

October 14, 2016

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

Regions 8 and 10 Keep Resolutions Moving; Regions 2 and 3 Ahead

The [Regions 8 and 10](#) meeting in St. Louis included great conversations as co-op representatives worked through the proposed resolutions. An updated [Compendium of Proposed Resolutions](#) will be posted on Cooperative.com. The discussions on business and policy issues confronting electric co-ops will continue at the [Regions 2 and 3](#) meeting in Myrtle Beach, SC, on October 26-27.

Co-ops Recognized for Community Solar Investment in Presidential Campaign

At a widely-covered campaign speech on renewable energy in Florida this week, Hillary Clinton recognized co-op leadership on community solar. “It’s actually pretty exciting. In red states and blue states, local leaders are stepping up. Rural electric co-ops are investing in community solar power. And you see that across America,” she said, holding the effort as an example of renewable energy development across the country. By the end of this year, 87 co-ops will have [103 community solar projects](#) online. With support from the Department of Energy’s SunShot Initiative, [NRECA and 24 co-ops](#) across the nation are testing business and technology models and helping reduce the barriers to co-op solar development.

NRECA Emphasizes Problems with New Power Plant Rule to Court

NRECA, states and industry petitioners filed opening briefs in the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals in our legal challenge of EPA’s GHG standards for new power plants under Clean Air Act Section 111(b). We emphasized that EPA’s GHG standards for new coal power plants cannot be met because carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology is not a viable commercially proven technology. Final briefs are due to the court in February and oral arguments will likely be presented in the spring, with a decision expected in late 2017. This is a separate case from the legal challenge of the Section 111(d) Clean Power Plan rule for existing power plants that was expedited by the court, where a decision is expected in early 2017.

President’s ‘Space Weather Events’ Executive Order includes Grid Protection

NRECA is reviewing President Obama’s new [executive order](#) to boost protection of critical infrastructure, such as the electric grid, from “space weather events,” including geomagnetic disturbances. The order directs Energy and Homeland Security officials and other agencies to develop additional plans to minimize economic loss and human hardship by February 2017. Agencies that oversee critical infrastructure must also assess their authority to “direct, suspend or control critical infrastructure operations, functions and services before, during and after a space

weather event.” The order also requires the National Science and Technology Council to work with federal agencies to continue efforts to carry out goals in the 2015 National Space Weather Strategy.