

## Watts Inside

- What is PCA, Page 2
- Safe and Warm, Page 2
- Annual Meeting Cont., Page 3
- Clean Power Plan, Page 4



# Hot Watts

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



### Energy Efficiency

#### Tip of the Month

Heating your living space uses more energy than any other system in your home – typically making up about 42 percent of your utility bill. By combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30 percent on your energy bill.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

#### Congratulations!

**Brady Bauer** is our online survey winner.

#### Offices Closed

CHEC will be closed November 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> in observance of Thanksgiving.

## 68th Annual Meeting was a Success

CHEC's 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting was a huge success! On a beautiful fall morning, 2,500 family members, friends, and guests of CHEC filled up the Sallisaw High School gymnasium. Members from every part of CHEC's seven county territory attended the meeting. The total members registered this year were 1,185. Registered members received a \$20 bill credit and a CHEC goodie bag.

The Ritter's Family Band, long-time residents of the Vian area, provided the entertainment again this year. Sallisaw Cub Scout Pack #731 honored our country with the posting of the colors and leading of the Pledge of Allegiance. Pam Cloud of Sequoyah County sang a beautiful

rendition of the National Anthem.

To kick off the business meeting, all members and guests were welcomed by Kendall Beck, General Manager, who also gave a brief update of the Cooperative. Russell V. Barber, General Counsel, directed the business portion of the meeting, which was immediately followed by the highly anticipated prize drawings. Reba Wilkins of Sallisaw, daughter of Tina Camkey and Ronnie Wilkins, assisted during the drawing of prizes. CHEC would like to thank Miss Wilkins for her assistance.

Thank you to everyone who attended this year's annual meeting. We hope to see you all again next year.

*Pictures continued on Page 3*



Photo by Kendall Beck

*Thank you to our members for making this meeting a Success!*



## Reminder:

Beginning with December billing, residential accounts switch from summer rates to winter rates. Winter rates will remain in effect through February. During this time energy usage is billed on a declining block rate (First 800 kWh - \$0.08720 per kWh, over 800 kWh - \$0.07720 per kWh). Summer rates, which include March through November, are billed at the same rate (All kWh - \$0.8720 per kWh). If you have an questions about rates, please call 800-328-2368 or 918-775-2211.

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*Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



**If You Find Your Account Number  
Hidden in This Issue of the *Hot Watts*,  
You'll Receive a \$25 Credit on  
Your Electric Bill**

# What is the PCA charge on my electric bill?

The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) is an amount in \$/kWh applied to a member's monthly kWh consumption to account for changes in the cost of wholesale power purchases from CHEC's power supplier that are above or below the power cost recovered in the base rates to the member. The PCA passes on the difference between the actual cost of wholesale power each month and the base cost used in determining rate schedules. The PCA factor will allow the cooperative to more efficiently track both increases and reduction in the wholesale cost of power. The PCA factor for future periods will be determined based on the changes in wholesale power cost.

## *Stay Safe and Warm: Tips for Using Space Heaters and Electric Blankets*

Do not let your efforts to stay warm put your safety at risk. Space heaters and electric blankets can be efficient ways to stay warm, but they can also be dangerous. Safe Electricity encourages you to understand the dangers of heating devices before you use them.

"Space heaters and electric blankets are not appropriate for all people or all situations," explains Molly Hall, executive director of the Energy Education Council. "However, in the right circumstances, space heating can save energy and money."

Safe Electricity has tips for safely using space heaters and electric blankets:

- Read and follow all space heater and electric blanket instructions.
- Check space heaters and electric blankets before use. Cords should not be frayed, brittle, or cracked. The blanket should not have any charred or dark areas.
- Turn space heaters and electric blankets off when not in use.
- Choose a space heater with a safety certification. You should look for the UL, ETL, or CSA mark on space heaters and electric blankets. These verify that the product has been tested for safety.
- Look for a space heater that has guards from heating elements and automatically shuts off if it is tipped over.
- One of the biggest causes of fires is one of the most easily avoidable. Many fires start when flammable products are placed too close to heating devices, such as space heaters. Space heaters should be kept at least 3 feet from blankets, clothing, paper, and other flammables.
- Place space heaters out of high-traffic areas and on a level, hard, non-flammable floor surface—NOT on carpets, furniture, or countertops.
- Pets should never be allowed to sleep on top of electric blankets.
- Electric blanket wires should never be bent or tucked under a mattress.
- Do not attempt to warm your entire home using space heaters. Space heaters are useful in small areas, such as a study or living room. However, if you need to keep large areas warm, your home heating system will do the job more efficiently.

To learn more on how to avoid electrical hazards, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 3rd. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour.





Josie Cheater



Charles Bigger



Sharon Johnson



Phyllis Little

# Congratulations to all the Annual Meeting prize winners!

## Children

- Kyle Reichert
- Julius Lemon
- Lana Conner
- Macey Lee
- David Briggs
- Josiah Slape
- Marissa Farris
- Lindsey Bailey
- Christopher Foreman

## Adults

- Charles Bigger
- Josie Cheater
- Pope Chapel Church - Phyllis Little
- Mable Lee
- Wanda Lowery
- Amanda Turpin
- Clifton Pettit
- Rosa Carter
- Crystal Bercher
- Shirley Wilkins
- Janet Dugger
- Brian Tramell
- David Young
- Teresa MacMillan
- Japheth Sanford
- Thomas Dieter
- Chuck Davis
- Nora Parra
- Al Broyles
- Dallas Allen
- Sharon Johnson
- Regina Allen
- Jeanette Moore



Kyle Reichert



Julius Lemon



Lana Conner



Pam Cloud



George Jiles, Reba Wilkins, & Donna Rhodes



More pictures are available on CHEC's Facebook page.

Pictures taken by Felicia Williams & Donna Rhodes

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# Clean Power Plan's Day in Court

As CHEC strives to provide you, our member, with reliable, low-cost electricity, we continually face a barrage of obstacles that could negatively impact your power costs. For those who have been following the events of the Clean Power Plan, the following article from National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) provides a summary of the main issues argued in the latest court hearing.

## Summary and Key Takeaways from the Clean Power Plan Oral Arguments

On September 27, ten judges of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit heard oral arguments from lawyers representing states and industry, including NRECA, challenging the legality of the Clean Power Plan. The court also heard from the Justice Department, representing EPA, and lawyers representing states and other parties supporting the rule.

At issue for the co-ops is whether it is legal for EPA to use the Clean Air Act to force the closure, or curtail the operations, of billion-dollar power plants, many of which have outstanding loan obligations.

## Main Issues Argued

Arguments lasted nearly seven hours, roughly twice the amount of time originally set by the court. The judges' main questions focused on the following issues:

- Does the Clean Air Act Section 111(d) permit EPA to force utilities to shift generation away from existing coal-fired generation to sources such as wind and other generation not yet built?
- Does utility regulation for hazardous air emissions under Section 112 pre-empt regulation under 111(d) for greenhouse gases?
- The rule forces states to take actions that only they can take to achieve compliance. Does this amount to a commandeering of their constitutional powers and thereby violate the U.S. constitution?
- Did EPA violate the Clean Air Act when it issued a final rule that significantly departed from the proposal without providing an opportunity for the public to comment on those departures?
- Assuming EPA has the legal authority to issue this rule, and the above questions notwithstanding, was the rule itself arbitrary and capricious, thereby requiring that it be struck? This would be the case if the underlying factual assumption made by EPA regarding its implementation is found to be deeply flawed and unsupported by the rulemaking record.

A recurring contention throughout the day made by rule supporters was that the electric grid was more than capable of handling any significant changes and additions required to comply with the rule. In this context those advocates specifically referenced that even the smaller generators such as the co-ops would find compliance easily achievable. In reality, of course, this creates great difficulties for co-ops.

## The Takeaways

- The court clearly is taking this litigation very seriously, as evidenced by the fact the arguments were heard by the full court, rather than by just a three-judge panel as originally planned, and the arguments lasted about twice as long as expected.
- The judges clearly had serious questions about the legality of EPA's effort to regulate "beyond the fence" by requiring substantial changes across the entire power sector instead of simply imposing emissions requirement on power plants. Forcing utilities to buy electricity from competing generators is not contemplated by the Clean Air Act.
- Despite assertions to the contrary during the arguments, small co-ops will have great difficulty complying with the rule, which is one of the main reasons the Supreme Court granted the stay. Small systems with only 1 or 2 generation assets do not have the compliance options of larger, multi-state utilities
- As a result, the rule will force the premature closure of coal-fired power plants, leaving co-ops with huge stranded assets. Member-consumers of these co-ops will be forced to pay for their electricity twice—once to pay off the remaining debt on the shuttered power plants and again to purchase replacement power.
- We're especially concerned about the burden on low-income consumers. Electric cooperatives serve 93 percent of the nation's persistent poverty counties, so we recognize first-hand the importance of affordable power.

We expect the court to issue a decision this winter with a ruling addressing the individual issues raised by the petitioners.

*Source: NRECA.*