



The "ups" and "downs" of the electric utility business

When you open your power bill each month I suspect you think we know more about "up" than "down." That has been the national trend in our business over the past few years. Well for a change, we have been able to lower our cost of electric service. After approximately 18 months of sharply rising cost of generation fuels and the necessary rise in electric rates it brought, EMEPA was able to lower rates in October for consumers in Lauderdale and Clarke county service areas (South System).

In the northern part of our service area (Winston and Kemper County service areas), we began what has become three months of lower costs.

All this is due to the lower cost of generation fuels such as natural gas and coal; as well as the recovery of hydro generation after the prolonged drought.

While we are pleased to be able to lower this cost to our members, we all should expect this to be a temporary situation. With the impacts of inflation, climate change legislation and additional capacity, this trend will likely be reversed. I cannot predict how long we will enjoy the reduced prices, but for the next several months we can provide some relief in a tough local economy.

As the price per unit goes down, I encourage you to remember that cold weather extremes during parts of

November and December will also drive up consumption. So while the price is down, the actual bill will likely increase due to weather extremes; just not as much. Please remember that conservation and improved efficiency are wise investments to lower your overall power bill. Call one of our local offices for advice and assistance.

You will notice additional reductions for all our members in other parts of this edition of *Today in Mississippi*. These will be effective on bills you receive in January. This kind of "down" is a direction we can all appreciate. Happy New Year!



General Manager Wayne Henson

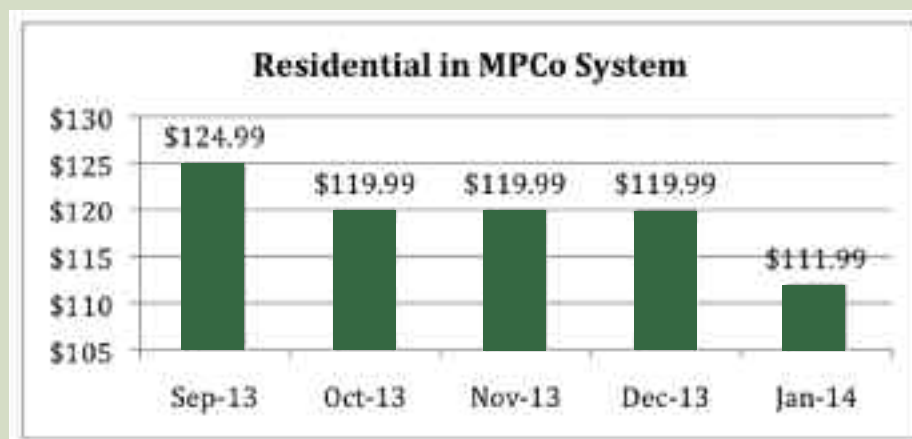
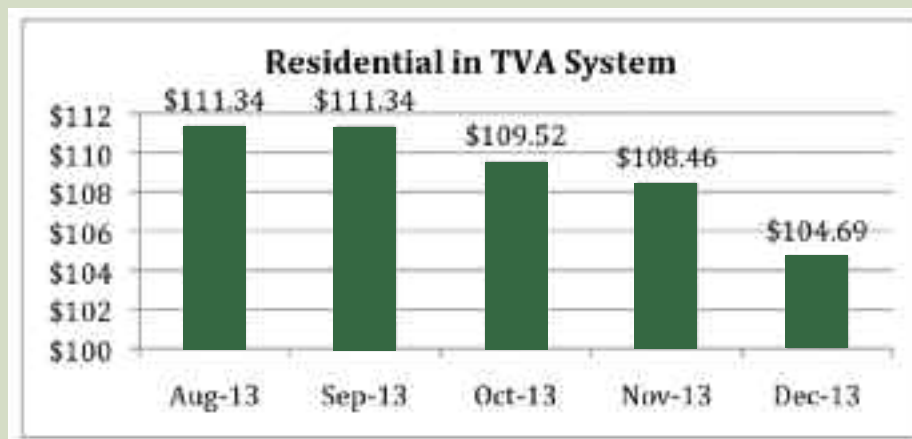
EMEPA members see decreased power cost

Decreased wholesale purchased power cost will result in lower retail cost to EMEPA members. Because of lower generation fuel cost, such as natural gas, from both the Tennessee Valley Authority and Mississippi Power Company, EMEPA members will see lower cost per kilowatt hour (kWh) again in January.

EMEPA residential bills in Winston, Kemper, Attala, Noxubee and Neshoba counties have dropped a total of \$6.65 from \$111.34 in September 2009 to \$104.69 in December 2009 for the first 1000 kilowatt hours.

EMEPA residential bills in Lauderdale, Clarke, Wayne, Jasper and Newton counties will decrease \$13.00 from the September 2009 level to \$111.99 for the first 1000 kilowatt hours in January 2010.

Our goal continues to be providing responsive and reliable electric service at the lowest reasonable price.



A diverse option for America's energy future

by Scott Gates

Congress has been debating climate change legislation for months. Now the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has begun gearing up for its own possible set of regulations to slash emissions of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide blamed for contributing to global warming. With more than 70 percent of our nation's electricity coming from greenhouse gas-emitting fossil fuels like coal and natural gas, the question becomes: how to reduce emissions while still making enough electricity available?

For the past several years, the Palo Alto, Calif.-based Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) has been hard at work coming up with an answer. The research group, which includes electric cooperatives as members, recently released an updated set of possible remedies that could meet our energy needs while dramatically reigning in carbon

dioxide emissions over coming decades.

Called the EPRI Prism after the broad spectrum of solutions described (and resulting colorful graphics tracking emissions cuts associated with each), the proposal consists of a set of recommendations in eight technology areas that, if adopted nationally, would allow electric utilities to slow, halt and eventually decrease carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 while still supplying safe, affordable and reliable electricity.

The eight components are: boosting end-use energy efficiency; making transmission and distribution system lines more efficient; improving the operating efficiency of fossil fuel-fired power plants; investing in renewable energy; expanding nuclear power capacity; capturing and storing carbon dioxide produced by coal-fired power plants; deploying electrotechnologies, like arc furnaces, for industrial and commercial

use and putting plug-in hybrid electric vehicles on the road.

The key involves utilizing all technologies together, with each doing its part to reduce emissions. Failure to maximize any of the eight technologies in the "full portfolio" will dramatically jack up the cost of achieving climate change goals, according to EPRI.

"There just isn't going to be a free lunch," remarks Revis James, director of EPRI's Energy Technology Assessment Center. "If this type of policy is actually implemented, it's going to cost money, even in an efficient scenario."

Assuming the full range of carbon-curbing technologies are up and running by 2050 (the target date being discussed in congressional climate change legislative proposals), EPRI pegs the real wholesale cost of electricity to increase 80 percent. But continuing business as usual under tightening carbon dioxide

emissions restrictions would spike wholesale power costs more than 210 percent.

Diversifying the nation's generation fuel mix could lead to major savings down the road. Employing the full EPRI Prism, as opposed to relying on a few, less technologically advanced resources, will slash the impact on the nation's economy by more than \$1 trillion.

"Policymakers need to be made aware that the full portfolio carries a lower cost overall to the economy than a more limited approach," James stresses. "Heading in that direction clearly is in our national interest."

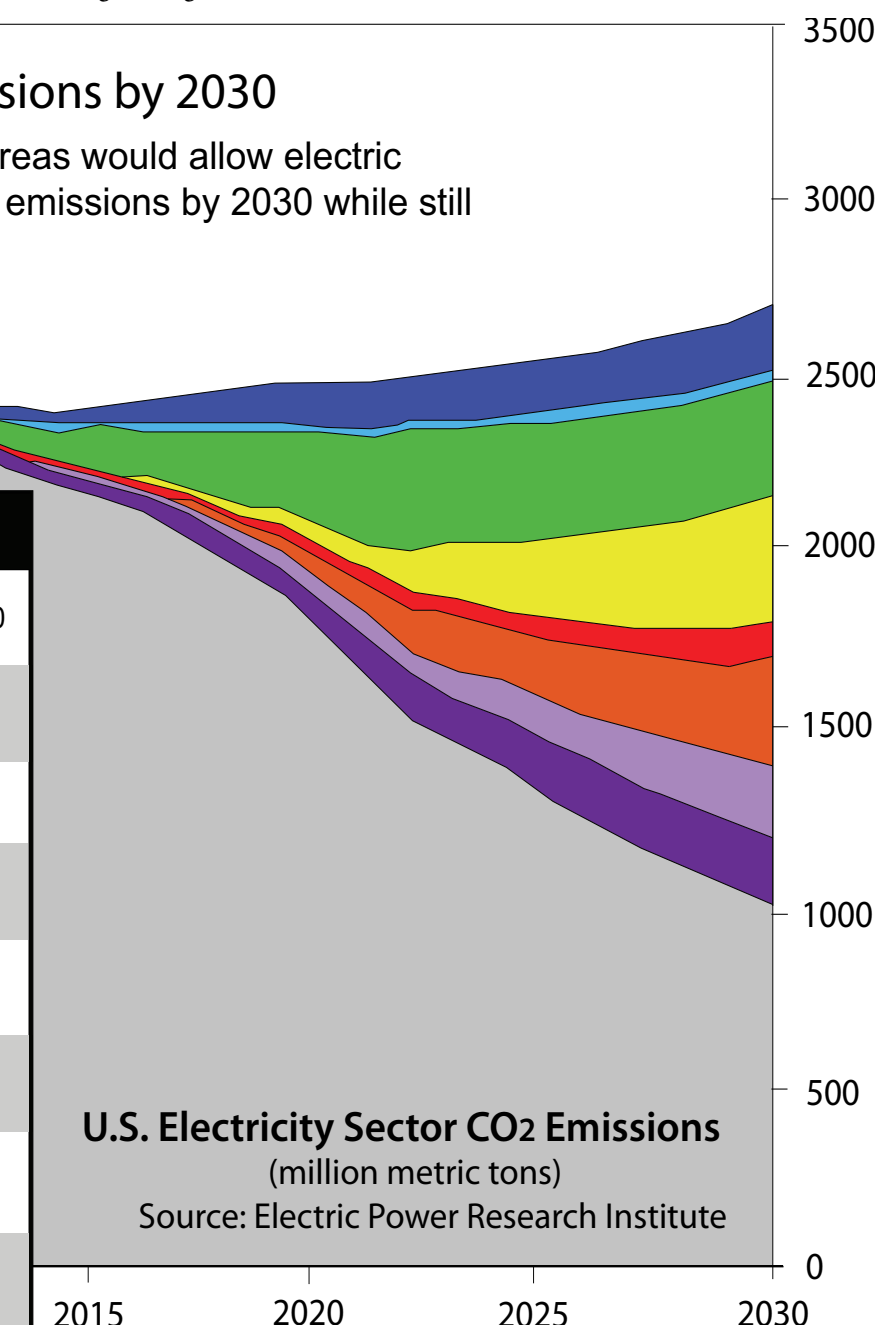
Scott Gates writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

The EPRI Prism: Decreasing carbon dioxide emissions by 2030

If adopted nationally, recommendations in eight technology areas would allow electric utilities to slow, halt, and eventually decrease carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 while still supplying safe, affordable, and reliable electricity.

U.S. Energy Information Agency (EIA) 2009 Base Case

TECHNOLOGY	EPRI PRISM HIGHLIGHTS
End-Use Efficiency	8 percent additional reduction in consumption
Transmission & Distribution Efficiency	percent reduction in system transmission and distribution line losses by 2030
Renewable Energy	15 percent of total generation by 2030
Nuclear Power	No plant retirements; build 64 GW (roughly 45 new plants) by 2030
Fossil Fuel Efficiency	Increase of 3 percent in efficiency of existing coal-fired power plants by 2030
Carbon Capture & Storage (CCS)	All coal and natural gas-fired plants built after 2020 to capture 90 percent of carbon dioxide
Electric Transportation	Put 100 million plug-in hybrid electric vehicles on the road by 2030
Electrotechnologies	Replace 4.5 percent of industrial fossil fuel-fired furnaces, etc. with electric models by 2030





Meet your state legislators

East Mississippi Electric Power Association salutes the Mississippi representatives and senators who represent constituents residing in our service area. We appreciate their dedication and willingness to serve in the spirit of public service to help shape the future of our state.

Senators



Sen. Terry C. Burton
 District 31: Lauderdale, Newton and Scott counties
 Address: 101 Rew St. Newton, MS 39345
 Family: Wife: Darleen Allday; Children: Ben Jones, Dawn Jones Powell
 Years in Legislature: 19



Sen. Sampson Jackson II
 District 32: Kemper, Lauderdale, Noxubee and Winston counties
 Address: P.O. Box 686 DeKalb, MS 39328
 Family: Wife: Patricia; Children: Kalvin B., Kieth K., Sampson III
 Years in Legislature: 19



Sen. Videt Carmichael
 District 33: Clarke and Lauderdale counties
 Address: 5396 Springhill Loop Meridian, MS 39301
 Family: Wife: Donna; Children: Kaycee Crane, Freddie; Grandchildren: Landon Gibson, Jodee Crane, Ariel Eaves
 Years in Legislature: 11



Sen. Haskins Montgomery
 District 34: Jasper, Jones, Scott and Smith counties
 Address: P.O. Box 611 Bay Springs, MS 39422
 Family: Wife: Diana McDonald; Children: Heather, Salli, Anna
 Years in Legislature: 3



Sen. Giles K. Ward
 District 18: Leake, Neshoba and Winston counties
 Address: 114 Jordan Circle Louisville, MS 39339
 Family: Wife: Kay Burrage; Children: Laura Harris, Jeremy
 Years in Legislature: 3

Representatives



Rep. Tad Campbell
 District 84: Clarke, Jasper, Lauderdale and Newton counties
 Address: P.O. Box 3550 Meridian, MS 39303-3550
 Family: Wife: Laura Grice; Children: Joshua, AnnaLaura
 Years in Legislature: 3



Rep. Reecy L. Dickson
 District 42: Kemper, Lauderdale and Noxubee counties
 Address: P.O. Box 293 Macon, MS 39341
 Family: Husband: Billie C.; Children: Billy C. Jr., Dirk, Ron and Roxie
 Years in Legislature: 18



Rep. Steve Horne
 District 81: Clarke and Lauderdale counties
 Address: 5904 Causeyville Rd. Meridian, MS 39301
 Family: Wife: Suzy; Children: Lauren, Tommy and Hunter
 Years in Legislature: 7



Rep. Sherra Lane
 District 86: Clarke, Perry and Wayne counties
 Address: P.O. Box 971 Waynesboro, MS 39367
 Family: Husband: Keith; Children: Michael, Angela, Steven
 Years in Legislature: 5



Rep. Billy R. Nicholson
 District 78: Newton, Neshoba and Scott counties
 Address: 6428 Highway 494 Little Rock, MS 39337
 Family: Wife: Betty; Children: Angela Gayle Henry, Jennifer Lynn Hedgepeth
 Years in Legislature: 11



Rep. Russ Nowell
 District 43: Kemper, Noxubee, and Winston counties
 Address: 4226 N. Columbus Ave. Louisville, MS 39339
 Family: Wife: Amy Fussell; Child: Layton
 Years in Legislature: 3



Rep. Omeria Scott
 District 80: Clarke, Jasper and Jones counties
 Address: 615 E. 19th St. Laurel, MS 39440
 Family: Husband: Charles
 Years in Legislature: 18



Rep. Greg Snowden
 District 83: Clarke and Lauderdale counties
 Address: P.O. Box 3807 Meridian, MS 39303-3807
 Family: Wife: Renee; Children: Emily, Katie
 Years in Legislature: 11



Rep. Mary Ann Stevens
 District 48: Attala, Carroll, Choctaw, Holmes, Humphreys and Leake counties
 Address: P.O. Box 38 West, MS 39192
 Family: Husband: A.J. Stevens III; Child: Elizabeth Ann
 Years in Legislature: 30



Rep. Wilbert L. Jones
 District 82: Lauderdale County
 Address: P.O. Box 2130 Meridian, MS 39302
 Family: Wife: Catherine Calbert
 Children: Angela Denise, LaRon
 Years in Legislature: 2

EMEPA hosts Cooperative University



Michelle Gibson
Quitman High School



Jonathan Hamilton
Winston Academy



Shatara McClelland
Meridian High School



Annedrea McMillan
Enterprise High School



Alex Rogers
Clarkdale Attendance Center



Ashley Stokes
Nanhi Waiya Attendance Center

Local high school students participated in Co-op University, held on November 19, 2009 at EMEPA's office in Meridian.

The students, chosen by their school based on leadership ability, learned how electricity was generated and distributed, discussed pending political issues impacting the electric industry and took a guided tour of NAS Meridian.

"We are proud to host Co-op University each year. Hopefully, the students learned about the importance of staying informed on current events and issues," Youth Leadership Advisor and Communication Specialist Julie Walker said. "The goal of this program is to educate students about electric cooperatives and to encourage them to get involved in the political process."

Following Co-op University, the students participated in interviews. A panel of out-of-town judges interviewed the students on their leadership skills, career goals and on information presented at Co-op University.

Three of the students won an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. in June and several of the students were invited to attend the Youth Leadership Workshop in



Jackson in March. The students selected for the Youth Tour to Washington D.C. are LaJeremy Hughes from Louisville High School, Bonnie Dulaney from West Lauderdale High School and Chelsie Abston from Southeast Lauderdale High School.

The Youth Tour program is sponsored nationally by the National Rural Electric Cooperative



Local high school juniors enjoyed a tour of NAS Meridian as part of EMEPA's Youth Leadership Program.

Association. Nineteen electric power associations in Mississippi participate in the youth leadership program.

2009 Youth Tour Winners to Washington, D.C.



Chelsie Abston
Southeast Lauderdale High School



Bonnie Dulaney
West Lauderdale High School



LaJeremy Hughes
Louisville High School

History in the marking

by Abby Berry

The historical markers of Mississippi can be spotted throughout the state. Our state is full of historical treasures, from remarkable individuals to locations where extraordinary events took place. Many of these markers can be found along our local areas. The city of Meridian, with its rich history, is home to several of these markers.

Urban Center Historic District

Meridian was the largest city in the state of Mississippi during the 1880s through the 1920s. Much of the town's success and growth can be attributed to the booming railroad system. During this time, the Urban Center Historic District was developing quickly. The district encompassed the area between 21st and 25th avenues.

The Urban Center Historic District contains architectural styles from Italianate row buildings to structures based on art deco style. The historic district was added to the National Register of Historic Places on Dec. 18, 1979.

Dr. Jeff Anderson House

Dr. William Jefferson Anderson was a major influential figure. Dr. Anderson was the founder of the Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center. He officially opened the center in 1928. Most patients brought a small amount of money for payment, if any. Dr. Anderson believed in treating all patients who came through the doors of his facility. He accepted all who came in the hopes of paying later.

Dr. Anderson passed away in 1951, but his vision of offering quality healthcare to the residents of Meridian and surrounding areas has carried on. The home of Dr. Anderson remained in the family for many years and was purchased by the United Way in 2001.

Gravesite of Gillespie V. "Sonny" Montgomery

Born in Meridian, Sonny Montgomery was an extraordinary man who represented Mississippi's Third District in Congress for 15 terms, under seven presidents. A major supporter of veterans, Montgomery was the driving force behind the revamping of the Montgomery G.I. Bill, which extended benefits to thousands of soldiers in the nation's all-volunteer service.

For all of his efforts, he was eventually given the name "Mr. Veteran." In his final days, Montgomery resided in his hometown of Meridian, and was a major advocate for veterans until he passed away in 2006.

Temple Theater

The historic Temple Theater located at 2320 8th St. in Meridian opened as a movie house. It was constructed and opened in 1928 by the Hamasa Shrine and later leased to the Saenger Theater Chain. The Temple Theater thrived during its day and was quite a popular place to go.

The theater has maintained its original Moorish Revival design style throughout the years, keeping its sense of history and value intact. Inside, you can find beautiful swirled marble fountains, enormous bronze chandeliers and detailed ceramic tiling. The theater seats 1,800 and is a true historical treasure. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.

