

Youth to Washington Tour available for juniors

The Clay Electric Co-operative sponsored “Youth to Washington” tour sends students to Springfield, IL, and also to Washington, DC to see firsthand, government in action.

The dates for the trips will be: Youth Day in Springfield – April 13, 2016. The Youth to Washington

Tour will be June 10-17, 2016.

One Junior student, (parent(s) must be a member of CECI), from Clay City, Flora, and North Clay High Schools is chosen to represent their school, and Clay Electric Co-operative (CECI), on the tour.

The students will be chosen by CECI and those students selected

may also have the opportunity to work as a paid Intern during the summer.

Applications are available by logging onto www.ceci.coop, or www.facebook.com/ceci.coop. Dates for submittal and complete rules will also be on the site.

Will EPA’s Clean Power Plan threaten electric reliability?

Effects on transmission grid being studied—report to be released this year

By Paul Wesslund

Since the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its Clean Power Plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in August, several objections have been raised – from its effect on the economy to whether it actually has the authority to regulate carbon dioxide emissions.

An especially significant concern came from the organization responsible for making sure our electricity stays on. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), reacting to a 2014 draft of the EPA plan, said in April 2015 that the electric utility industry “needs more time to develop coordinated plans to address shifts in generation and corresponding transmission.”

NERC cited concern about the electric transmission grid, noting

that some of the emission reductions would begin in the year 2020, even though, NERC said, “transmission projects require between six and 15 years to engineer, site, permit and construct.”

EPA’s final rule released in August responded to that concern by extending the deadline two years, setting a 2022 start date and phasing-in the limits through 2030. Is that enough time? NERC responded in a statement that acknowledged the EPA had changed its deadlines and that NERC will analyze the EPA’s final rule and issue a report in mid-2016.

Among those challenging the EPA rules in court is the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), concerned that the Clean Power Plan would hurt electric reliability and raise

costs for electric co-op members. “We believe the EPA has overstepped its legal authority with the Clean Power Plan, and, along with many other interveners, have challenged [the] EPA’s rules in the courts,” says Paul McCurley, NRECA chief engineer and acting executive director of Energy and Power. “If the legal challenge is successful, then perhaps we can get [the] EPA to write regulations that address more than just environmental concerns – but also consider economic impacts to consumers and do not threaten the reliability of the electric grid.”

Paul Wesslund writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Nominating Process for Board of Trustees of Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

ARTICLE III TRUSTEES

SECTION 1. General Powers. The Board of Trustees shall consist of nine members. Except as otherwise provided by law, the certificate of incorporation of the Co-operative, or by these bylaws, the Board of Trustees shall manage the business affairs and property of the Co-operative, authorize contracts, fix charges for its services for furnishing electric energy to its members, and for other services rendered for and to its members, and shall otherwise manage the affairs of the Co-operative in such manner as may be necessary, convenient or proper in order to carry out its objectives and purposes; provided, however, that the Co-operative shall not be operated for pecuniary profit either to itself or to its members.

SECTION 2. Qualifications and Tenure.

(a) The persons named as Trustees in the certificate of incorporation of the Co-operative shall compose the Board of Trustees until the first annual meeting or until their successors shall have been elected and shall have qualified. At each annual meeting of the members beginning with the year 1941, Trustees shall be elected by ballot, by and from the members, as hereinafter provided, to serve until the next annual meeting of members or until their successors shall have been elected and shall have qualified, subject to the provisions of these Bylaws with respect to the removal of Trustees. No member shall be eligible to become or remain a Trustee, or to hold any position of trust in the Co-operative who is not a member and is not presently residing in the area served or to be served by the Co-operative, and in addition thereto is not a bona-fide resident of the district from which he is elected, or who is in any way employed by or financially interested

in a competing enterprise or a business enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Co-operative, or a business primarily engaged in the selling of electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the Co-operative. When a membership is held jointly by a husband and wife, either one, but not both, may be elected a Trustee; provided, however, that neither one shall be eligible to become or remain a Trustee or to hold a position of trust in the Co-operative unless both shall meet the qualifications hereinabove set forth. Nothing in this section contained shall be construed to affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Trustees. **(As amended July 14, 1978)**

(b) At the first Annual Meeting of Members following the meeting held in the year 1947, three Trustees shall be elected for a term of one year; three for a term of two years; and three for a term of three years; and all nominations made for Trustees to be elected at this meeting, regardless of the method by which said nominations are made, shall specify for what terms said person is being nominated, and no person shall be nominated for more than one of the alternative terms. Thereafter, at each Annual Meeting of the Members, three Trustees shall be elected each for a term of three years, to succeed those Trustees whose term is then expiring. **(As amended February 11, 1947)**

SECTION 3. Nominations.

(a) For the purposes of nomination of candidates for the office of Trustee, and to determine the number of Trustees elected to represent each district, the following districts and number of Trustees representing each district are established as follows:

Districts with terms expiring in 2016

DISTRICT	NUMBER OF TRUSTEES
District I to include Bible Grove Township, Clay County; Lucas Township, Effingham County; and South Muddy Township, Jasper County	1
District III to include Larkinsburg Township, Clay County; Mason Township, Effingham County; and LaClede Township, Fayette County	1
District IX to include Xenia Township, Clay County; Iuka Township and Romine Township, Marion County; and Garden Hill Township and Orchard Township, Wayne County	1

(as amended July 14, 1978)

(b) Any qualified member, a member meeting the requirements of Article III, Section 2 of these Bylaws, from the required District, may be nominated for Trustee by official petition of not less than fifteen (15) members of the Co-operative from the required District. Official petition forms will be available at the Co-operative Headquarters no more than one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the date of the meeting for the calendar year in which Trustee's terms expire.

(c) All candidates' nomination petitions, together with such additional information as may be requested by the Secretary of the Co-operative, shall be submitted by the prospective candidate to the Secretary at the Co-operative headquarters building, not less than forty-five (45) days prior

to the date of the meeting at which Trustees will be elected. At the time of delivering the signed written petition to the Secretary, the prospective candidate shall also deliver to the Secretary a completed Statement of Qualifications demonstrating that he or she is qualified to serve as a Trustee under the terms of Article III, Section 2 of the bylaws. All petitions filed by persons waiting in line as of 8:00 a.m. on the first day for filing, or as of the normal opening hour of the headquarters building on that day, shall be deemed filed as of 8:00 a.m. or the normal opening hour, as the case may be. Petitions filed by mail and received after midnight of the first day for filing and in the first mail delivery or pickup of that day shall be deemed as filed as of 8:00 a.m. of that day or as of the normal opening hour of such day, as the case may be. All petitions received thereafter shall be deemed as filed in the order of actual receipt. Where 2 or more petitions are received simultaneously, the Secretary shall break ties and determine the order of filing, by means of lottery or other fair and impartial method of random selection approved by the Secretary. Such lottery shall be conducted within nine (9) days following the last day for petition filing and shall

be open to the public. Seven (7) days written notice of the time and place of conducting such random selection shall be given by the Secretary and such notice shall be posted at the Co-operatives headquarter building.

(d) The Secretary shall review all candidate nomination petitions to insure that the candidate is qualified to be a Trustee and to insure that the requisite number of qualified signatures (signatures of members residing in the required District) are contained in the petition.

(e) The Secretary shall cause to be posted a list of all qualified nominations at the Co-operative's headquarters building thirty (30) days before the meeting and shall cause to be mailed with the notice of meeting or separately, but at least five (5) days before the date of the meeting at which Trustees are to be elected, a statement of the number of Trustees being elected, the names and addresses of the candidates, and the Districts in which they are candidates. The ballot to be used at the election, if needed, shall list the names of the candidates nominated and the District in which they are candidates. Further, the order of candidates on the ballot shall be determined as follows: for each district, all candidates shall be listed in

the order in which their petitions have been filed; where candidates have filed simultaneously, they shall be listed in the order determined by a lottery and prior to candidates who filed for the same District at a later time.

(f) In the event petitions are received only for the number of Trustees to be elected in a District and the Secretary determines the petitions are in order and the candidates qualified, no further election process shall be held and those candidates nominated shall be declared elected as Trustees at the meeting.

(g) Nominations by petition is the only means or method of becoming a candidate for Trustee. No nominations shall be made by nominating committee nor from the floor of a meeting at which trustees are to be elected.

(h) In the event the term of Secretary of the Co-operative expires at an upcoming meeting, the duties of the Secretary for the nominating process will be assumed by the President or Vice-President of the Co-operative. If all three officers' terms expire in the same year, another Trustee will be appointed to oversee the nominating process. **(As amended September 2, 2010)**

Three ways to pay your electric bill each month

We offer credit or debit card payments for your monthly electric bills. We accept **VISA, MASTERCARD, Discover and American Express** for payment of your electric bill. We also have e-check or check by phone. Just by stopping in or calling, we can charge your payment on your credit card. Call 662-2171 or 1-800-582-9012 to arrange for credit card payments.

If you want to pay online just make sure that we have your social security number and go to www.ceci.coop, click on pay bill icon, click on the payment tab, and follow the instructions to set up your account. You will need your account number (no hyphen), phone number, and

social security number.

In addition to this we also have the **Automatic Clearing House (ACH)** payments available. This payment is deducted directly from your checking account on the **24th of the month**. There is no forgetting to pay or worrying about payment if you are away from home, and you still receive the same monthly bill card showing your amount and usage.

We also have available **Budget Billing**. This is a fixed budget plan based on the applicant's previous twelve months billing history. So if you are on a tight budget or a fixed income, this plan might be what you need.

This might also be the time to sign up for our **Special Electric Rates**. If you have permanently installed electric heat, be it an electric furnace, heat pump, ceiling strip heat, baseboard, or geo-thermal, you may qualify for our electric heat rate or our total electric rate. The electric heat **rate 21** is for homes that have electric heat but may also have a gas appliance such as a water heater or range. The total electric **rate 31** is for homes that are total electric and do not have any gas appliances.

To implement any of our payment services or for more information on our special rates, please call your Cooperative office at 662-2171 or 1-800-582-9012.

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

Regular meeting November 22, 2015

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Bill Croy, Neil Gould, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Danny Schnepfer and Greg Smith. Also present were Executive Vice President/General Manager Ed VanHoose, and Cooperative Attorney Melanie Pearce. The invocation was given by Bob Pierson. Absent was Richard Rudolphi.

Approved the agenda as presented by Gen. Mgr. VanHoose.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held October 26, 2015.

Accepted 12 new members for service.

Canceled 15 members no longer receiving service.

Reviewed and **Approved** work orders in the amount of \$26,372.93 for the month of October.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of October 2015.

Reviewed and **Discussed** plans for the upcoming NRECA Annual Meeting.

Heard a report by Trustee Logan, as to the recent AIEC Meeting, Reviewed "Executive Summary", and informed of PPI information,

NRECA International Program, and upcoming AIEC Meeting.

Reviewed letter from AIEC Sr. V.P. of Government Relations Don Wood, addressing the impact on some Cooperatives for failure of State of Illinois to pay past due utility bills as a result of the FY16 budget impasse.

Heard a report by Trustee Pierson concerning a Board Leadership Training Seminar attended by some CECI Trustees.

Reviewed ACRE, the Action Committee for Rural Electrification, 100% Board and Gen. Mgr. Certificate.

Heard a report by Trustee Herman concerning the recent SIPC Board meeting specifically financial information, and regulatory issues. Reviewed SIPC "Committee meeting Highlights" and Heard a report by Gen. Mgr. VanHoose as to the Managers Meeting.

Reviewed National Rural Utilities, Cooperative Finance Corporation loan payment, Gen. Mgr. VanHoose Certificate of Completion of the KRTA Certificate Program 1, he will also attend Program 2 & 3 of the same, and reviewed "Report from the Boardroom October 2015"

Heard a report by Trustee Smith as to the Building Committee meeting to discuss the leaking roof and related damage, and view other problem areas. Recommended the possibility of a hot tar coating. Thereafter report was approved.

Heard a report by Gen. Mgr. VanHoose as to meeting with Doug Hockman for review of the Management Agreement between Clay Electric and Clay County Water.

Reviewed the CECI/CCW Management Agreement as revised. Approved with 7 ayes and 1 abstaining, proposing said Management Agreement as revised to Clay County Water, Inc.

Approved entering into Executive

Session to discuss Personnel.

Approved entering into Open Session.

Heard a report by Gen. Mgr. VanHoose as to the following:

Reviewed Form 7/Operations Report.

Reviewed cash flow report.

Reviewed SIPC power bill.

Reviewed power factor.

Reviewed power cost adder.

Reviewed CFC correspondence as to CECI's earned rebate in the One Card program.

Heard a report as to Gen. Mgr. VanHoose encounter with Governor Rauner and his discussion specifically as to the EPA Clean Power Plan.

Heard a report concerning the City of Flora's Enterprise Zone Expansion and a recent meeting between Gen. Mgr. VanHoose, Member Services Director Doug Hockman, Flora Mayor Bob Tackitt, Flora City Administrator Randy Bukas, and Flora Economic Development Director Dan Sulsberger.

Reviewed recent safety meeting, November 16, 2015, and other safety meetings held in November.

Reviewed Verizon Contract Summary.

Heard a report as to Capital Credits Planning and Disbursement.

Thereafter **Approved** Managers report as presented.

Approved the retirement of Capital Credits to the estate of one deceased Member, pursuant to Cooperative Policy.

Reviewed Clay County Hospital Endowment Foundation "Meet Our Providers" upcoming event.

Discussed CECI Christmas Party for Directors and Employees and their families.

Disbursed Touchstone Energy Cooperatives 2016 Calendar.

Reviewed IBEW Agreement.

Adjournment.

Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

7784 Old Hwy. 50,
P.O. Box 517,
Flora, Illinois 62839
618-662-2171
800-582-9012

Office hours:
7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.
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