

THE LAMP

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COWBOY LATS
& HARD LATS



Keeping the Lights on



Hunting Down
Vampire Electronics

\$10,000 Fish at Pawhuska's
10th Annual Trout Derby



Beautiful, but Devastating, Ice Downs Power Lines, Interrupts Service

The ice storm that blanketed Oklahoma the evening of Saturday, December 8 was beautiful to look at, but disastrous to electric power lines.

The storm silently coated everything with about an inch of ice, weighing down power lines and trees, which then broke and fell onto the electric lines.

We began dispatching crews Saturday evening, and started summoning additional crews by Monday.

At the height of the storm over 6,000 members were without electricity, more than 450 poles had to be replaced, and more than 100 additional repair and right-of-way personnel from five states were working with IEC personnel to restore electric service.

"We were able to restore service to everyone by Wednesday, Dec. 19," says IEC General Manager Jack Clinkscale.

"Ice storms are the most detrimental type of severe weather," says Rick Davis, IEC's director of operations. "They cause wide-spread damage that requires the most time and effort to repair."

"The storm was devastating for everyone," says Clinkscale. "But our members were understanding and expressed their gratitude for the long hours our employees and contractors put in trying to get the lights back on. Knowing our members appreciate our efforts makes it all worthwhile."

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*The official
publication
of the members of
Indian Electric
Cooperative*



Fighting to Keep the Lights on

by Jack Clinkscale, General Manager

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, demand for electricity nationally will increase by 40 percent during the next 22 years—even with an optimistic projection of a 9 percent reduction in electricity use due to increased efficiency factored in. As the economy expands, the need for power grows right along with it.

Nearly every respected analysis, however, finds that our country is running out of power. And as a result, there's a good chance consumers could experience brownouts and even rolling blackouts in the not-too-distant future if we don't act soon.

A recent report from the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), a Princeton, N.J.-based non-profit organization charged with monitoring America's power system reliability, confirms that unless more resources come online, it will not be long before the need for power can no longer be met.

The predictions made by NERC shed light on the urgent need to bolster our nation's power grid. It is no longer a question of if but when we need to build – the need is real, and the time is now.

For electric co-ops, experiencing

2.6 percent overall load growth (twice the national average), we take our responsibility of maintaining a safe, reliable, and affordable supply of power seriously. We are working hard to implement a strategy that meets your needs with the right mix of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and new technologies for electricity generation involving clean coal, nuclear, and natural gas.

Electric co-ops are recognized indus-

electricity produced by wind, solar, hydro, biomass (including landfill gas, livestock waste, timber by-products, and crop residue), and other "green power" sources. This makes up about 11 percent of all co-op kilowatt-hour sales.

But renewables have some limits. Wind, for example, which has the potential to meet 20 percent of the country's electricity needs, must overcome two main hurdles: construction of additional high-voltage transmission lines to bring generation produced at wind farms, usually located in remote rural areas, to population centers; and "intermittency"—the fact that wind only blows 30 percent to 40 percent of the time, and generally not during times of peak electricity use on hot, humid summer weekday afternoons. Electric co-ops are heavily involved in research needed to develop better batteries to store wind and solar energy, a breakthrough that will allow these resources to become full-time sources of electricity. Additional work must take place before these batteries can become viable.

All of these changes will help meet our growing demand for electricity. Yet at the
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"Unless more resources come online, it will not be long before the need for power can no longer be met."

North American Electric Reliability Corp.

try leaders in promoting energy efficiency and wise energy use. The more we can do to conserve electricity and use it efficiently means fewer power plants must be built in the future.

Renewable energy, like wind and solar power, holds great promise in providing electricity. Consumer-owned electric co-ops have blazed trails when it comes to developing renewables. Today, more than 80 percent of the nation's 900-plus electric co-ops supply



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Hunting Down Vampire Electronics

Most homes these days never quite shut down for the night. Although lamps may be off, dark rooms are typically spotted with tiny red and green lights of appliances and the glow of digital clocks.

All of those little lights, clocks, and seemingly “sleeping” appliances, however, are using more electricity than you think. Sometimes called vampire electronics, these devices suck up 5 percent of all energy used in the United States and cost consumers more than \$3 billion every year.

For the average homeowner, vampire electronics can add 20 percent to monthly electric bills, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. To trim this excess energy use, you need to know where these vampires reside and keep them in check.

Take a closer look at appliances around your home. Those that use remote controls such as TVs, DVD players, ceiling fans, and stereos are suspect. Any digital displays, such as microwave and coffee machine clocks, are working against your electric bill. And many of those chargers around the house—those that keep cell phones, power tools, and MP3 players at the ready—constantly draw power when plugged in.

Unplugging these vampires effectively drives a stake into their energy-consuming hearts. Power strips provide another way to thwart them. Simply plug appliances into a power strip, and switch it off when those appliances aren't being used.

In addition, unplug any battery-operated electronic device once charged. You wouldn't walk away from a flowing water hose, after all, and you certainly don't want to keep feeding these vampires.

Spotting Vampire Electronics

Many devices constantly draw power while plugged in, which can quickly add up on monthly electric bills. Keep an eye out for the following clues as to what should be unplugged when not in use:

External power supplies

Computers, printers



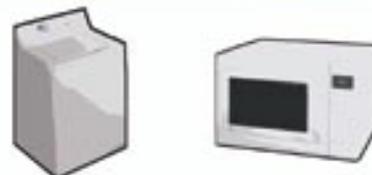
Remote controls

Window AC units, TVs, DVD players



Digital displays

Washing machines, microwaves, VCRs



Rechargeable batteries

Battery chargers, cordless telephones, power tools



Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Fighting to Keep the Lights on *Continued from page 2.*

end of the day, electric co-ops also need to plan for the future—which means building new power plants. Unfortunately, power plant construction costs have skyrocketed in recent years as international demand for coal and materials like steel and concrete continues to climb.

Presently, 50 percent of the nation's electricity supply and 62 percent of electric co-op power requirements come from coal. Despite rising costs, power plants built in the near-term will burn coal more cleanly and efficiently than ever before. Even more encouraging, concerns over coal's contribution to climate change could be alleviated within a decade if power plants that capture carbon dioxide gas before it goes up

a smokestack, compress it, and then pump it deep underground for permanent storage become available—a real possibility if Congress provides sufficient funding for the necessary research and development.

Nuclear energy also remains part of the solution, even though only a handful of nuclear power plants have come online in this country over the past 20 years, and none have been ordered since the 1970s. Nuclear power—which emits only clean water vapor—generates 20 percent of all electricity in the U.S. and about 15 percent of electric co-op power needs. Estimates hold that it will take 10 years to bring a single nuclear reactor online.

Providing more electricity and dealing

with climate change are important challenges our country faces. Our commitment to you, as we strive to keep the lights on, will be encouraging lawmakers and regulators to seek out practical, long-term remedies to our nation's energy problems based on new technology—solutions that will allow us to continue providing safe, reliable, and affordable power in an environmentally responsible fashion.

Electric co-ops have no magic bullet to offer—only our hard work and a commitment to your best interests. But as we have done for more than seven decades, we will continue to put you first.

Don't Let Ice and Snow Make Your Home Moldy

Moisture from melting ice and snow can have an unexpected consequence: mold.

Indoor humidity and leaky windows aren't the only ways moisture—which sets the stage for mold growth—can show up. A poorly insulated roof can let in just as much moisture from the melting white stuff.

Also, because warm air rises, a poorly ventilated home will allow a build-up of heat in the attic—just enough to warm your roof's shingles and melt the bottom layer of snow or ice that could be sitting on your roof. When the water reaches the edge of the roof, it can refreeze and create a "dam." This traps the rest of the water. With nowhere to go, the moisture can seep down through shingles and into the house.

Prevent this by adding more insulation to your attic. Or invest in an electrical cable for the edge of your roof. This can melt ice dams, letting water flow more freely off your roof.

Other ways to keep mold-producing moisture out of your home as it gets warmer outdoors:

- If humidity is a problem in your home when it's warm outside, fight it. Pick up a humidity sensor at a home store. Use it to monitor the relative humidity in your home (it should be less than 55 percent). Or buy small humidifiers to help solve the problem.

- Replace rusty pipes to prevent water leaks. Insulate pipes for an extra layer of protection.

- Install an exhaust fan in your kitchen and in each bathroom.

- Condensation on windows is a tell-tale sign that your home is too humid. Seal windows with caulk and weather-

RECIPE



Baked Chicken Dijon

This chicken dish has a great flavor. The Dijon sauce complements chicken very well. There is not too much work involved with this recipe, so it is easy to make on any night.

- 1/3 cup bread crumbs
- 1 Tbsp. grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 tsp. dried thyme
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1 Tbsp. Dijon mustard
- 1 Tbsp. mayonnaise
- 4 boneless skinless chicken breast fillets
- Vegetable cooking spray

Combine first 4 ingredients in a shallow dish; stir well, and set aside. Blend mustard and mayonnaise, brush over both sides of chicken.

Dredge in bread crumb mixture. Place chicken on a rack coated with cooking spray, in shallow roasting pan. Bake at 375° for 45 minutes or until done.

10th Annual Trout Derby Slated for Lake Pawhuska

Area fishermen will be converging on Lake Pawhuska Saturday, February 16 for the 10th Annual Trout Derby. The event is

sponsored by the newly-formed Prairie Trout Club.

in the trout club. On the day of the derby, registration will be \$35.

Registered participants can fish for a \$10,000 tagged fish the day of the derby, and can fish for other tagged fish, valued at \$50 or more, until March 31.

Cash prizes will be awarded for 1st through 5th places in two categories: heaviest fish and heaviest stringer.

The tournament runs from 8 a.m. through 4 p.m.

If you would like more information, a registration form or tournament rules, please contact Prairie Trout Club official John Moreland at (918) 287-9966, or at alexmarine@sbcglobal.net. Or you can reach the Pawhuska Chamber of Commerce at (918) 287-1208, or pawhuskachamber2@sbcglobal.net.



Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month
Weatherize your home—caulk and weatherstrip any doors and windows that leak. Properly maintain and clean heating equipment and replace filters regularly.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

Pre-registration is \$25 and entitles you to a free T-shirt and membership