

November 13, 2015

TO: NRECA Board of Directors
Distribution CEOs
Statewide Managers
G&T Managers



WORKFORCE FACT: Employees who are adaptable, flexible and able to learn quickly are critical to staying on top of technological advancements, and veterans bring these qualities. Hiring our Heroes has a new program called [Virtual Job Scout](#), which hosts virtual job fairs that connect veterans, transitioning service members and military spouses with employers. Their next event is this Tuesday, November 17.

Co-ops Will Take Affordability, Reliability Message to EPA Hearings

Next week, G&T cooperatives and NRECA staff will stress the electric co-op message on reliability and flexibility at EPA's public hearings on its [draft](#) Federal Plan for complying with the final Clean Power Plan [rule](#). EPA's last three [hearings](#) are: Monday and Tuesday, November 16-17, in Denver; Wednesday and Thursday, November 18-19, in Washington, D.C.; and Thursday and Friday, November 19-20, in Atlanta. We'll emphasize that EPA's rule will severely and negatively affect millions of American families and businesses. It will result in higher electric bills and harm the economy in rural America – particularly where people live on fixed incomes or in poverty.

A new National Economic Research Associates [report](#) shows the Administration's power plant GHG emissions initiative would result in annual double-digit electricity price increases in 41 states – including many states served by electric co-ops – between 2022 and 2033.

Senate Passes FY16 Appropriations Vehicle, Starts Conference with House

The Senate passed (93-0 vote) an FY16 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs spending bill that will serve as the vehicle for resolving all the outstanding spending bills for the year. The House and Senate have started a conference committee to develop final spending legislation. We're pushing for robust Rural Utilities Service funding, as well as policy riders on EPA and Endangered Species rules.

The House will start its "listening sessions" on the spending bills that failed to get through the House floor. The Agriculture and Interior listening sessions will be held Wednesday. These sessions are intended by Republican Leadership to provide a more transparent process in passing larger pieces of legislation. Congress must complete an appropriations package before the current continuing resolution expires December 11 to avoid a government shutdown.

Senate Highway Bill to Conference; Co-ops Push for House Energy Provisions

The Senate appointed its conferees on the highway bill (H.R. 22), which includes provisions that electric co-ops and other utilities support. We're urging the Senate to accept energy provisions

in the House-passed version, including language that protects utilities from potential Clean Air Act penalties and private citizen lawsuits for voluntary compliance with DOE emergency orders to maintain grid reliability. Other pieces we like exempt critical electric infrastructure information from Freedom of Information Act disclosure, plan for a strategic transformer reserve, and clear authorities for the Secretary of Energy to address grid security emergencies. These elements of the House energy bill (H.R. 8) were added to the highway bill to get them passed this year.

During the conference negotiations, we're trying to get language included that would make EPA's non-hazardous determination on regulating coal ash permanent and put states in the lead on enforcing the regulation.

Some Good News in Final Rule Issued for Tribal Lands Rights-of-Way

There is some good news for electric co-ops in the Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) [final rule](#) on rights-of-way across Indian lands, which we expect to be published in the *Federal Register* soon. We're pleased the BIA kept the definition of voltage that avoids service lines being confused with bulk power transmission. We worked with statewides and individual co-ops to urge BIA to ensure that rights-of-way payments for transmission and distribution lines on tribal lands are reasonable. Contact NRECA's [Carol Whitman](#) or [Pam Silberstein](#) with questions.

Former Michigan Regulator Named NARUC Executive Director

Greg White, a former Michigan Public Service Commission member, will become the new National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) executive director on December 1. White served over five years on the Michigan PSC and was a member of the agency professional staff in various positions since 1987. NRECA looks forward to continuing its good working relationship with Greg and the NARUC staff.

Are Your Future Co-op Leaders Ready to Lead? Bring Them to the Annual Meeting

NRECA is launching the new [Next Generation Leaders](#) program at our 2016 Annual Meeting to help co-ops prepare their future co-op leaders. Co-ops are invited to register at least one rising star on their staff to participate in the program. The Next Generation Leaders program will help ensure that future co-op leaders gain the knowledge, skills, connections and broad perspective necessary to lead in the years ahead. Please, as you make your Annual Meeting attendance plans, consider someone who hasn't attended the Annual Meeting before and would benefit from the experience. See more on the [Next Generation Leaders](#) program and how your organization can participate. Registration for this program opens in mid-November with Annual Meeting registration.