

Notes to Co-op Nation

July 26, 2013

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

FROM: Jo Ann Emerson

Thanks to Louisiana Co-ops for Wonderful Hospitality; Youth Leaders Come to D.C.

A great big thank you to NRECA Past President and Louisiana Board Director Mike Guidry and his wife Candy, and Randy Pierce, Louisiana statewide association CEO, for hosting me at their meeting this week. It was a great time with lots of discussion. There were many warm words of thanks to Mike for his board service. I was pleased to meet Mark Brown, CEO of Claiborne Electric Co-op, the newly-elected Louisiana Director whose term starts at NRECA's 2014 Annual Meeting.

I'm proud of the 42 Youth Leadership Council students who spent time in Washington, D.C., this week learning more about our co-op programs. Talking with them strengthened my belief that Co-op Nation is helping to develop a great group of future leaders who understand the difficult responsibilities of leadership. Congratulations to Olivia Valasquez of Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative in Ohio, who is our 2013-2014 YLC National Spokesperson. Derek Roper of Idaho Falls Power in Idaho is runner-up.

House Passes Coal Ash Legislation, Focus Shifts to Senate

Our coal ash legislation passed the House again on a 265-155 vote. We gained some ground in getting 39 Democrats to vote "yes." Thank you to the 58 G&Ts, distribution co-ops and statewide associations that signed a coalition letter (attached) supporting this legislation. The Coal Residuals Reuse and Management Act (H.R. 2218) will provide the best path to regulatory certainty and directs EPA to regulate coal ash as non-hazardous. The bill also allows states to choose to run their coal ash programs and also sets deadlines for states to issue permits and includes federal standards to protect the environment. Our focus now turns to moving legislation in the Senate.

Courting Congress Webinar: Three Ways to Build a Better Relationship Back Home

The August congressional recess is fast approaching. And, it's your opportunity to connect with representatives when they're back home. Join us next Wednesday, July 31, at 3 p.m. (Eastern) for our free [Courting Congress](#) webinar on three simple ways to engage your congressional leaders on their home turf. The webinar is designed to strengthen skill sets for anyone who may

have grassroots responsibilities. Allies of the Administration's climate change plan are going to be out in full force over the August recess; let's make sure our side of the story about the need to keep electricity affordable gets told too. On this webinar, learn how to:

- Host an on-site visit to your electric co-op.
- Meet with your representative at the district office.
- Maximize your attendance at town hall meetings.

Distribution Co-op Wins Appeal on NERC Reliability Registration

South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association has successfully appealed a North American Electric Reliability Corp. (NERC) decision that required the co-op to continue complying with NERC reliability standards. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission [ordered](#) NERC to remove South Louisiana Electric from its compliance registry for distribution providers and load-serving entities. The co-op's two-year fight was based on specific technical details showing it's not directly connected to the Bulk Electric System. This is a big win for South Louisiana and could be a useful model for other distribution co-ops facing similar circumstances.

South Carolina Co-ops Highlight Energy Efficiency Programs on Hill

South Carolina electric co-op leaders did a fantastic job in a congressional briefing on how legislation to boost our energy efficiency programs could help more consumers and small businesses get big energy savings through efforts like on-bill financing for efficiency upgrades. The "Help My House" program started by Central Electric Power and Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina saved 1.35 million kWh (a 34 percent reduction) in one year. Other co-ops report similar results. At Midwest Electric in Kansas, the "How\$mart" program saves nearly 1.4 million kWh each year. The Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP) provisions we're pushing in the farm bill debate will let co-ops across the nation use RUS loans to finance consumer efficiency improvements. During the briefing, Rep. Clyburn (D-SC) urged passage of RESP and connected it to job growth.

Court Rejects Appeal for Tighter Ozone Limits, One Standard Sent Back to EPA

In a win for the utility sector, a federal appeals court rejected a challenge of EPA ozone standards by environmental groups that wanted the court to impose even stricter limits. The court refused to second-guess EPA's decision on National Ambient Air Quality Standards issued in 2008. The judges also told EPA to reconsider its ozone limit to protect wildlife and plants.

NRECA Urges FERC to Ensure Just and Reasonable Transmission Rates

We sent a letter with other utility organizations urging FERC to maintain strong oversight of public utility transmission rates and ensure they're just and reasonable in light of changing economic conditions. The joint letter responded to a utility group petition and an Edison Electric Institute white paper seeking changes in FERC rate reviews.

Attached: Coal ash coalition letter.