



## Roanoke Electric **FLASHES**

*What does the future hold on legislation?*

# Cooperatives closely watch climate change horizon

By Curtis Wynn  
*President and CEO*

Before long, the electric utility industry will no longer do business as usual. In the Southeast, we are facing a steady growth in demand for electricity at the same time that it is becoming more difficult and expensive to produce and transmit that power. Until now, we relied primarily on fossil fuel and nuclear energy-fueled power plants to meet growing new demand with proven technology, but looming federal regulations on carbon dioxide emissions may change that. The cost of complying with new regulations could make electricity less affordable for everyone.

Federal regulations on emissions of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, are quickly becoming a reality. It's just a matter of which government branch gets there first: legislative, executive—or both.

In December the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), part of the executive branch, declared that greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, are endangering public health and welfare. Emissions from motor vehicles are also said to contribute to dangerous air pollution under this “endangerment finding.”

This declaration gives EPA a “foot in the door” to develop and administer new regulations that could impose strict limits on

carbon emissions from power plants, which would drive up electric bills. EPA Director Lisa Jackson stated that EPA will begin regulation of stationary emitters of carbon dioxide—fossil fuel-fired power plants included—in January 2011.

Electric cooperatives believe that any controls on carbon dioxide should be established by Congress, where the impact of these proposals can have a full public debate. So far, the climate change bills passed by the U.S. House and another one proposed by the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee include unachievable goals and timelines for reducing carbon dioxide emissions. They also include inadequate technology development incentives and no guarantee that electric bills will remain affordable.

Senate leaders put climate change legislation on hold while Congress worked on passing healthcare reform, but have shown signals of wanting to revisit climate change legislation this year. In mid-March, 22 Senate democrats, including North Carolina Senator Kay Hagan, signed a letter calling on senate leadership to push bipartisan climate and energy legislation through the Senate by year end. They hope that this legislation will boost the American

economy, relieve affected industries from significant uncertainty and decrease the country's



*Curtis Wynn*

dependence on foreign oil.

There are other groups of legislators working on climate legislation including the potentially influential trio of Senator John Kerry (D-MA), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), and Joe Lieberman (I-CT). This legislative logjam makes it all the more important for co-ops and consumers to pay careful attention to EPA's current efforts.

Any climate change legislation should protect consumers and preempt use of the federal Clean Air Act and any other existing laws. Otherwise, utilities and businesses could be burdened with the task of trying to comply with more than one set of regulations.

Electric cooperatives are staying engaged in this process so we can have an impact on the outcome. We want to ensure that any climate change policy goals adopted are fair, affordable and achievable.

# Roanoke Electric Cooperative holds successful Member Appreciation Day

Roanoke Electric Cooperative proudly celebrated its 71st Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Day on August 28 at Hertford County High School in Ahoskie. More than 1,000 members, spouses, guests, community organizations, friends and employees gathered for one of the cooperative's biggest events of the year.

A delicious turkey barbecue and fried chicken lunch was served by Nixon's Caterers from Edenton. More than 30 area organizations showcased their specialties and the



*Hungry Roanoke EC members and guests in line for lunch, catered by Nixon's Caterers.*

"Kidz Carnival," a reoccurring annual meeting attraction, was enjoyed by our future members. Other special guest in attendance were: Nehemiah Pulley, 2010 REC Scholarship winner; Tatyanna Holley, 2010 NRECA Youth Tourist; Nathan Jernigan, 2010 Roy Williams Basketball Camper; and Chelsea Brown and Imane Shoulars; 2010 Kellie Harper Basketball Campers.

The cooperative's general counsel, attorney Everette Winslow of Winslow-Wetsch of Raleigh, presided over the program. Allen

Speller, Chairman of the Board of Directors, gave the invocation and Dr. John H. Fahey, Superintendent of Hertford County Schools, expressed welcome to everyone to the school. Speller welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Dr. Fahey for allowing us to use the facility.

## Address looks at EPA action

In his "State of the Co-op" address, Curtis Wynn, President and CEO, stated that Congress continues to consider environmental legislation that raises energy costs. "We will

work with Congress to craft energy policies that balance the costs of legislations with real environmental benefits," said Wynn. "Because there are currently no limitations on carbon dioxide emissions, the new regulations would mandate many costly changes in the economy, especially the electric power

industry. Electric cooperatives will support climate change legislations only if it creates real benefits for the environment and protects consumers from economic hardship."

Wynn said the wrong choices on the climate change issue would have a devastating effect to our economy and our future.

Wynn said the EPA is now moving to implement regulations of both mobile (such as cars and trucks) and stationary sources (such as power plants and factories) of greenhouse gases. This proposed action by EPA presents a number of problems for electric cooperatives. EPA focuses only on environmental



*One of the lucky winners of the Appreciation Day prize drawings.*

protection and does not have to consider the effect new regulations will have on the economy, jobs and electric power rates. The Clean Air Act was never designed to regulate power plant emissions. These new regulations will increase the costs of delivering electric power.

Congress is in a better position to develop a "big picture" and balanced solution to greenhouse gas regulation, taking into account the costs of these regulations on electricity consumers, said Wynn. He also noted the Senate may consider legislations this fall to delay EPA's regulation of carbon for power and manufacturing plants. Wynn said this delay is needed to allow elected officials to make prudent decisions balancing economic and environmental needs. "We urge you to work with us to not allow elected officials at EPA to make decisions that will most certainly drive up your electric rates."

## Ways to cut energy bills

Wynn went on to share this year's theme, "Together We Save," and

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## Member Appreciation Day (continued from page 22)...

discussed the efforts that have been launched since last year's annual meeting to inspire consumers to easily save energy and money.

Wynn encouraged members to get connected and discover how much information can be placed at your fingertips through the Internet. Furthermore, he took the crowd on a virtual tour of a home to show them how to specifically cut energy costs. Tips included turning off lights when not needed, installing compact florescent lights (CFLs), adjusting your thermostat, changing air filters every month and sealing cracks and leaks around your home.

Other ways to save and protect the environment include REC's pay-as-you-go metering program called Kilowatcher and our Energy Efficiency initiatives, stressed Wynn. Wynn encouraged members to consider the USDA Section 504 Loan/Grant Program, for renovations and repairs when there are costs associated with doing work needed to homes to reduce

energy consumption. The Electel Cooperative Federal Credit Union offers financing for home improvements and Roanoke Electric Cooperative members are eligible to join.

Wynn also talked about the Rebates and Incentives program. This program offers Roanoke Electric Cooperative's members a \$200 incentive toward the purchase of a new energy efficient heat pump. New electric water heater incentives vary from \$75-\$150.

Board members Johnnie P. Garner, Kenneth (Ken) Jernigan, and Chester Deloatch retained seats serving three-year terms, for districts 1, 5, and 9 respectively. The official meeting adjourned and the day officially ended with awarding door prizes. The cooperative thanks its vendors for providing prizes won by lucky ticket holders.

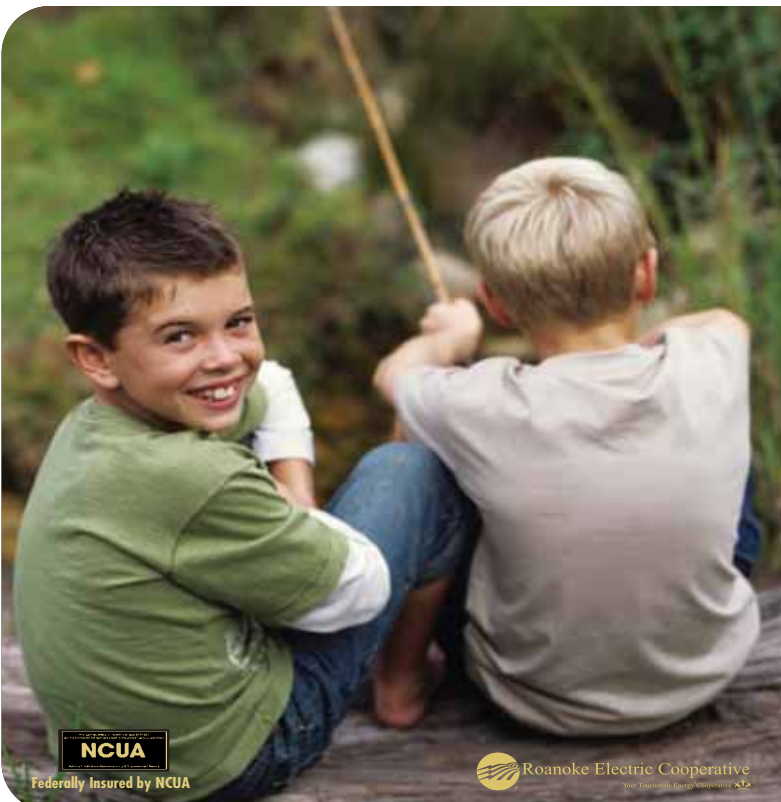
*Editor's note:* Director Johnnie P. Garner, re-elected to the board at the August meeting, passed away on September 2.

### In Memory: Johnnie P. Garner

Roanoke Electric Cooperative is saddened to report the passing of Johnnie P. Garner, assistant secretary-treasurer of the board of directors and representative of District 1, on September 2, 2010. Mr. Garner served the cooperative faithfully as a board member since fulfilling the unexpired term of the late Rev. Eugene Bryant on April 22, 2002. He completed the National Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership programs receiving certifications in both. Mr. Garner had been elected to serve on the board three times since being appointed most recently at the cooperative's 2010 Annual Meeting.



Mr. Garner successfully ran a small business for over 40 years in the Roanoke Rapids area before retirement. He leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife, Marilyn, his children and grandchildren, and a host of family and friends. He will be missed by all, and the Roanoke Electric Cooperative family is thankful for his service to the organization.



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The Roanoke Electric Cooperative is a member-owned, not-for-profit organization.



# National Co-op Month celebrates Roanoke Electric's way of doing business

This month, more than 48,000 cooperatives around the country will celebrate National Co-op Month. The cooperative form of business is making a difference in all aspects of life—utilities, housing, agriculture, health care, banking, insurance, and childcare. Cooperatives serve 120 million members, or four in 10 Americans.

Electric cooperatives, like all cooperative forms of business, are locally owned and operated. The fact that we are a locally owned company—owned by the consumers we serve—keeps us focused on your needs and local priorities.

Roanoke Electric Cooperative is a local business, owned by the people it serves. That means conducting business through a locally elected board of directors and an annual meeting where policy is proposed and voted on by consumers. It's the "people" part—the personal involvement, the grassroots activities—that characterizes what we are all about.

Roanoke Electric's commitment to you begins with helping you keep your electric bill as low as possible. There are no hidden fees and no profits for investors in faraway cities. Any money that is left over beyond the operation of the business is returned to its members; thus strengthening the economic well being of our towns and neighborhoods.

# LOCAL. TRUSTED. SERVING YOU.™

Because we are so closely linked to communities, there are countless examples of activities that have the "co-op touch:" conducting safety programs at schools, sponsoring local fairs, working with community organizations to get new businesses, participating with civic groups in developing and improving health care, crime watch and Amber Alert programs and—the list goes on and on.

It is precisely because Roanoke Electric Cooperative is a local business, owned by its member-consumers and staffed by local professionals that it is in a good position to listen and respond to your needs. All these things—helping consumers save energy, economic development, and volunteerism—point to one thing: Roanoke Electric Cooperative and its staff are more than just an electric utility. We are an integral part of the community. That's why we will continue to do everything we can to improve the quality of life in the diverse communities we serve.

Why would Roanoke Electric be involved in these kinds of activities? Because we have always played an important role in our communities. Service means not only making sure the electricity is flowing but also making sure that the communities and its citizens are thriving and prospering.

Service means helping friends, neighbors, business colleagues and the people you see on a day-to-day basis. Service means reaching toward new horizons to make a life better for everyone.

Roanoke Electric Cooperative is a company that cares about the people it serves. That service goes a long way beyond keeping the lights on. It is neighbors helping neighbors. That's what it's all about—that's the electric co-op tradition.

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P.O. Drawer 1326,

Ahoskie, NC 27910

Office: (252) 209-2236

or 1-800-433-2236

For outages call: 1-800-358-9437

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**Editor:** Robin Phillips

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