

# 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.

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.

"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

**EMEPA**  
We Care