

Notes to Co-op Nation

October 4, 2013

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

FROM: Jo Ann Emerson

Great Turnout for Region 2-3 Meeting in Alabama

Thank you to Regions 2 and 3 for the tremendous turnout in Birmingham. It was great to be in SEC country! We had more than 1,000 co-op representatives participating in the resolutions discussions and saw many co-op leaders embrace the [Action.coop](#) campaign to tell EPA to back away from our power supply decisions. The Alabama co-ops provided outstanding hospitality. I'm looking forward to the Regions 7 and 9 meeting in Portland, OR, in two weeks.

'All-of-the-Above' Campaign Update – Sign Up for Grassroots E-Advocacy Webinar

We are beginning to get our co-op folks to go to [www.action.coop](#) to register our objections with the Environmental Protection Agency over its climate change rules that take coal off the table for future generation. Nearly 2,000 have taken action so far, but we have a long way to go! Activist environmental organizations will be submitting millions and millions of comments urging EPA to stick with their plan, and we have to counter that pressure. Please ask your employees, directors and consumer-owners to help send a strong message to EPA that their "All-But-One" energy plan must be withdrawn. The stakes are high; we need everyone to pitch in.

To help your grassroots organizers, communicators, member services representatives and others get organized to help in this effort, we'll be hosting a webinar next Tuesday.

Get an insider's look at the Cooperative Action Network and using this online advocacy center through [Action.coop](#) to get your grassroots to take action during our free [webinar](#) on Tuesday, October 8, 3-4 p.m. (Eastern). Our grassroots staff will give you an overview of the Cooperative Action Network, a simpler, more effective hub with advocacy and policy tools for your grassroots efforts. You'll hear about:

- Using Action.coop to send messages to EPA;
- Embracing social media tools;
- Making political action part of the culture at your co-ops.

EPA Plans Listening Sessions on Upcoming Existing Power Plants GHG Rule

We'll be coordinating with our statewide and G&T managers on a strategy to present electric co-op positions at a series of EPA regional [listening sessions](#) that may begin on

October 15. The sessions will cover the next battle in the climate regulation war – EPA’s expected June 2014 proposal to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from existing coal and natural gas power plants. We’ll be ready to present electric co-ops concerns and highlight problems with the Administration’s “All-But-One” policy at a meeting at EPA headquarters, now scheduled for November 7. The meetings in other regions may or may not proceed as scheduled, depending on the length of the shutdown.

Congress in Stalemate; Federal Agencies Hang ‘We’re Closed’ Sign

There are fewer people in the halls and offices on Capitol Hill and most federal agencies are closed. The CR debate could be merged into a deal to raise the federal debt limit, which should be reached the week of October 17.

While most agencies shuttered Tuesday, the Energy Department, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and Nuclear Regulatory Commission are still open for business. They expect to operate another week or two with left-over funding.

Farm Bill Moving Toward Conference Negotiations

We’re glad the House and Senate are taking action to get their farm bills to conference committee. We’re working our priorities on both sides: RUS electric loan, energy efficiency and broadband programs; streamline environmental reviews; fix duplicative pesticide permit requirements; and update a rural transportation study. It’s still uncertain when this legislation will get finished.

The Senate named its conferees: Sens. Stabenow (D-MI), Leahy (D-VT), Harkin (D-IA), Baucus (D-MT), Brown (D-OH), Klobuchar (D-MN), Bennet (D-CO), Cochran (R-MS), Chambliss (R-GA), Roberts (R-KS), Boozman (R-AR) and Hoeven (R-ND). The House has yet to name its conferees.

EPA Slows Clean Air Act Proposal for 36 States

It’s good news that EPA delayed its final Clean Air Act State Implementation Plan rule that would force 36 states to rewrite thousands of power plant permits to redefine compliance during startup, shutdown and malfunction. EPA and the Sierra Club changed their “sue-and-settle” agreement to make the new rule deadline May 15, 2014. EPA approved those permits years ago, but it now says startup and shutdown air emissions haven’t been properly addressed and wants to force changes that will increase power costs without improving air quality.