

THE LAMP



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WHY ELECTRIC BILLS ARE ON THE RISE

BY C.L. HARMON

In recent years, utility bills have been on a steady incline. This practice of rising rates had become somewhat unusual for Indian Electric Cooperative members before 2004. But as the cost of living increases, it is

fuel most used to produce electricity in the area. For this part of Oklahoma, that fuel is coal.

About 75 percent of the energy purchased by Indian Electric (IEC) is generated by coal. And although the price of coal does fluctuate, it is the cost of producing electricity that is driving the increases not the sole price of the fuel being used. This, is not to say, however, that if prices for fuel were to decrease slightly that members would not benefit.

Information released from Associated explains that it will effect prices at some point. But coal prices do not fluctuate like those of natural gas prices and are much more stable in which to project what rates will be for longer periods of time.

This type of drop in price of natural gas is how PSO is able to tell its members that it is reducing rates when, in fact, it is only adjusting them to the current dropping price of natural gas, according to Manager of Member Services for IEC David Wilson. He said that their rates will return once natural gas prices begin to increase.

no surprise that utilities would soon follow.

Reasons as to the increases vary as it is not one factor that drives the rates up but a collective many. However as for this latest increase, which became effective May 1, the driving force is due to a hike by Associated's Electric Cooperative's wholesale rate increase.

Associated generates and distributes electricity through KAMO Power. Their increase of 14 percent was passed down to Indian Electric on April 1 to meet rising fuel, environmental, maintenance and capitol costs. Associated is a larger cooperative that is owned by those who use it like IEC and several other smaller co-ops.

IEC is absorbing nine percent of that costs and passing down the remainder which will average about a \$5.71 increase per month to members based on a usage 1,600 kilowatts hours per month,

"We realize this could be a difficult time for electric rates to increase," IEC General Manager Jack Clinkscale said. "This is why we are absorbing as much of this increase as possible."

In simple terms, increasing costs to members is due to the fact that it is continually taking more dollars to produce energy. There are many methods involved in the process of producing electricity in what is know as a mix of fuels including oil, natural gas, hydropower, wind and coal.

Depending upon which part of the country one lives, rates will increase according to the cost associated with the type of



While it is true that other energy prices are dropping, members must understand that electric consumption has increased.

As Wilson said, "consider how many more things you have plugged in your homes today than you did ten years ago." As technology moves forward members take advantage of the latest innovations and that means another plug in the wall. How many members had iPod docking stations in their home ten years ago?

It is, however, the environmental regulations that could wreak the most havoc on the cost to members.

One such factor is the EPA's recent announcement of its position that carbon dioxide (a by-product of burning coal) is a public health risk. Recent regulations have already required the Thomas Hill Power Plant to install selective catalytic equipment to meet the January 2009 federal deadline. This alone caused an increase of fixed costs of nearly \$34 million.

Clinkscale also pointed out that new power plants are needed to keep up with the load growth. And the costs to build those within the rigid EPA regulations is expensive. He explained that prices will continue to rise as IEC is forced to purchase power to meet its demand from suppliers that use a costlier method of producing energy.

For more information about this latest increase or to learn about ways to save energy and help offset the increase, contact IEC at 358-2514 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. ♦

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SURPLUS EQUIPMENT AUCTION

Indian Electric Cooperative will be conducting a sealed bid auction open to the general public. The auction will run until 4:00 p.m. on June 23rd.

Bidders need to send their sealed bid with the following information:

- Name
- Address
- Item number bidding on
- Daytime Phone Number
- Amount of bid

Items up for auction may be inspected at IEC's main headquarters located 2 miles South of Cleveland on U.S. Highway 64. Bids will be opened on June 25th by IEC's Board of Trustees. Winners will be notified by phone call with directions on how to submit payment and to schedule pickup of the item won.

All items are offered in an "As-is", "Where-is" condition without warranty expressed or implied. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids.



Item 02: 1987 International S1600
152451 Miles 5331 Hours
IEC Unit: 548
Serial: 1HTLAHGMXHH519588
Running, cracked engine block

Item 01: 1998 Freightliner F180
89515 Miles 9332 Hours
IEC Unit: 555
Serial: 1FV2JJBB5WH949813
Teco crane



Item 03: 1978 Wood
Chuck Chipper W/C-17
IEC Unit: 1748
Serial: 1W9F-
71218WS200481
Running



Item 04: 1998 Wood Chuck
Chipper W/C-17
IEC Unit: 1747
Serial: 1W9F-
71216WS200480
Running



Item 07: Onan Generator
Orange
Running

Other Items Not Pictured:

For a full list visit <http://www.iecok.com/sealedAuction/>

Item 05: Le Roi Dressor Air Compressor
IEC Unit: 591
Running

Item 06: Ingersoll Rand Air Compressor
Running

Item 08: Lincoln Welder/Generator - weld-and-power
150 Watt AC/DC
Running

Item 09: Dell Optiplex GX240
Intel Pentium 4 1.6GHz, 256MB RAM, Windows 2000 Professional,
Office 2000, 20GB Hard Drive

Item 10: Dell PowerEdge 1400
(2) Intel Pentium 3 933MHz, 512MB RAM, 40GB SCSI Hard Drive,
Windows Server 2000

Item 11: Dell PowerEdge 4400
(2) Intel Pentium 3 933MHz, 1GB RAM, (2) 20 GB SCSI RAID Hard
Drives, Windows Server 2000

Item 12: Dell Dimension 8100
Intel Pentium 3 1.3 GHz, 256MB RAM, 40 GB Hard Drive, No OS

Items 17 - 32: Dell Optiplex GX520
Intel Pentium 4 CPU 3.0GHz, 1GB RAM, Windows XP, Office 2003
Standard, 80GB Hard Drive

Item 33: Dell Optiplex 320
Intel Pentium D CPU 1.60GHz, 1024MB RAM, Windows XP Pro,
80GB

Item 43: 1994 Hustler Lawn mower
IEC Unit: 600

Item 44: Snapper Lawn mower
IEC Unit: 704

Item 45: 6' Finish Mower
IEC Unit: 745

COWBOY HATS & HARD HATS

BY JACK CLINKSCALE

EVEN THE BEST LAID PLANS.....

During a recent bout of bad weather, IEC lost power to two substations. As you can imagine, this involved a large number of members without power. This outage occurred on a Saturday when our phones are answered by a call center and then dispatched to IEC crews. During major outages, IEC personnel are called in to take over the large volume of calls.

During this particular outage, several problems occurred which caused some members to think we weren't answering the phone and were not aware of the outage. For about an hour and a half, the phone service to our office was out. This resulted in phone calls simply ringing continuously or saying "this is not a working number".

We have twenty-four phone lines coming into the IEC office and we have the capability of sending those twenty-four lines to our after-hours dispatcher. Unfortunately, we do not have the personnel to answer twenty-four phones at once. This results in some members being put on hold until someone is available to personally answer their call.

When trying to pour a five gallon bucket of liquid through a small funnel, the amount being poured is limited by the size of the funnel. While we may get hundreds of calls during a major outage, we can't possibly take more than twenty-four at once. This means that sometimes when you call you will receive a busy signal. I know this can be very frustrating, but it is equally frustrating when members tell me "you guys just went home until the weather cleared up" or "you just took the phone off the hook". Nothing could be further from the truth, we never, ever take the phone off the hook and we answer as many calls as we possibly can.

In the event of an outage at your home or business, when you call and get a busy signal, rest assured that we know there is a large outage and we are trying our hardest to get your power restored. You can either keep calling or wait for the lights to come on. If you see your neighbors are without power, we likely have IEC employees working on the problem. If your neighbor's power comes on and yours doesn't, then give us a call as soon as possible.



We are working on new ways to answer our phones as efficiently as possible. In the future we hope to be able to allow you to leave your name and account number without having to wait for the availability of an operator. We also will be using the IEC website, www.iecok.com, to post storm outage updates and expected restoration times. There are ways to address phone deficiencies quickly, but they are very costly. We are trying to weigh the value of the solutions and make the best choice for the investment involved.

I may seem like I'm whining about this problem, but I am not. I have always been impressed by the hard work and dedication that is exhibited by IEC employees during the extremely trying times of a storm. Everyone, and I mean everyone, pitches in and does what needs to be done, regardless of whether it is in their job description or not. Including our dedicated trustees, who seem to get a lot of calls during these storms. We all want the power on as quickly as possible and we work our hardest to keep your lights on in all kinds of weather. ♦

Recipe: Strawberry Pie

1 Deep Dish Pie Crust - Baked

1 cup sugar

1 cup water

2 Tbsp corn starch

1 small box strawberry jello

1 pint of strawberries - washed (half large strawberries)

Mix corn starch and cold water in sauce pan. Add sugar. Cook over low heat until thickened and boils. Remove from heat and add jello. Let mixture cool and add berries. Place in pie crust. Refrigerate.

Keep Refrigerated.

Office Closings

IEC offices will be closed Friday, July 3rd in honor of Independence Day. Please call (918) 358-2514 or 1-800-482-2750 to report an outage.

TRUSTEE ELECTION FILING NOTICE

Any member desiring to serve as an IEC board Trustee for the following districts, who meets the qualifications of a Trustee and lives in the district may file a notice of candidacy at IEC's office in Cleveland, OK.

- District 4 the Cleveland area filing period will be from June 22 through July 2, 2009
- District 5 Yale, Oilton and Olive areas filing period will be from June 23 through July 3, 2009
- District 7 between Mannford and Sand Springs filing period will be from June 24 through July 4, 2009

If unsure of your district it can be found on your IEC bill in the account summary box or you can call the IEC office at 918-358-2514

BOATING SAFETY TIPS

Operator inexperience, inattention, recklessness, and speeding are the four leading causes of these tragic accidents. Take a few minutes now to read a few tips on how you can boat safely.

Learn about some key equipment to keep you safe

- Life Jackets and Personal Flotation Devices
- Fire extinguishers - Make sure it is charged and accessible.
- Boat lights - Always test your boat lights before the boat leaves the dock and carry extra batteries
- Emergency supplies - Keep on board in a floating pouch: maps, flares, a first aid kit.
- Anchor - Make sure you have one and can properly use it. Improper anchoring may cause fatal accidents.

Be Weather Wise

- Regardless of the season, keep a close eye on the weather and bring a radio. Sudden wind shifts, lightning flashes and choppy water all can mean a storm is brewing.
- If bad weather is approaching, get off the water early to avoid a long waiting line in inclement weather.

(918) 358-2514

(800) 482-2750

WWW.IECOK.COM

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Monday - Friday)

Greg Fielding, President District 4
Wanda Foster, Vice-President District 5
Berry Keeler, Sec.-Treas. District 1
Loris Peckenpaugh - Asst. Sec.-Treas. District 3
Robert Burk District 6
Mike Spradling District 7
Bill Boone District 8
Jim Hadlock District 2
Jack Clinkscale General Manger

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