



REGULATIONS DRIVE POWER COSTS

A new car arrives with fresh paint, a great smell, and a hefty price tag. After a few years of regular payments the scent changes, but there's value in owning an older car that's still running well.

Most of America's electric cooperatives bought a fleet of new —power plants—in the 1970s and 1980s. This ample stock of generation allowed co-ops to maintain a safe, reliable, and affordable supply of power. Current conditions may place affordability and reliability at risk.

Half of the nation's total generating capacity—530,000 megawatts—passed the 30-year mark by the end of 2010, according to the U.S. Energy Information Association (EIA). As with an older vehicle,

there are costs associated with maintaining a power plant—expenses compounded by a slew of environmental regulations. In fact, these rules could result in a chunk of America's coal-fired power plant fleet shutting down by 2018.

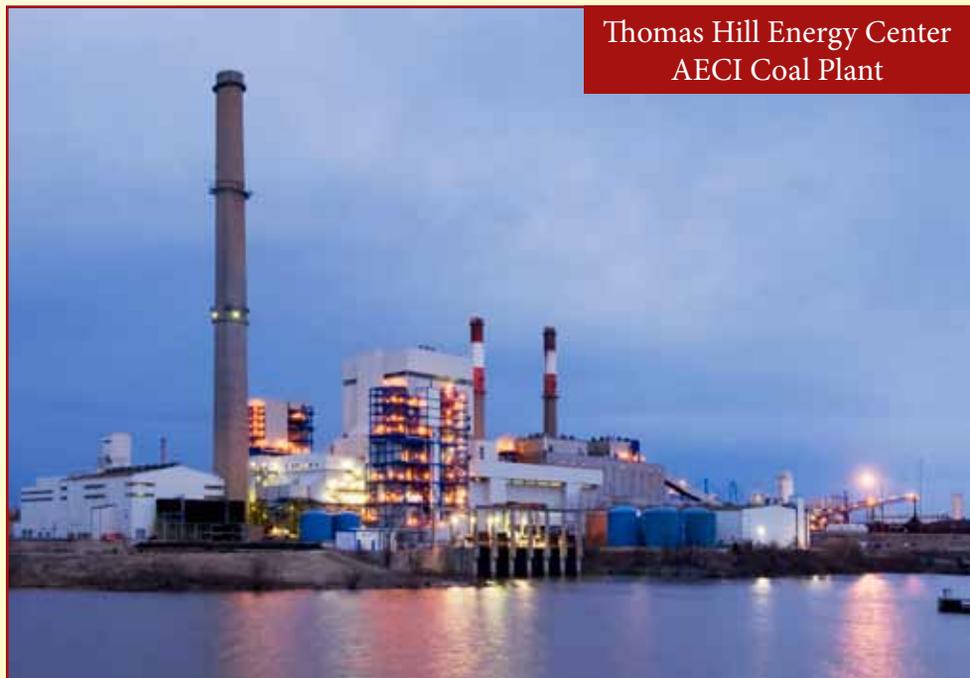
In addition, some co-ops need to add new generation plants to meet growing demand. However, with required environmental controls coupled with rising prices for construction materials, new power plants—as well as older ones “in for

maintenance”—are going to be much, much more expensive.

All of these factors will impact our electric bills for many years to come. Our collective wallets are under pressure. More folks around the world are using power; China has surpassed the United States as the top global energy user, and in just over two decades it's predicted to consume 68 percent more power than we do. Americans are using more energy too, despite efficiency measures.

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Thomas Hill Energy Center
AECI Coal Plant



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REGULATIONS DRIVE POWER COSTS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

It's easy to see why—TVs, laptops, “iGadgets,” and other electronics crowd power outlets. A typical Oklahoma home used 1,189 kWh every month in 2010—a 90 kWh increase from 2009.

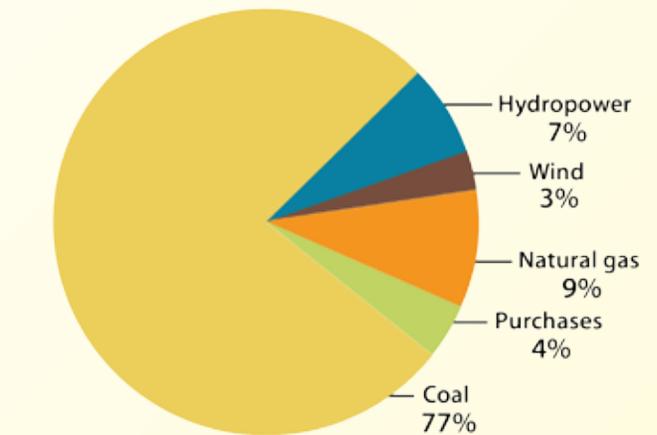
Generally, when there's increased demand—say, for the latest model car—manufacturers open a new assembly plant to roll more models into showrooms. But at a time when electricity needs are rising, our affordable power supply is beginning to dwindle.

Today, nearly 80 percent of the power provided by electric co-ops nationwide comes from coal, compared to about half for the rest of the electric utility industry. Why the difference? The majority of

co-op coal power plants were built between 1975 and 1986, when building natural gas facilities was restricted by the federal Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act due to concerns that natural gas reserves were running low. Of course, those worries proved to be unfounded, and the law was repealed in 1987. But by then co-ops had already built a generation of coal-fired power plants—the same plants that are now being saddled with heavy regulatory costs.

Don't get me wrong—I'm not against clean and green energy.

2010 AECI Resource Chart Electric Energy Supply



In fact, generation and transmission cooperatives like Associated Electric Cooperative, (AECI) which supplies IEC with wholesale power, has invested 1 billion dollars starting in 1994 to clean the emissions of it's existing generation plants. But I want to make sure lawmakers in Washington, D.C., keep balance, common sense, and affordability in mind when adding layer upon layer of requirements to the way we generate power.

Working with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), we're urging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to consider a more balanced and common-sense approach to rules, and how increased electric power costs affect consumers like you and me. Stay informed on these issues and find out how you can help us keep the price of power affordable at www.ourenergy.coop. ♦

New Madrid Power Plant
AECI Coal Plant



HELP BATTLE COPPER THEFT

Soaring metal prices have been blamed for an increase in the thefts of copper and aluminum, primary components of electric distribution lines. Recent thefts of copper wire and equipment from electric utilities have been responsible for power outages, additional maintenance and expenses, diminished service reliability, and, in some cases, serious injury or death.

Copper in wire is appealing to thieves who want to sell the metal for scrap. Burglars will often climb power poles, scale fences, and break into buildings to steal the precious metal. Needless to say, a 542 percent increase in the price of copper since 2001 has prompted thieves to become bolder and more inventive.

In Oklahoma, members of one electric co-op are facing an estimated \$1 million repair bill because copper thieves wrecked a substation for just \$100 worth of the metal last year. In New Mexico, a man was found dead beneath a power pole, electrocuted while trying to cut copper wiring from a live transformer. A Texas man lost his life when he cut into a live power line while trying to steal copper. Similar accidents have been reported across the country.

“To a would-be thief, stealing copper may seem like a quick way to make a buck,” says David Wilson Manager of Member Services. “But it’s illegal, it’s costly, and it’s not worth a life. Working with electricity and any metal is a dangerous combination, even for trained employees using proper equipment.”

Some electric cooperatives stamp copper and aluminum wire with an ID number to deter theft. Stolen wire is commonly brought to recycling centers and traded for cash.

Although many state laws require recycling centers to keep records of transactions, enforcement can be difficult. Without identifying marks, stolen wire is hard to track and is rarely recovered.

Thieves may not understand that they are risking their lives by taking copper from substations, where transmission voltage is converted to distribution voltage. All power lines carry a potentially deadly charge.

Indian Electric urges you to follow the following guidelines to guard against electrical dangers and prevent copper theft.

- Never enter or touch equipment inside a substation; stay away from power lines and anything touching a power line.
- If you notice anything unusual with electric facilities, such as an open substation gate, open equipment, or hanging wire, contact your electric co-op immediately.

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Dixie Substation

HELP BATTLE COPPER THEFT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

- If you see anyone around electric substations or electric facilities other than co-op personnel or contractors, call the police.
- Install motion-sensor lights on the outside of your house and business to deter possible thieves.
- Store tools and wire cutters in a secure location, and never leave them out while you are away.
- If you work in construction, do not leave any wires or plumbing unattended or leave loose wire at the job site, especially overnight.

Help spread the word about the deadly consequences that can result from trying to steal copper or aluminum.

Please help us prevent these thefts. If you notice anything unusual, call Indian Electric immediately at (918) 295-9500. ♦

RECIPE: Peach Crème Brûlée

- 3 fresh peaches, or 6 canned peach halves, drained
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 cup sour cream
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans, if desired

If using fresh peaches, peel, cut in half, and remove pit. Place drained peach halves in a shallow glass baking dish, cut side down. Sprinkle with lemon juice. Broil 4-6" from heat until fruit begins to brown in spots.

Peach Crème Brûlée (cont)

In small bowl, combine sour cream, granulated sugar, and vanilla and mix well. Turn peaches over and spoon sour cream mixture over the fruit; sprinkle evenly with brown sugar. Broil 4-6" from the heat until sugar melts and caramelizes. Sprinkle with pecans, if desired, and serve.

To cook on the grill, grill peaches, cut side down, for 2-3 minutes. Turn peaches, top with sour cream and brown sugar, and grill for 2-3 minutes until peaches are hot.
Serves 6

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