equipment or cords during storms.
- Avoid contact with plumbing, including sinks, baths and faucets.
- If outdoors, go to a low point. Lightning hits the tallest object.
- Get down if you are in an exposed area.
- Stay away from trees.
- Avoid metal. Don't hold metal items, including bats, golf clubs, fishing rods, tennis rackets or tools. Avoid metal sheds, clotheslines, poles and fences. If you feel a tingling sensation or your hair stands on end, lightning may be about to strike. Crouch down and cover your ears.
- Stay away from water. This includes pools, lakes, puddles and anything damp, such as wet poles or grass.
- Don't stand close to other people. Spread out.
- Don't forget pets during thunderstorms. Doghouses are not lightning-safe. Dogs that are chained can easily fall victim to a lightning strike.
- Victims of lightning strikes should be given CPR if necessary, and seek medical attention.

ESFI reminds everyone that electricity is a powerful tool. It can also be a lethal hazard. Better safety standards have reduced electrical hazards that cause deaths, injuries and property damage. But good safety habits are still the best prevention against electrical hazards.

Source: *Electrical Safety Foundation International*

Protect your home and family from fires and electrocution

Electrical problems in older homes account for nearly 55,000 fires every year. These blazes cause more than 500 deaths, injure more than 1,400 people and rack up \$1.4 billion in property damage. The risk of such fires is significant since half of all homes in the United States were constructed and wired prior to 1973, according to the U.S. Census Bureau—before the advent of garage door openers or home computers. Even more telling, one-third of U.S. homes were built before hair dryers or electric can openers were even invented!

"As each year goes by Americans consume more energy in their homes," remarks Brett Brenner, president of Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI). "Many homes and electrical systems are simply being overburdened, which leads to fires, injuries and deaths."

ESFI has created a checklist that lets consumers identify electrical dangers commonly found in each room of their home. Owners of older homes can upgrade their electric systems with newer fire prevention technology, such as arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs). These advanced electronic circuit breakers detect dangerous conditions in a home's wiring and cut off power before a fire develops.

Additionally, those living in older homes with children can install tamper-resistant receptacles. These devices look like normal electrical outlets, although they have a built-in shutter system that prevents children from inserting foreign objects into the slots. Use of tamper-resistant receptacles would prevent most of the 2,400 burns suffered by children each year from outlets.

If you see a downed power line...

- Move away from the line and anything touching it.
- The proper way to move away from the line is to shuffle away with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times. This will minimize the potential for a strong electric shock. Electricity wants to move from a high voltage zone to a low voltage zone—and it could do that through your body.
 - If you see someone who is in direct or indirect contact with the downed line, do not touch the person. You could become the next victim. Call 911 instead.
 - Do not attempt to move a downed power line or anything in contact with the line by using another object such as a broom or stick. Even non-conductive materials like wood or cloth, if slightly wet, can conduct electricity and then electrocute you.
 - Be careful not to put your feet near water where a downed power line is located.
 - Do not drive over downed lines.
 - If you are in your car and it is in contact with the downed line, stay in your car. Honk your horn for help and tell others to stay away from your vehicle.
 - If you must leave your car because it's on fire, jump out of the vehicle with both feet together and avoid contact with the live car and the ground at the same time. This way you avoid being the path of electricity from the car to the earth. Shuffle away from the car.

Source: *Electrical Safety Foundations International*

