



TRI-COUNTY Electric Cooperative, Inc.

" A Commitment to Service and Savings "



Our Future Energy Challenges!

Have you ever taken the time to drive down one of the old farm to market highways that you knew as a kid and possibly hunted deer and dove in the open pastures? A great deal of this land is no longer open pasture. Families dreaming of a home in the country with a larger piece of property have opted to purchase and build new homes. This fast paced growth within the Tri-County Electric service area is being duplicated all across Texas. As the number of rooftops continues to grow, so does demand for electricity.

As the Texas population grows, our need for new power plants and transmission facilities grows with it. Failure to keep pace with the public's demand for energy in a timely manner will result in shortages of electricity that could take several years to correct. Public service announcements asking Texans to reduce electricity consumption by turning off appliances could become very familiar. If the public fails to comply with the request for reduced power use, than rolling blackouts will be used to keep demand in line with available generation. The question is, how can we all help to keep power flowing as decisions are being made on what types of new generation are best for Texas and the world's environment.

Conservation is one of the tools that has been in use for many years. The Department of Energy in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency have teamed together to develop the Energy Star appliance rating program. These Energy Star ratings on qualified appliances direct the purchasing public toward appliances that use less electricity. Department of Energy performance mandates for manufacturers of appliances set minimum performance requirements for appliances sold in the United States. Energy Star rated appliances exceed federally mandated minimum performance and offer lower cost of operation. Better insulated homes, better quality windows and doors and more efficient appliances allows each new home to reduce its demand for energy.

Even with extended efforts to reduce the demand for power with new homes, the need for diverse new generation in Texas will be required. Renewable generation like wind is environmentally friendly



Wind generation is environmentally friendly but not a least cost solution for increasing the supply of electricity.

but requires utility companies to keep conventional generation available to replace the wind generators when mother nature fails to cooperate. Wind generation will play a roll in helping to close the gap between demand and supply.

New generating technology like the combined cycle power plant are fueled by natural gas and very responsive when called into service.

The combined cycle power plant uses a large gas fired turbine engine to turn a generator to make electricity. The hot exhaust gases from this engine are diverted to a heat exchanger which collects the heat and uses it to make steam. The hot steam spins a steam turbine connected to another generator.

The technological advantage is derived from the same natural gas being used to make electricity through two different mechanical functions. The combined cycle power plants are clean burning and have been the choice for new generation throughout the world. The units popularity has been instrumental in increasing the demand for natural gas. Natural gas pricing has seen some radical price swings in the past few years mostly due to hurricane activity along the coast and the interruption of supply caused by damaging bad weather. The need



Nuclear power has returned to the playing field as applications to build new power plants are being considered for the first time in years by the NRC.

to diversify the mix of fuels used to make electricity would help keep prices more stable in the long run.

Even nuclear power is being reexamined as a clean alternative to fossil burning fuels like coal and lignite. The greatest concern for nuclear power is the decommissioning costs associated with storing spent fuel and irradiated materials for thousands of years. We have a number of options available and a tough decision that needs to be made to make sure that Texas doesn't come up short on electricity.

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This Jack County Combined Cycle Power Plant operated by Brazos Electric Power Cooperative helps to meet your Cooperatives demand for energy. New power plants will be needed in the future to meet the demand for electricity.



Protecting Your Family from the Dangers of Carbon Monoxide

John awoke one night to a piercing scream from his 6-week-old baby son. Getting up to respond, he felt light-headed and dizzy—but his son's screams drove him on. He took his son outside and then went back inside for his wife. John said he barely had the strength to carry his wife out of the house, and she ended up having to crawl out on her hands and knees. He called 911, and they were all rushed to the hospital.

What John and his family experienced was what thousands of people end up dying from or going to the emergency room for every year, carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

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The symptoms of CO poisoning are fatigue, headache, weakness, confusion, disorientation, nausea, dizziness and respiratory problems. Very high levels of CO concentration in the blood can lead to death. The CO gas interferes with the blood's ability to deliver oxygen throughout the body because CO binds to the iron atom in hemoglobin, which is the main oxygen-carrying compound in the blood. This binding prevents the hemoglobin from taking up and releasing oxygen throughout the body.

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Carbon monoxide comes from the incomplete burning of carbon-containing fuels including coal, wood, charcoal, natural gas and fuel oil. The cause of John's poisoning was a faulty furnace. In addition to faulty furnaces, the gas can be emitted by unvented kerosene and gas space heaters, woodstoves, gas stoves, fireplaces and water heaters, automobile exhaust from attached garages, and tobacco smoke. Problems can arise from improper installation or maintenance of these appliances, or inadequate ventilation.

According to the National Safety Council, the following actions can be taken to prevent CO poisoning:

- Make sure that appliances are properly adjusted and working according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Get annual inspections for heating systems, chimneys and flues and have them cleaned by a qualified technician.
- Open flues when using fireplaces.
- Use proper fuel when using fireplaces.
- Never use ovens and gas ranges to heat your home.
- Never burn charcoal inside a home, cabin, recreational vehicle, or camper.
- Ensure that stoves and heaters are vented to the outside and that exhaust systems do not leak.
- Never use unvented gas or kerosene space heaters in enclosed spaces.
- Do not leave a car or lawn mower engine running in a shed or garage, or in any enclosed space.
- Ensure that your furnace has adequate intake of outside air.
- Properly install carbon monoxide detectors—but not in place of proper use and maintenance of fuel-burning appliances.



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From The Cooperative Kitchen



This month's recipe was provided by Dorothy Johnson from Keller. She will receive a Texas Co-Op Power Cookbook, compliments of TCEC.



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SAUSAGE BREAD

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... INGREDIENTS ...

- 1 Pound of Sausage
- 1/2 Cup of Chopped Onions
- 1/2 Cup Grated Swiss Cheese
- 1/4 Cup Grated Parmesan Cheese
- 1 Tablespoon of Parsley
- 1 Tablespoon of Basil
- 2 Beaten Eggs
- 2 Teaspoons of Tabasco Sauce (Adjust for personal taste)
- 2/3 Cup of Milk
- 1/4 Cup of Mayonaise
- 2 Cups of Bisquick

... DIRECTIONS ...

Brown the sausage and onions in a skillet and drain the mixture.

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Transfer sausage and onion mixture to a large mixing bowl and add all of the above ingredients. Mix until thoroughly blended together.

Spray two bread loaf pans with a non-stick spray and separate the mix placing half in each pan. Place pans in a preheated oven set at 375 degrees and allow to bake uncovered for 15 minutes. Remove and cover the two pans with foil and allow to bake for an additional 30 minutes. Once the bread is baked, it's time to sit down with a knife and enjoy.

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It Pays To Stay Informed!

Find your account number in our Member Information Bulletin and you will receive a \$20.00 credit on your electric bill. Simply contact one of the offices listed below and make them aware of your discovery.

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It pays to stay informed!