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EPA'S POWER PLANT RULE THREATENS ELECTRIC RELIABILITY



By Ken Ceaglske, CEO

Taylor Electric's focus is to keep your lights on safely, reliably, and affordably. There

are many aspects to maintaining each of those key points. The EPA power plant rule is a challenge to two of those points of focus, affordability and reliability.

In May, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a rule that impacts energy production from power plants. The power plant rule will undoubtedly threaten access to reliable and affordable electricity for our local community and communities across the country.

The new rule adds limits to plants that were already meeting the design standards at the time of construction and many with improvements since, by requiring them to install carbon capture and storage (CCS)—a technology that has potential but has not been proven to be viable as required. This rule is also being applied to new construction natural gas plants which support intermittent renewable sources. While CCS is being experimented with on smaller scales, no power plant in North America currently uses CCS at the scale and levels mandated by EPA.

When power plants aren't able to comply with EPA's CCS requirements, they will be required to shut down, significantly limit operations, or switch fuels. These unrealistic standards will force the unnecessary and early shutdown of many power plants that currently provide reliable electricity 24/7. That eliminates the energy provided by these plants but does not eliminate the expense of any remaining loans on the plants or shutdown costs.

Renewable sources, such as solar and wind, are important components of our overall generation mix. But given the intermittent nature of these energy

sources, we simply cannot depend on them because the wind doesn't always blow and the sun doesn't always shine. The need for always-available power-generating resources is still essential.

The challenge of possible power plant closures is magnified by increasing demand from bringing manufacturing back to the U.S., the general load growth of the American public, electrification of many aspects of life, and adding data centers to support artificial intelligence, e-commerce and cryptocurrency.

Many states have already experienced rolling outages, and if the supply of electricity is further threatened by the EPA's power plant rule, the problem will only get worse. In fact, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the nation's electric reliability watchdog, recently forecasted that over the next five years, all or parts of 19 states are at high risk of rolling power outages during peak electricity demand conditions.

It's also no secret that when demand is high and supply is low, costs go up. We're concerned about threats to

reliability as well as cost increases to our members.

I don't say all of this to worry you, but I do want our members to understand the challenges that lie ahead. Taylor Electric and the electric co-ops across the country are joining together to fight these regulations, and we are working with our local elected officials to help them understand the consequences this would have on all of us.

Co-ops are no strangers to innovation, and we'll continue to explore new technologies and strategies that bolster reliability and our local grid. Just some of the potential projects are a range of battery storage options as well as nuclear energy.

Electric cooperatives like Taylor Electric deliver power to 42 million Americans. At the end of the day, our top priority is to meet our members' energy needs, and we must have reliable electricity available to do that.

If you want to learn more about policy impacts to power reliability, or to make your voice heard on this matter, visit voicesforcooperativepower.com.

IMPACTS OF THE EPA'S POWER PLANT RULE

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) power plant rule threatens access to reliable electricity for millions of Americans. The EPA's power plant rule will:



- 1 Force the premature closure of many power plants that currently provide electricity 24/7.
- 2 Mandate the deployment of unproven carbon capture and storage technology.
- 3 Jeopardize the reliability of the grid at a time when America is already facing a surge in electricity demand.
- 4 Heighten the risk of rolling power outages to relieve pressure on the electric grid.
- 5 Increase costs for consumers as utilities are forced to pay for new power generation to comply with the EPA rule.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW AT 2024 YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The 2024 Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) took place July 16–18 at UW-Stout, Menomonie, with about 70 future leaders from electric cooperatives across the state in attendance including Owen Klussendorf, son of Taylor Electric’s Secretary/Treasurer Cheri Klussendorf and her husband, Ryan, of Medford. Teens ranged in age from freshmen to seniors in high school.

YLC is aimed at building leadership skills while ensuring attendees leave with a solid understanding of what electric cooperatives are, and the potential career opportunities they offer. They also have the opportunity to enter WECA’s essay contest for scholarship funds.

This year the teens were split into six districts and competed against each other in various challenges, including a TikTok challenge, where they each created a video demonstrating electric cooperative principles.

There was also a web presentation and Q & A session with lineworkers from Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative about their recent work with the Light Up Navajo! Project, which was an effort to electrify rural homes on the



Taylor Electric’s Owen Klussendorf (back row, second from left) was elected as an alternate to the WECA Youth Board. Also elected were (front row, left to right) Amber Lund, Riverland Energy; Jarrett Rueth, Clark Electric; Piper Blanch, Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services; (back row, left) Ashton Brusveen, Adams-Columbia Electric; (second from right) Dillan Sztuczko, Adams-Columbia Electric; and (right) Garrett Schneider, Rock Energy.

reservation for the first time in history.

A highlight of the event was a presentation by current and past attendees, who spoke about the experiences they had at YLC, serving as members of the YLC

board, traveling to Washington, D.C., with the NRECA Youth Tour, and more, which helped form their path to electric cooperative careers.

YLC board elections are also a main event. This year, 13 teens threw their hat in the ring in the hopes of securing one of six coveted seats on the board. They each delivered an energetic speech with their own creative influence demonstrating their personality, co-op knowledge, and leadership skills. Taylor Electric’s Owen Klussendorf earned a spot as an alternate on the Youth Board and will be involved with many activities over the next year.

The Youth Board members will work to educate peers about electric cooperatives and will be invited to travel to the nation’s capital next summer for the 2025 NRECA Youth Tour. They will also be instrumental in planning the 2025 YLC. One board member will be selected to represent Wisconsin at NRECA’s 2025 PowerXchange in Atlanta in March.



Above: Owen Klussendorf lends a hand(s) to motivational speaker Craig Hillier during a session at Youth Leadership Conference. Right: Owen with his mother, Taylor Electric Cooperative Board Secretary/Treasurer Cheri Klussendorf, who also served as a chaperone at YLC.





TEC TEACHES ELECTRICAL SAFETY AT HUEY'S HIDEAWAY



In August, Taylor Electric Leadman Justin Fuchs and Linemen Tim Habermeyer and Jessie Knoll visited Huey's Hideaway Children's Museum in Medford. They put on a live safety demonstration and taught the children about the dangers of coming into contact with live electric wires. The kids asked a lot of great questions and had the chance to try on the linemen's safety gear.

Above left: It was the perfect sized group to learn about electricity. Above right: Lineman Tim Habermeyer answered questions from the intrigued kids. Left: It's not as easy as the kids thought to screw a nut on a bolt with the protective gloves. Below left: Taylor Electric linemen (l to r) Tim Habermeyer, Jessie Knoll and Justin Fuchs put on a live safety demonstration. Below right: Leadman Justin Fuch's family came to watch the electrical safety demonstration. In back is Enid Fuchs. Seated in front (l to r) are Willow Fuchs, Marzena Moser, Lincoln Johnas, and Jack Henrichs.





If you own an area business and would like **free advertising**, join Taylor Electric's Co-op Connections.

Call today 715-678-2411 for details.

Happy Labor Day!

Our office will be closed Monday, September 2.

We will return to normal Friday hours of 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. on September 6.

CO-OP MONTH KICK-OFF BREAKFAST

Join us for breakfast from
6:30–9:30 a.m. to kick off
October Co-op Month on
Friday, October 4
at the Centennial Community
Center, Stetsonville.

Sign up for a chance to win a
credit on your electric bill.



Hey Kids, come with Mom and Dad and join us
for breakfast and bring your best decorated
pumpkin. All entries will be displayed at the
cooperative office. Best pumpkin wins a \$25
gift certificate.



Age groups: 1–3 4–6 7–9 10–12

(Please do not carve your pumpkin as we would like to display them



Come pick up your FREE Packers calendar!

5 Tips for a Safe Harvest

Electrical safety during harvest season requires vigilance and proactive measures.
Follow these tips to reduce the risk of electrical accidents.

1. Maintain at least a 10-foot distance from power lines when operating equipment like grain augers, elevators and other tall machinery.
2. Use a spotter to navigate safely around power lines and other electrical equipment.
3. Ensure all farm workers are trained on electrical safety procedures.
4. Regularly inspect all electrical equipment and machinery for signs of wear and damage.
5. Keep first aid kits and emergency contact numbers in an easily accessible location.



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