

COOS-CURRY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. FOR MEMBERS ONLY

From General Manager/CEO Roger Meader

The year 2008 may prove to be one of the busiest years yet for your electric cooperative. You can expect your member-elected board of directors to have many issues to debate and decisions to make on your behalf.

On the wholesale power supply front, we hope to be signing new contracts with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) that will determine what power we receive from the federally-based hydropower system and what we will need to acquire over and above that in order to serve the growing needs of our membership. As I've mentioned in the Town Hall meetings and in the board room many times, the "Tier 1" power we receive through BPA is the last of the inexpensive power the people of the Northwest have enjoyed for decades. "Tier 2" power will be more expensive, regardless of what the generation source. We are exploring every option to add renewable energy sources to the power we acquire on your behalf.

When the board of directors approved the budget for 2008, they gave staff direction to proceed with the engineering design study for completing the upgrade to the transmission line from Thomas Creek to Brookings-Harbor. The study will be complete by September and will include public hearings.

The budget also includes a more aggressive installation of the automated meter reading (AMR) program. This is really exciting because the AMR technology will not only make reading meters more cost effective, it will give us better and more cost-effective ways to manage outages and implement time-of-day rates in the future.

We will also be working on long-term and short-term construction plans and a disaster recovery plan. After the December storms, I am more and more convinced that the county needs to pull together to plan — together — for how we'll manage emergencies in the future.

I'm encouraged that we will be able to meet these challenges head on. We have a very talented, dedicated group of employees that care about the membership and the communities in which we live. Expect great things from your electric cooperative this year. We are here to serve you and we take great pride in doing so.



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The City of Brookings, Brookings-Harbor School District, Brookings-Harbor Chamber of Commerce, Curry County Public Health, Curry General Hospital and Sutter Coast Hospital cordially invite you to attend the Third Annual Brookings-Harbor Health and Safety Fair.

Saturday, February 2
Kalmiopsis School
Brookings

Town Hall Meeting Schedule

(All Meetings Begin at 7:00 p.m.)

January 3, 2008
Gold Beach City Hall

February 7, 2008
Port Orford — CCEC Office

March 6, 2008
Bandon/Coquille Area
Location TBD

(Meeting information will be posted to the Event Calendar on our website and advertised in local newspapers.)

From The Board Room

Last month we introduced you to a way to get involved in your electric cooperative — through the grassroots network *Power of Community*.

This month, we'd like to bring to your attention proposed legislation that, if adopted, would impact your power rates.

According to the Department of Energy, electricity demand will increase 40 percent by the year 2030. That coupled with an increasing concern about global warming and climate change has focused policy makers across the country on finding ways to reduce emissions.

In Congress, the U.S. Senate is moving forward with a bill to impose federal carbon reduction requirements. Climate change legislation introduced by Senators Joe Lieberman (D-CT) and John Warner (R-VA) has passed through the committee process and is expected to reach the floor for debate as early as this spring. The bill, "America's Climate Security Act," requires substantial CO2 reductions by 2020.

We have a strong commitment to the environment and are actively seeking ways to incorporate generation from renewable energy projects into our portfolio. But, we also want to make sure that in the end, we have added generation that keeps our rates affordable and our service reliable.

We're not alone. Electric cooperatives nation-wide are concerned with the unrealistic timelines for emissions reduction and an auction scheme that would sell carbon emitting permits to the highest bidder that are included in this particular bill. These would pose significant economic hardships for cooperatives and the members they serve and would affect system reliability.

Organizations that work on our behalf such as the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the Oregon Rural Electric Coop-

erative Association (ORECA) will continue to stress the need for realistic goals that achieve desired fossil fuel reductions while maintaining affordable electric rates for consumer-owners.

We can expect other bills to emerge as we debate climate change as a country. There will be times when we will need you and when you will want to be informed and involved. As a member of the *Power of Community* network, you receive information about proposed legislation directly from ORECA; and you will know when your assistance is needed. Joining is easy. You may sign up on-line at http://www.oreca.org/power_card.htm or contact any of our offices where we have sign-up forms available.■



Capital Credits

We will be retiring capital credits for the years 1973 through 1976, returning nearly \$1.5 million to those of you who purchased electricity during that time. When we retire capital credits, it comes out of the margins — the investment or ownership that you made in your electric cooperative each time you paid your electric bill. Our margins are strong now — sitting at 57 percent when the national average for cooperatives is around 40 percent.

After considering what money will be needed for capital expenditures like the transmission line, automatic meter reading (AMR) or SCADA, we felt returning these years of capital credits was appropriate.

The process of refunding capital credits is time-consuming; but we expect to have checks to members who invested in their electric cooperative during that time this spring.

*Grant Combs, President/
Chairman of the Board
Daryl Robison, Vice-President
Pete Radabaugh, Secretary
John Herzog, Treasurer
Gary Schlottmann
Dave Kitchen*

Winter Storm Weather Reminders!

Our crews did an excellent job restoring power to the thousands of members that were affected by the storms in December. But this is just the beginning of the storm season, so please remember to prepare yourselves for the next one that may hit.

Keep flashlights, battery-powered radios extra blankets and a telephone you can plug directly into a jack handy and remember to replenish your supply of batteries and drinking water.

If your power goes out, be sure to report it so crews can respond quickly. During regular business hours, contact any of our area offices. After hours, call 1-866-352-9044.

Each area office has a supply of "glow in the dark" refrigerator magnets with CCEC numbers listed for your convenience. Pick one up so you'll always be able to find the numbers — even in the dark. Be sure to check out our website at www.ccec.coop for more tips on what to do in the case of a power outage. More importantly, stay safely away from downed power lines.■