



## Thank You for Participating in CGEMC's Load Management Program

Central Georgia EMC (CGEMC) would like to thank all members who participated in the 2015 Load Management Switch program this season. Your cooperative was able to shed 11.5 megawatts of peak system load this summer, with the help of the 7,772 load management switches placed on air-conditioning units and electric water heaters.

CGEMC enacted load management seven times from June 1, 2015, to August 31, 2015, allowing us to save about 400,000 kilowatt hours during peak energy usage times.

In return for helping CGEMC reduce its peak demand, each Load Management Switch participant receives an annual bill credit in November; \$20 for an air conditioning switch and \$10 for a water heater switch. The maximum credit is \$30.

If you are not participating in the Load Management Switch program, please call and request your Load Management Switches. For more information on the program, visit [www.cgemc.com/load-management/](http://www.cgemc.com/load-management/) or speak to a customer service representative at 770-775-7857 or 800-222-4877.



## Thanksgiving Holiday

The CGEMC office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27, 2015, for the Thanksgiving holiday. In case of a power outage, call our 24-hour automated outage system at 770-775-7857 or 800-222-4877 for an immediate response. System operators will be on duty to assist you.



## Winter Rates

The hot days of summer have ended, and fall will soon turn into winter. With this seasonal transition, CGEMC's winter rate structure is now in effect. The winter energy charges are:

### Winter Rates (November - April)\*

First 700 kWh .....	\$0.0852 per kWh
More than 700 kWh.....	\$0.0574 per kWh

\*Rates do not include the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment, which could vary each month.



## CUSTOMERS DUE

REFUNDS

2015-3 IH2

Dailey, Erica D.  
Justice, Jacob  
Haughton, Lyle  
House, Sandra E.  
Nelson, Natalie  
Penn, Wylinda  
Watson, Ray  
Wheeler, Jonathan  
Willis, Shanerica Z.  
Wyatt, Ursula Truette



Energy Efficiency  
*Tip of the Month*



Reduce energy for water heating. Take simple steps like lowering your heater's temperature and installing low-flow showerheads to reduce your water heating bills.

*Source: energy.gov*

A smartphone screen showing a promotional offer for E-Bill. The offer includes a red ribbon banner stating "Win 1 of 5 \$100 bill credits". To the right is the E-Bill logo (a green circle with a white leaf and plug) and the text "Give yourself the gift of E-Bill, this Holiday Season." Below this, a box contains the text: "Central Georgia EMC encourages all members to sign up for E-Bill, our paperless solution. All active E-Bill users on December 21, 2015, are eligible for a drawing for 1 of 5 \$100 electric bill credits. CGEMC will announce winners on CGEMC website at [www.cgemc.com](http://www.cgemc.com). To sign up for E-Bill contact us at [ebill@cgemc.com](mailto:ebill@cgemc.com), include your CGEMC account number, and first and last name listed on the account or log in the Customer Portal, click on the "My Account" tab, and choose E-Notifications, then E-Bill."

## Georgia Agricultural Tax Exemption Expires December 31, 2015

Agricultural producers who received the Georgia Agricultural Tax Exemption (GATE) on their electric account through Central Georgia EMC need to renew the exemption before December 31, 2015.



GATE is an agricultural sales and use tax exemption certificate issued by the Georgia Department of Agriculture. The certificate identifies its users as a qualified farmer or producer who is exempt from sales tax on the inputs used in the production of their commodity. Please note that a meter supplying energy to a personal residence DOES NOT qualify for the GATE exemption, even if the meter also supplies energy for an agricultural purpose.

Central Georgia EMC customers who already have a GATE certificate must send a copy of the renewed certificate to Central Georgia EMC by December 31, 2015, to continue receiving the tax exemption in 2016. Producers who have never received GATE can also apply and send a certificate copy to CGEMC. Visit the website [agr.georgia.gov](http://agr.georgia.gov) or call 855-FARM-TAX for more information regarding renewals or initial applications, or with questions regarding qualifying and nonqualifying purchases.

Once they receive their certificate, producers should mail a copy to Central Georgia EMC, Attn: Melissa O'Dell, 923 S. Mulberry St., Jackson, GA 30233

# EPA's Clean Power Plan Will Negatively Affect Electric Co-ops

BY MARK HAYES

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently finalized its rules regulating greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, also known as the Clean Power Plan.

The rules are designed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants by 32 percent below levels recorded in 2005. But given its complexity and far-reaching nature, the plan might as well be called the National Energy Policy Regulation of 2015. This plan will have significant consequences for how we generate, distribute, and use electricity in this country for decades to come.

Over the past two years, electric cooperatives across the country have been working hard to ask the EPA to go back to the drawing board and develop a plan that is more achievable and affordable. Together, electric cooperative advocates submitted more than 1.2 million comments to the EPA over these rules; that is nearly 30 percent of all the comments the EPA received from all interested groups. Central Georgia EMC members submitted 630 comments asking the EPA to take a step back. Unfortunately, the EPA "put the pedal to the metal" and finalized the rules.

We asked cooperative members to submit comments because the EPA's rule may raise the price of electricity and potentially endanger the reliable power that we work hard to provide every day.

No determination has been made on how much our electric bill may go up, but the previous proposal would have resulted in a national average increase of 10 percent in 2025, more in some states and less in others. (That is 10 percent over any inflation-adjusted, otherwise normal projections.)

Part of the potential cost increases will come from prematurely shutting down power plants that are in good working condition. Like any business, cooperatives plan a specific life span for these assets and spread out the costs over those decades to keep electricity affordable for members.

If we are forced to shut down those plants early, then we not only lose that source of affordable power but also will have to purchase replacement power from the marketplace with less price-point predictability. You—our members—may end up paying twice. That is just not fair, especially since the

(Continued on page 4)

MAKE YOUR  
VOICE  
HEARD!

New EPA rules put our **jobs**  
and **family budgets**  
**ON the line**

>>> ACTION.COOP <<<



## Green Chile-Chicken Lasagna

From the kitchen of **Sue Mills**

### Ingredients:

- 1 can (10-ounce) diced tomatoes and green chilies—mild
- 1 can (10½-ounce) cream of onion soup, undiluted
- 2 cups chopped chicken, fresh cooked or canned
- 6 green onions, thinly sliced
- 6 flour tortillas (7-inch)
- ¼ cup fresh chopped fresh cilantro
- 2 cups of shredded Monterrey Jack cheese

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Stir together diced tomatoes and green chilies with the onion soup in the saucepan. Cook over medium heat 6-9 minutes, stirring often. Stir in chopped chicken and green onions. In an 11-by-7-inch lightly greased baking dish, layer the flour tortillas, chicken mixture, cilantro, and then the cheese. Repeat layers, ending with cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Yield: Six servings.

## Washington Youth Tour

Central Georgia EMC is seeking two outstanding high school students to represent CGEMC as delegates on the Washington Youth Tour.

Tour dates: **June 9-16, 2016**  
Applications due: **February 5, 2016**

Applications are available online at [www.cgemc.com/washington-youth-tour/](http://www.cgemc.com/washington-youth-tour/).



## Central Georgia EMC

*Community Partners*

24 hours a day, 365 days a year  
770-775-7857 • 1-800-222-4877

923 Mulberry Street  
Jackson, GA 30233  
[www.cgemc.com](http://www.cgemc.com)

### Report an Outage

770-775-7857  
1-800-222-4877

### Office Hours

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Monday – Friday

### Closed

Saturday, Sunday and Posted Holidays

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**News & Views** is published and distributed monthly to all members and customers of Central Georgia EMC.

### Editorial Staff

Christy Chewning  
Rachael Browning

## EPA's Clean Power Plan Will Negatively Affect Electric Co-ops *Continued from page 3*

Clean Air Act says the EPA is supposed to consider the “remaining useful life” of a power plant when setting standards.

The possibility of closing power plants also raises concerns about reliability. Plants are connected points on which electric grid operators rely for power. Without these assets, an increase of stress on the grid can occur, especially during extreme weather.

EPA expects cooperatives and other utilities to make up the lost power with additional renewable resources, natural gas, and energy efficiency. Each of these options is a good component of an overall energy mix, and cooperatives have been developing new technologies to harness them. Nevertheless, each also has its disadvantages.

One of CGEMC’s priorities is to balance all of our energy sources, along with helping consumers save money by conserving energy where possible. However, the final rule will put us in a rush to transition to more renewable resources and natural gas without consideration for the time needed to build the new infrastructure (like natural gas pipelines and more electric transmission lines) needed to make those resources more realistic for cooperative members in Georgia.

The EPA is in uncharted waters with this incredibly complex scheme, and the timeline is difficult to predict. Each state covered by the rules will have several years to submit a plan to the EPA demonstrating how the state will comply with the mandate. Georgia’s plan will have a big impact on what CGEMC, along with the other utilities in our state, will have to do and how much it will cost.

But rest assured: While that work is going on, we will continue to stand up for our members. We are fighting for you and have joined with cooperatives from across the country in seeking legislative and legal remedies to protect your interests.

*Mark Hayes writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, based in Arlington, Va.*

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- Discount\* off Gas South's already great everyday low rates — always!
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- No connection fee (\$60 instant savings)
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Sign up or add the Central Georgia EMC program to your current Gas South account and start saving today!

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[gas-south.com/centralbusiness](http://gas-south.com/centralbusiness)

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mention **promo code 490**

\*The 2¢ discount is applied to Gas South's standard published variable and fixed rate plans. This discount cannot be combined with any other discounts.