



# Harrison Rural Electrification Association, Inc.

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner   
[www.harrisonrea.com](http://www.harrisonrea.com)

## 2011 Annual Meeting Highlights

Harrison Rural Electrification Association held its annual meeting of the membership on April 21 at Liberty High School in Clarksburg. It was our 74th annual meeting.

There were 140 members in attendance, along with their spouses, children or significant others. The evening began with a meal of pasta, meatballs and sauce, salad, garlic bread and cake for dessert. The food was prepared and served by the Harrison County 4-H Interstate Exchange Teens. Entertainment for the meeting was provided by country music singers Branden Stover and Jocelyn Stout. Both the 4-H club and the singers did an excellent job.

The business meeting, held in the school's auditorium, was opened by Michael Cross, board president. Members of the board in attendance were C.B. Sharp from District 1, Greg Robertson

from District 2, Glenn Cox Jr. from District 3, Jim Stuart from District 4, Ron Watson from District 5 and Jack Powell from District 6. Cross represents District 7.

Cox, who retired from the board, was presented with a plaque thanking him for his nine years of service from 2002 to 2011. He is replaced by Kent Vance, who, along with Jim Stuart, ran unopposed for their board seats.

This year's balloting of 13 by-law revisions was passed by an 83 percent margin. The ballots were counted by six members of the credentials and election committee: Brenda Swiger and William Murray from District 2, April Custer and Sue Burns from District 3, and Denny Powell and Scott Rogers from District 7.

A small number of the membership had a problem with granting easements to their neighbors. It is now stated in the by-laws

## Manager's Corner

by  
Gary Jackson,  
CEO/General  
Manager



that: **A member shall: (1) provide the Cooperative safe and reliable access to or use of member property and (2) pursuant to terms and conditions specified by the Cooperative, and without compensation from the Cooperative, grant or convey to the Cooperative a written easement, right-of-way, or license, and execute a document regarding this grant or conveyance.**

The evening festivities finished with a door-prize drawing for the membership. A total of 37 gifts were given out, along with two \$100 energy credits.

If you didn't attend this year's meeting, please consider joining us at the next annual meeting, which will be held in April 2012.

### Board of Directors

Michael Cross, Dist. 7 .....President  
C.B. Sharp, Dist. 1 .....Vice President  
Darrell Powell, Dist. 6 .....Secy.-Treas.  
Greg Robertson .....Dist. 2    James Stuart .....Dist. 4  
Glenn Cox Jr. ....Dist. 3    Ron Watson .....Dist. 5

Gary L. Jackson, General Manager  
Terry Stout .....Office Manager  
Alan Cox .....Operations Manager  
Richard L. Fox .....Staking Engineer  
Nada McNemar .....Editor

Office Hours  
7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mon.-Fri.



### Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

Does your home have a window air conditioner? Make sure that your window unit is properly weatherstripped, and clean the filter monthly. Keep "fresh air" vents on window A/C units closed.

Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

# Electrical safety vacation checklist

Summer vacations are hard to pull off these days, so it's important that trip-takers have peace of mind while away. Fires can start when lightning storms strike electronics or small appliances; burglaries tend to increase because folks aren't at home.

The electrical safety checklist below will help you decrease the risk of problems occurring while on vacation:

Turn off all electrical appliances, including toaster ovens, stoves and curling irons.

Unplug television sets and computers — these items are especially susceptible to lightning and

power surges.

Use a timer on indoor lights. Look for one that can be set to a random pattern rather than regular times throughout the day.

Install motion-detecting lights outdoors.

Set the thermostat to 80 degrees in the summer and 55 degrees in the winter if you plan to leave for an extended period of time.

Give your house key to a neighbor and make sure he or she has a phone number where you can be reached.

Source: National Sheriffs' Association

## Inspecting your attic

Your attic contains some of the most important energy details in your home. It's worth taking a look up there periodically to be sure that everything is in order, and to see if upgrades might help you save energy and money.

### Insulation

Your attic insulation provides an important barrier against both the cold of winter and the heat of summer, and improving your attic insulation is still

one of the best home efficiency investments. Measure your attic insulation. It should be thick and even: at least 16 to 20 inches in cold climates and 12 to 16 inches in moderate climates. Contact an insulation contractor to add more if it's low.

### Ductwork

Duct leaks in the attic are among the most expensive energy defects. If your heating or cooling system includes ducts in the attic, inspect them carefully. If you find disconnected ducts or loose joints, seal them up with metal duct tape or with duct mastic. Avoid common gray fabric duct tape, since it tends to come loose.

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### Mower safety guidelines

Keep the following items in mind to make sure a relaxing afternoon with the lawn doesn't turn into something more serious:

Before starting mower:

- Put on close-fitting clothes and sturdy, nonslip shoes.
- If the lawn is wet — wait!
- Go over the lawn carefully to pick up stones, wire, toys, dog bones — anything the mower blade might pick up and throw.
- If your electric mower isn't labeled "double insulated," never plug it into anything but a grounded (3-prong) outlet.

Adjust cutting height before starting mower.

While you mow:

- Never run mower over gravel, stones or hard, immovable objects like pipes, rocks or sidewalk edges.
- Mow advancing forward whenever possible so you can see where you're going.
- Keep electric mower cord out of the cutting path.
- Stay clear of the blade housing and the discharge chute.
- Never point the discharge chute at others.
- Turn off the mower before you leave it — even for a moment.

Source: University of Arkansas Extension



# Regulatory overload

BY JENNIFER TAYLOR

For every cause, there is an effect. The wind blows; a limb falls. Cause-and-effect relationships exist in the energy industry as well. For example, electric bills will climb if the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) moves forward with imposing a series of potentially crippling regulations on power plants. Some of these new rules directly result from court orders.

According to a report from the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, which oversees the nation's bulk power grid, EPA mandates affecting cooling water intake structures, coal ash disposal, interstate transport of air pollutants and hazardous air pollutants, including mercury, could force electric utilities to retire or retrofit between 33,000 MW to 70,000 MW of generating capacity by 2015 — power that will need to be replaced in some way, and during a period of rising construction costs. Another hurdle, reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, from power plants presents an even greater challenge.

Stringent regulations in each of these targeted areas could potentially impose tens of billions of dollars of extra compliance costs onto the backs of utilities — and electric bills. For example, in June 2010, EPA proposed two possible approaches for managing coal ash and other coal combustion byproducts (CCBs), residues produced when coal is burned to make electricity. One approach, the non-hazardous regulation of CCBs, will ensure that coal ash is handled safely and protect not just the envi-

ronment, but also jobs and consumers.

EPA's other option is to regulate coal ash as hazardous, a determination the agency has rejected before, the last time in 2000. This would hit coal-fired power plant operators with staggering costs, send electric bills up and eliminate beneficial coal ash recycling (about one-third of the fly ash created in the U.S. is used as a Portland cement replacement).

The Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), a nonprofit utility research consortium that includes electric co-ops as members, pegs the potential price tag from a hazardous CCB designation at between \$54.66 billion and \$76.84 billion over a 20-year period.

Electric co-ops have been actively urging EPA through comments, testimony and litigation to consider the negative consequences of higher electric bills in promulgating new rules. In fact, more than 10,500 comments from co-ops and their consumer-members were filed with the agency opposing regulating CCBs as hazardous.

Until EPA's various power plant rules are finalized, the bottom line remains unknown — cause and effect uncertain. But no matter what comes down the pike, electric cooperatives are committed to working hard to provide you with safe, reliable electric power at an affordable price.

## Inspecting your attic

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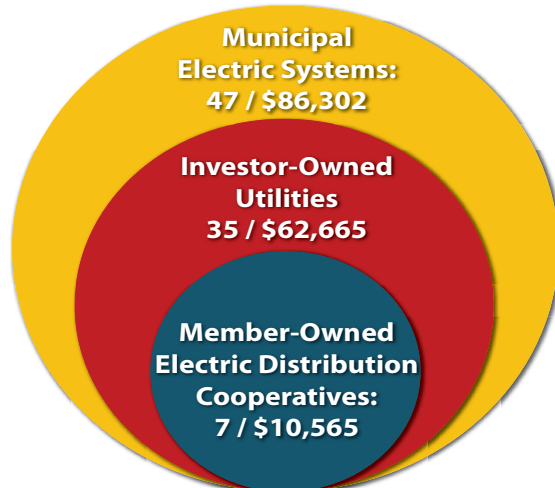
### Mechanical ventilation

Your bath and kitchen fans carry moisture out of your home so it can't accumulate and cause damage. But these fans shouldn't just deposit this moisture into your attic. Locate your bath and kitchen fans from inside your home, then find where they penetrate the ceiling up in the attic. Confirm that your fans are attached to ducts that carry the moist air all the way outdoors. If needed, add flexible ductwork that connects these fans to a nearby attic vent. Your attic insulation will be drier as a result, helping it perform as well as the day it was installed.

## Revenue in review

Because of higher population densities (more consumers served per mile of line), municipal electric systems and investor-owned utilities receive more revenue per mile of line than electric cooperatives.

*Consumers served/revenue per mile of line for different utilities:*



Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

# Tips for refinancing the roof over your head

BY DOREEN FRIEL

If you own your home and are paying a mortgage, one way you may be able to save money is through refinancing — particularly if you closed on your home many years ago. Only you can decide whether refinancing is a smart move, but here are some things to consider:

Refinancing will cost you money. There's no way around this. You're either going to be charged closing costs to refinance, or you may be offered a "no-closing cost" deal. But don't be fooled. One way or another, you will pay for it, since no-cost transactions usually mean you'll be charged a higher interest rate (than if you had paid your closing costs out

of pocket).

How long do you expect to stay in your current home? If you're thinking about moving within the next two years or so, the costs involved may not justify refinancing.

Think carefully before "cashing out." It's a popular move for people who refinance to take cash out of their home when they refinance. But your home is not an ATM — that money will have to be repaid sooner or later. And if home prices drop after you refinance, you could find yourself owing more on your mortgage than your house is worth.

Check with your current lender before you commit to any refinancing deal. Chances are, you may be able to save yourself quite a bit of money on closing costs, while taking advantage of a lower interest rate.

"Calculate" your move carefully!

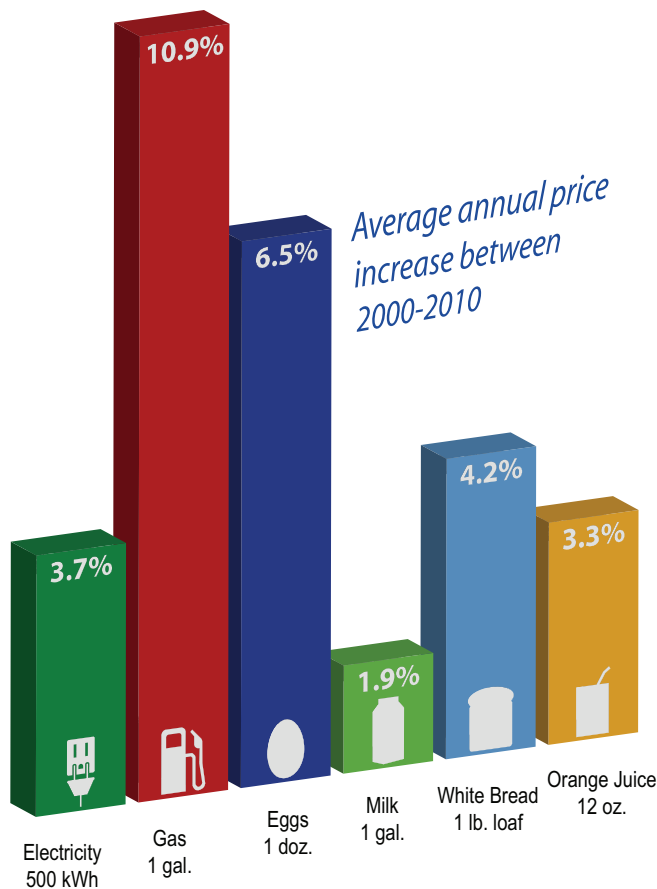
There are no hard and fast rules when it comes to refinancing. But a refinancing calculator, such as one at [Bankrate.com](http://Bankrate.com), can help you decide whether or not refinancing makes "cents."

Your home is one of your greatest assets. So be sure to consider any home-related financing decisions carefully.

*Doreen Friel is a marketing communications consultant who produces employee benefits-related materials for the Insurance & Financial Services Department of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.*

## Electricity remains a good value

Electricity continues to be a bargain, especially when compared to other consumer goods. As demand for energy rises and fuel prices increase, your electric cooperative is committed to providing safe, reliable electricity and keeping your electric bill affordable.



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; Mainstream Graphics

HREA wishes all dads a great Father's Day on June 19.

