EPA proposes regulatory changes to Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engine Electric Generation regulations

On June 26th, EPA proposed changes to the current Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engine (RICE) generation regulations that cover both *new* engines manufactured on or after June 2006 (generally the date EPA began certifying emission controls for RICE) and *existing* RICE manufactured before June 2006 (non-EPA certified RICE).

The regulation of RICE generators is generally divided into two main categories: emergency and non-emergency use. Non-emergency RICE have no limits on annual run times under EPA regulations, although state requirement can include annual run time limits. Emergency RICE can run without annual limits in response to grid blackouts but are limited to 50 hours annually for certain “non-emergency” uses. These non-emergency uses are limited to providing power to the grid to avoid grid failure caused by voltage collapse, line overload or similar indications of likely grid failure. Note: These uses exclude demand response and peak shaving by emergency RICE.

The required RICE emission controls vary depending on the engine size, fuel use (diesel or gas) and manufacture date after June 2006 (EPA certified). RICE intended for non-emergency use have more extensive emission controls than RICE intended for emergency use. RICE manufactured before June 2006 (non-EPA certified) were required to retrofit with emission control to operate on a non-emergency basis, while units not retrofitted with required emission controls can operate under the 50 hours non-emergency use provision as explained above.

In this regulatory proposal EPA is questioning whether the 50-hour non-emergency use provision allowed for emergency RICE, as explained above, is needed, and if so how to limit use to support only local reliability concerns. *NRECA is seeking those cooperatives that employ emergency RICE on their system for 50- hour non-emergency use to assist NRECA is responding to this regulatory proposal.* *Please contact NRECA Environmental Counsel Rae Cronmiller,* *rae.cronmiller@nreca.coop**, if you have an interest in this rulemaking.*