

Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER



A Supplement of Oklahoma Living Published by Lake Region Electric Cooperative for its members. July 2024

The EPA Rule and Its Impact on Your Power



Jim Matheson, NRECA CEO. NRECA is the national service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 private, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives.

As your local electric cooperative, LREC is committed to keeping you informed about industry changes. The new EPA rule is a major topic for power grid operators. Although LREC doesn't generate power, we work with Associated Electric Cooperative Inc. (our wholesale power provider) and National Rural Electric Cooperative Assocation (NRECA) to stay informed and prepare for any major changes to the industry.

The new EPA rule threatens our ability to provide reliable and affordable electricity. It reduces the nation's electricity production at a time of record-high demand. America's electric cooperatives serve 42 million people across 48 states, with increasing energy needs from growth of communities, manufacturing plants, and households are making our job harder to provide the power everyone needs.

By 2028, we'll need an additional 38 gigawatts of electric capacity, equivalent to adding another California to our grid. However, reliable power plants are being shut down, leading to a potential shortfall. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation warns that 19 states could experience rolling blackouts in the next five years during peak usage times, without any new power sources brought on to the grid.

The new EPA rule will exacerbate this issue by forcing the removal of 24/7 coal generation from the grid, leading to higher energy costs and reduced electricity availability. The rule exceeds the EPA's authority and mandates unproven carbon capture technology under unrealistic timelines.

While Associated Electric Cooperative Inc. is taking steps and investing in wind power and energy storage and enhanced efficiency, the EPA's approach risks more blackouts, uncertainty, and higher bills. This is not the right direction for LREC members or the country. We need these base load generation plants to keep power reliable and affordable. With supply and demand, power providers will have to pay more for electricity as less will be available.

The EPA's latest proposed rule will close power plants and make it harder to build new ones, increasing the risks for energy shortfalls for our communities in Oklahoma and across our nation. We need your help! Tell the White House they must drop the rule and keep electricity reliable and affordable for our communities.

 **DONT LET THE EPA TURN OFF RELIABLE POWER**

▶ **Contact your elected officials at [voicesforcooperativepower.com/act-now-epa](https://www.voicesforcooperativepower.com/act-now-epa)**

LREC Power Up Special Olympics with Volunteer Force

CONCERN *for* COMMUNITY COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE #7

A group of volunteers from 22 electric cooperatives across the state of Oklahoma joined forces in Stillwater in May to offer their assistance at this year's Special Olympics Summer Games. Oklahoma Electric Co-ops set a record for largest volunteer groups of 160 dedicated co-op employees helped make this event possible. Six individuals from LREC volunteered, Jon Enkey, Phylis Johnson, Glen Clark, JuaNita Keener, Aubrey Soban and Josh Buechele proudly represented LREC.

"I volunteered to assist with the Special Olympics, believing I could offer my help. Instead, I was introduced to an entirely new perspective. The joy radiated by the participants is infectious, spreading like wildfire. The athletes' competitive spirit is truly inspirational. I am grateful for this opportunity, as it has opened my eyes to the significance of this event," said Jon Enkey, LREC Manager of Operations.

The event attracted approximately 4,600 athletes from all corners of the state. Spanning three days, the event featured a wide range of competitions, including track and field, bocce ball, bowling, soccer, volleyball, golf, horseshoes, powerlifting, basketball, and softball.

"Seeing the huge smiles on the participants' faces whether they finished first, in the middle, or at the end was amazing. The participants' happiness and joy was contagious, said JuaNita Keener, LREC Member Services.



Left to right: Jon Enkey, Phylis Johnson, JuaNita Keener, Glen Clark, Aubrey Soban, and Josh Buechele



Beyond the invaluable volunteers working at the Special Olympics, the LREC Foundation, Inc. goes a step further in supporting the Special Olympics by donating funds to local Special Olympics teams each year.

This financial aid is made possible through the LREC's Operation Round-Up program, where LREC members have the option to round up their monthly electric or fiber bills to the nearest dollar, thereby contributing to these worthy causes.



Operation Round-Up Grant Reminder

LREC's next Operation Round-Up grant disbursement meeting will be held on **July 24** and again on **October 23**. The deadline to have applications in is **July 1** and **October 1**. If your organization or an individual could benefit from a Lake Region grant, please apply today. An application can be found at: www.lrecok.coop/operation-round-up

MUTUAL AID



Cooperation *Among* Cooperatives COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE #6

Oklahoma has faced a busy year of storms, but when disaster strikes, co-ops come together. In line with our principle of “cooperation among cooperatives,” sister co-ops are always ready to provide crews and equipment to restore power.

Recently, Northeast Oklahoma and Arkansas experienced significant damage from the Memorial Day weekend storms. LREC dispatched crews to assist Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative in Vinita from May 26 to May 29. Additionally, LREC sent tree-trimming and electric crews to Carroll Electric Cooperative in Northwest Arkansas from May 27 to June 3.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the dedicated men of Lake Region who volunteered to travel away from their families to help other communities restore their power.

Power outages are never easy, but communities are always grateful to see out-of-town crews working to bring back electricity. Thanks to LREC’s mutual aid program, we have the assurance that if our members ever need assistance, fellow Oklahoma cooperatives and contractor crews will be there to help. 2284701



Pictured left to right: Cale Orman, Trent Elliot, Frank Teague, Levi Carson, Jacob Dandridge, and Daniel Malon.



Sparking Young Minds: Oklahoma’s 2024 Energy Camp



Around 75 eighth graders from across Oklahoma energized their summer by attending the 2024 Energy Camp. LREC sent three local students, Trenton Lang, of Porter, Ava Farmer, of Hulbert, and Samantha Spencer of Porter. The camp was held May 28 to the 31, this camp was an exciting blend of education and fun, designed to empower the next generation of leaders.

Campers dove into the world of cooperatives, honing leadership skills and embracing democracy. Highlights included climbing power line poles, building circuit boards, and engaging in teamwork-driven games.

In a democratic twist, small camper groups elected representatives to form the Energy Camp Board of Directors. This board had the experience of interviewing and hiring the camp’s general manager. Merritt Mantz, representing Alfalfa Electric Cooperative, was elected manager, guiding the camp with his leadership. If you are interested in next year’s LREC’s Energy Camp contact JuaNita Keener, at 918-772-6940 or visit us at www.lrecok.coop/energy-camp

LAKE REGION LIFELINE

You might be eligible for discounted phone or FREE internet service 

People across the United States rely on the internet to stay connected to family, work, education, and essential services. Lifeline is a federal benefit that lowers the cost of telephone or internet service. Qualifying Lake Region members can receive FREE internet access at our lifeline rate. (*Only eligible for lifeline qualifying members). If you use SNAP, Medicaid, or other qualifying federal or tribal programs, or if your income is 135% or less than the federal poverty guidelines you may qualify. Only one lifeline benefit per household. Lake Region Fiber participates in this federal financial aid program for eligible families.

The first step to apply is to confirm you are qualified for Lifeline. Consumers are qualified by the National Verifier. Steps to qualify will be provided after you enter your service address. After you've been qualified, you can contact Lake Region at 918-772-2526 for our application process.



Sign up at nv.fcc.gov/lifeline

Once Qualified call 918-772-2526 

4th of July Military Internet Discount

As we celebrate the 4th of July and the freedoms we hold dear, we are reminded of the sacrifices our veterans and active military have made to protect our nation. In recognition of our military service men and women and dedication, we proudly offer a Lake Region Fiber internet discount. Enjoy **\$25 off your next internet bill** as our way of saying thank you for your unwavering commitment to our country. During this 4th of July holiday, we will celebrate our independence and all the men and women who safeguard our freedoms.

To take advantage of this special offer, simply verify your status as an active military member or veteran by completing our online form at:

www.lakeregionfiber.com/military-discount



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The amount increases by \$10 with each issue your prize goes unclaimed to a maximum of \$50.

Cooperative bylaws are available upon request at Lake Region Electric Cooperative's office in Hulbert.