

MEMBER

*From Cedar Island to Cedar Point
and many places in between*

News



A newsletter for members of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative

July 2007

Board continues PURPA deliberations

The Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative (CCEC) Board of Directors is continuing consideration of three standards of the 2005 Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act (PURPA).

CCEC's statewide trade association, N.C. Association of Electric Cooperatives³ conducted a public comment and hearing process, which was completed last month. The directors must now consider the standards, prepare findings of fact and approve resolutions by Aug. 7. The standards being considered are:

Interconnection - The interconnection standard sets forth the terms under which electricity generated by a customer may be connected to a utility's facilities.

Net-metering - Service to an electric consumer under which electric energy generated by that electric consumer from an eligible on-site generating facility and delivered to the local distribution facilities may be used to offset electric energy provided by the electric utility to the electric con-

sumer during the applicable billing period.

Time-Based Metering (Smart Metering) & Communications - A time-based rate schedule where the rate paid by electric customers varies during different time periods to reflect the variance, if any, in the utility's costs of acquiring electricity.

The federal act was originally passed in 1978 with the goal of promoting conservation and energy efficiency. The recent Energy Policy Act of 2005 amended the original PURPA.

CCEC must consider each standard and subsequently determine whether adoption of any of the standards is appropriate. To gauge that, the board will judge the standards in light of three overriding goals of PURPA: conservation of the energy supply, efficiency of facilities, and resources and equitable rates.

CCEC purchases all of its power requirements from N.C. Electric Membership Corporation. For this reason, the directors will not be considering adoption of two other standards - Fuel Sources and Fossil Fuel Generation Efficiency - because these are being considered by our power supply agency.

on the web

Learn more about how you can save energy and lower your power bill.

Go to:

www.carteretcravenelectric.coop



Adjustment added to bills

To meet unexpected revenue shortfalls brought on by a mild winter and to keep finances in balance, the cooperative has implemented a power cost adjustment (WFPCA), beginning with June bills. The adjustment (\$2.50/1000 kWh) will be in place only as long as necessary to maintain the co-op's financial health.

Balancing costs, renewables & conservation

The mission of the cooperative is simple: we strive to provide low cost, reliable electricity to our members. However, as more and more people need more and more electricity, fulfilling that mission in today's climate is a tall order. Today, we must strive to incorporate as much renewable energy as economically possible in our portfolio, and we must focus on helping you conserve energy - all the while maintaining value and holding down costs.

For much of the past decade we enjoyed relatively stable power costs. We had an adequate supply of energy and had little need to construct base load power plants, those large coal or nuclear fueled generating plants that run 24/7. In the mid 1990s, lawmakers opened the wholesale energy

Craig Conrad
CEO & General Manager



market, allowing us to buy lower cost power than was ever available before and pass these savings to you. Through a balance of long term and shorter term contracts, through a balanced mix of

fuels - including nuclear, coal, natural gas, oil, and hydroelectric, we successfully lowered electricity costs almost 20 percent.

During the past several years, however, wholesale energy market prices have been escalating. Catastrophic weather events, uncontrollable global impacts of terrorism and war, growth and demand for energy - not only in the U.S., but in foreign countries as well - have all pushed up the cost of fuels used to generate electricity.

As the demand for electricity increases, we need to construct new power plants. The generating plants that supply the lowest cost electricity are powered by nuclear fuel or by burning coal. Deciding what to build today, however, must also take into consideration environmental concerns that are topping today's news headlines.

What else can we do? Among lawmakers at both the state and federal level, and in

many of our own households, there is growing sentiment that we must make conservation and renewable energy a part of the solution to satisfy our growing need for electricity and reduce impacts on the environment.

Yes. We must individually and collectively be more responsible to our environment and future generations. But at the same time, legislators and policy makers need to look carefully at the whole picture when considering any mandates that require renewable energy sources to be part of a utility's power supply portfolio. The additional costs of renewable energy requirements could be great and will be paid by you and me.

In North Carolina, there are limited opportunities for generating renewable energy. A recent report to the legislature identified several green options; including wind power, solar power, and biomass - which is using animal wastes to generate electricity. The reality today is that generating electricity through renewables, whether wind, solar or biomass, is more expensive than using coal or nuclear fuel.

As our nation ponders how to reduce greenhouse gases and lessen our dependence on other countries for much of our fuel supply, each of us must change our way of thinking about energy use.

The very first steps toward holding down energy costs and working to protect our environment must be taken in our homes and businesses. Measures such as adjusting thermostats, turning off lights, televisions or computers, and replacing traditional light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs will help reduce electricity use. There are many ways we can curb energy consumption, reduce environmentally-unfriendly emissions, and ultimately, slow the need to build power plants.

While we do not know what future policies may have on the cost of energy and on the environment, we do know that each of us has a responsibility to become more aware of our energy consumption and use energy more wisely.

CCEC

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Carteret-Craven Electric Membership Corporation is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and the rules of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is the CEO and General Manager. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination, may file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discriminatory action, or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Administrator of RUS extends the time for filing. Identity of complainants will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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**The cooperative's offices in Newport and Havelock
will be closed Wednesday, July 4, for Independence Day.**

It's safety first with portable generators

With North Carolina's coastline in the crosshairs this hurricane season, it is perhaps even more important to be prepared.

Portable generators are a good source of alternate power if an outage occurs, but they should only be used in emergency situations. If a generator is improperly installed or improperly operated it can be deadly. If you want to connect a generator to your home's main electrical supply, have a qualified, licensed electrician do the work and make sure a double-pole, double-throw transfer switch is installed.

Before operating a generator, determine wattage requirements (volts X amps) by listing all appliances that are going to operate at the same time, and then determine the starting wattage requirements and running wattage requirements. The starting load lasts only a few seconds but the generator must be rated for the total wattage.

Here are some more tips on how to avoid hazards when using generators.

Electrical Hazards

- Make sure the generator is connected to an appropriate electrical ground, in accordance with the National Electric Code. Follow directions supplied with the generator.

- Operate the generator in a clean, dry, well-ventilated area. Make sure your hands are dry, and do not use it in rainy, wet or icy conditions.

- Inspect extension cords before use. If they are worn, cut or frayed, replace them, and use electrically grounded cords of the proper size

- Do not overload the generator.

- Turn off all equipment being powered by the generator before turning off the generator.

Carbon Monoxide Hazards

- Always use generators outdoors and away from doors, windows and vents.

- Install battery-operated or plug-in (with battery backup) carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home. Test CO alarms frequently and replace batteries when needed.

Fire Hazards

- Before refueling the generator, turn it off and let it cool. Fuel spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.

- Store fuel in properly labeled, non-glass containers, away from any fuel-burning appliances.

- Do not store fuel indoors.

- Never tamper with factory set engine speed settings. This could cause overheating and result in a fire.



When you're getting ready to go on vacation, your home appliances are probably the last things on your mind. But if you don't give your appliances a vacation too, you might return and wonder why an empty house doesn't mean lower energy bills.

Before you head out the door, take a few minutes to turn off and unplug any appliance or electronic device that doesn't need to stay on. Many items like microwaves, computers and televisions draw power even when they're not being used

Turn the thermostat on your cooling system to 80 degrees or more. If you turn your cooling system off, humidity inside the house may be an issue. If you have an electric water heater, cut the power at the breaker or fuse in the service panel. Install compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) wherever you have lights that you leave on for security while you are away.



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carteret-craven electric cooperative

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