

### ***Notes to Co-op Nation***

October 25, 2013

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

FROM: Jo Ann Emerson

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#### ***Regions 8-10 Regional Meeting***

Thank you to Regions 8 and 10 and our Texas co-op hosts for a tremendous regional meeting in San Antonio! There was a lot of discussion on climate change, renewable energy and other key issues. The session was a great finish to this year's successful Regional Meetings.

#### ***Co-op Nation Turns Out for Georgia and New York EPA Listening Sessions***

A big thank you to Florida, Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina co-ops for getting Co-op Nation's "All-of-the-Above" message heard at the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Atlanta listening session on upcoming carbon regulations of existing coal and gas power plants. About 20 co-op leaders urged EPA to think about the economic impacts of the agency's plans on consumers. Overall, more than half of the speakers in Atlanta urged EPA to abandon its "All-But-One" approach.

NRECA also emphasized this message at EPA's New York listening session. We urged EPA to recognize the unique characteristics of electric co-ops and to work with us on a fair solution that will allow co-ops to continue to provide affordable, reliable electric service for our members. The next session is October 30 in Denver, CO. Let's show up in force to rock EPA back on its heels again!

#### ***'All-of-the-Above' Campaign Update – Grassroots Pressure Needed Now***

We need to keep ramping up our grassroots pressure on EPA and its power plant carbon regulations now. Grassroots opposition to EPA's plan will also bolster co-op friends in Congress who understand our concerns. Please urge your co-op employees, directors and consumer-members to visit [www.action.coop](http://www.action.coop), and send a loud and clear message opposing EPA's climate change agenda. We have a goal of 1 million messages to EPA by the 2014 Annual Meeting. Action.coop advocacy [tools](#) can help get your members engaged.

#### ***Federal Hydropower Amendment Passes in Water Infrastructure Bill***

We're pleased the House water resources reform bill (H.R. 3080) passed, 417-3, with Rep. Hastings' (R-WA) amendment to help ensure electric co-ops continue to have access to low-cost

federal hydropower. It would prevent the Army Corps of Engineers from making operating decisions that could diminish federal hydropower generation. The bill now goes to conference with the Senate. We're working with lawmakers to support a final bill that protects co-ops, which are longstanding Corps of Engineers hydropower customers. See more at [ECT.coop](http://ECT.coop).

### ***Draft Cybersecurity Framework Announced, Comments on Proposal Sought***

We're reviewing the draft preliminary [Cybersecurity Framework](#) of critical infrastructure practices the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) released. NIST is working with critical infrastructure owner/operators (including electric utilities) to develop this voluntary framework required by the President's cybersecurity executive order. A 45-day public comment period is expected to start in a few weeks. We'll get feedback from our members through the Cyber Security Task Force as we develop comments and continue to advocate for NRECA members. For more information or to join the task force, contact our Associate Director of Power and Delivery [Barry Lawson](#).

### ***Be Aware of National Geographic Channel's 'American Blackout' Movie***

I've attached talking points to use if your co-op gets questions from members or media about National Geographic Channel's broadcast this Sunday of "American Blackout," a fictional movie that depicts how a national power blackout caused by a cyber attack impacts the country. Our talking points provide facts and highlight that electric co-ops are constantly taking significant steps to safeguard against cyber threats. Furthermore, co-ops that own or operate generation or transmission have compliance responsibilities to protect grid reliability and security under mandatory and enforceable standards. NRECA and co-op leaders are actively working with government officials to keep the electric grid secure.

### ***FWS Supports Lesser Prairie Chicken Conservation Plan***

It's great news that the Fish and Wildlife Service is supporting the voluntary conservation plan to protect the lesser prairie chicken in five Southwest states. Voluntary plans are developed at the state and local level in a flexible approach with stakeholder input and are not as rigid as an Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing. But, our battle over a proposed "threatened" listing of this species under ESA is not over yet. The FWS plans to make a final decision on listing the lesser prairie chicken as threatened by March 2014.

### ***Improvements Urged for Proposed Outdoor Lighting Efficiency Standards***

We sent comments to the Energy Department suggesting several fixes to proposed efficiency standards for metal halide outdoor lights used for street lighting and industrial facilities. The proposed standards will increase lighting replacement costs for electric co-ops and their members and force the replacement of many existing fixtures. Our comments (attached) highlight the proposal's flawed analysis and focus on the dangers of using parts with higher failure rates.

**Attached:** Lighting proposal comments, Cybersecurity talking points.