

Wake ElectriConnection

a newsletter for members of Wake Electric Membership Corporation

May 2007



Wake Electric Membership Corporation

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



2007 Annual Meeting for members a major success

If all 30,000 of Wake Electric Membership Corporation's members purchased and used just 6 energy efficient light bulbs (known as compact fluorescent lamps or CFLs), the savings could be major. In fact, over the life of the bulbs, each consumer could save as much \$276 on their light bill and in total could save about \$8.2 million over time.

That's one of the messages that Wake Electric General Manager Jim Mangum shared with members attending the co-op's recent annual meeting at Louisburg College in Franklin County.

In order to drive the point home, members were treated to a free 6-pack of CFLs to begin the transition to saving both energy and money.

"If members want to keep the cost of their electricity rates from rising, saving energy will be crucial," said Mangum. "Energy supply is a critical issue for Wake Electric since counties in this area are growing so

Granville, Vance, and Nash counties, will almost double in just 8 years, according to engineers at Wake Electric.

The sky-rocketing rate of growth in these counties



Children at the annual meeting enjoyed arts and crafts while parents attended the business meeting.



Roy Jones, board president at Wake Electric, presents \$1000 to Toni Howard of Kittrell.

rapidly," he said. The amount of energy needed to power homes and businesses in the co-op's service territory, which includes Wake, Durham, Franklin,

will create a need of about 1 billion kWh per year. To put this number into perspective, Mangum said that the average home uses around 1,200 kWh on a monthly basis.

Members also learned that in 2006, \$50,000 was awarded to local teachers through Wake Electric's Bright Ideas grant program, \$7,500 was given in scholarships, and another \$13,500 was granted in Classroom Technology Awards.

Three members were elected to the cooperative's Board of Directors to serve three-year terms:

- Allen Nelson of Stovall, District 1;
- Joe Hilburn of Raleigh, District 4;
- and Joe Eddins of Zebulon, District 8.

Close to 1,000 people attended the meeting including 572 registered members. Drawings were held for a variety of electronics and cash prizes. Cash prize winners include:

- Toni Howard, Kittrell, \$1,000
- Isabele Reid, Bullock, \$500
- J.V.C, Wake Forest, \$250
- Queenie Nelson, Oxford, \$250



Jim Mangum,
General Manager

From your manager...

How railroads affect the cost of your electricity

This year, electric co-ops across the country will engage in a classic David-versus-Goliath legislative battle, fighting for fairness in how we are treated by the nation's railroads. Even as electric co-ops work hard to meet the growing demand for electricity, we find ourselves increasingly dependent on railroad monopolies, which are exempt from federal antitrust laws, to deliver coal to generate power.

The cost of shipping coal by rail today can exceed the cost of the coal itself, increasing rates for electric co-ops and their consumers. Without federal action, this situation will hinder the need to meet the nation's growing appetite for affordable and dependable electricity. Electric co-ops, along with the rest of the electric utility industry, are not the only businesses affected by railroad monopolies. Grain farmers, steel manufacturers, wood and paper products industries, and chemical and fertilizer producers have had to deal with unfair pricing and unreliable service from the railroads for far too long.

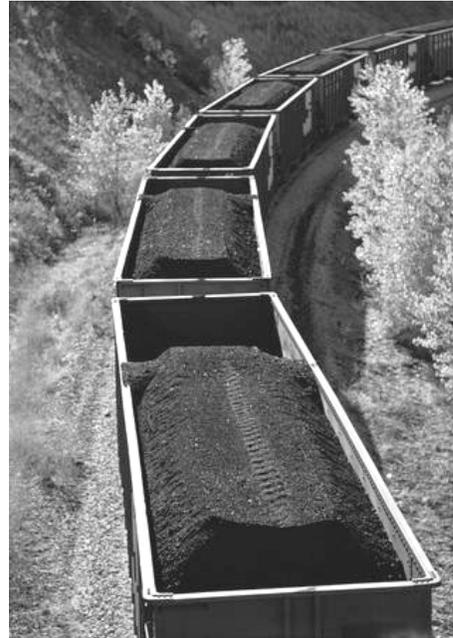
How railroad monopolies formed

A series of mergers in the railroad industry, following deregulation in 1980, cut competition from 40 major railroads to four. That consolidation left some shippers, like electric co-ops, captive to a single carrier with no alternative way to move coal and other supplies. Today, at least one-fifth of all rail customers are held captive by a monopoly freight railroad. What started as just a regional captive shipper issue has now grown into a national economic concern that affects all Americans. When competition exists, railroads average a 6 percent profit. But without competition, shippers are held hostage by the railroads whose profits soar to an average of 400 percent or more.

What is being done, and what you can do as a co-op member

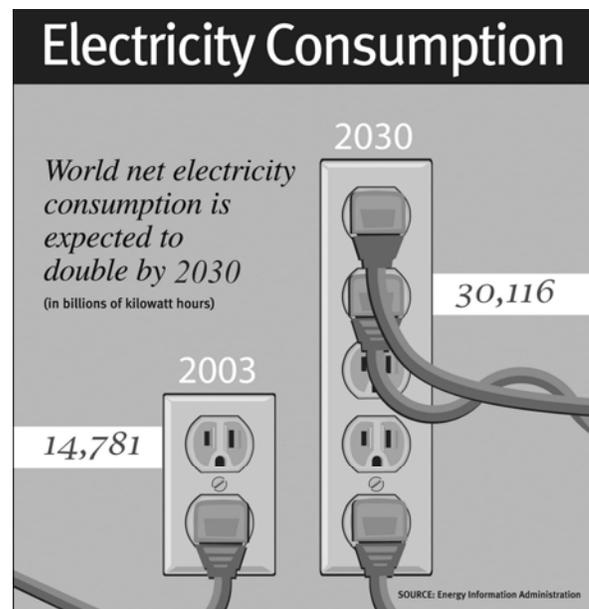
Over the years, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), on behalf of member co-ops, has worked with other businesses and consumer groups to bring the anticompetitive rail practices to the attention of regulators and legislators. Working together, the coalition, Consumers United for Rail

Equity (CURE), was formed to focus on congressional policies affecting railroad competition. As a result, electric co-ops have their best opportunity in



decades to push for congressional action aimed at forcing big railroads to offer better service and fair rates. Specifically, CURE is calling for a common rail carrier "obligation to serve" standard when it comes to delivering products, like coal, that are critical to the U.S. economy.

To succeed, all of our grassroots resources need to concentrate on this fight. As member-owners of your electric co-op, each of you can play an important role. I encourage you and your neighbors to get involved by contacting your U.S. legislators and asking them to reject the monopoly practices of America's freight railroads. It is time for our leaders on Capitol Hill to do something to fix this problem.



ncGreenPower

The power to choose.
The power to change.



Not all footprints wash away.

Each day, we make choices that have an impact on our environment.

Have you ever stopped to consider the footprint that you leave behind?
Want to do something about it?

NC GreenPower is a practical way to offset your environmental impact and to preserve the natural heritage of our state. For as little as \$4 per month, you can provide environmental benefits equal to planting 190 trees or not driving 3,000 miles.

Contact Wake EMC today to find out how you can make a difference for just a few pennies a week.

Renewable energy - now available through NC GreenPower & Wake Electric.

Sign up today and make a meaningful contribution to the environment.

Yes, I want to make an investment in the environment through monthly TAX DEDUCTIBLE contributions to NC GreenPower.

I understand that my contributions will appear as a line item charge on my monthly power bill and that I may terminate my contributions at any time by contacting the cooperative.

Each month I wish to be billed for _____ block(s) of NC GreenPower at \$4.00 each. (enter a quantity 1-99*)

My billing information:

Account Name _____

Account # _____

Daytime Phone: _____

You can mail your information to:

N.C. Greenpower
c/o Wake Electric
P.O. Box 1229
Wake Forest, NC 27588

Or call: 919.863.6300 or 800.474.6300

Or email: information@wemc.com

*To purchase 100+ blocks of NC GreenPower please call the cooperative to arrange for a discount rate of \$2.50 per block.

*Together,
we have the power
to make a difference.*

2007 Youth Tour winners announced

Two local high school juniors were recently selected to represent Wake Electric on a one-week all expense paid trip to Washington D.C.



Paige Pernell of Kittrell

Over the course of the week, students, traveling with delegations from their own

Northern Vance High student Paige Pernell, 17, of Kittrell, and Elijah Academy student Peter Coogan, 16, of Wake Forest, will attend the annual 2007 Rural Electric Youth Tour. In June, Pernell and Coogan will join nearly 1,500 students from across the United States in the



Peter Coogan of Wake Forest

state, will visit historic sites and federal facilities and spend time with their congressional delegations. Students will create podcasts and digital photo projects as they learn about electric cooperatives and discuss issues facing their communities and the nation.

For more information on Wake's youth programs, go to www.wemc.com. To learn more about the youth tour, visit www.youthtour.coop.

Wake welcomes new PR/ Communications Specialist

Angela Rae Perez recently joined Wake Electric as a Public Relations/ Communications Specialist.

As a specialist, Perez oversees marketing, advertising, and community programs, including grants and scholarships. She also will serve as the editor for *Wake ElectriConnection*, the member newsletter.

Perez, who received an undergraduate degree from N.C. State and a master's degree from Duke University, joined Wake after working as a public relations coordinator for Roanoke Electric Cooperative, a non-profit electric utility in northeastern N.C. Perez has won several awards for her writing, including an N.C. Press Association award. She is a member of the Raleigh chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. Perez is a native of Plymouth, N.C.



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www.wemc.com

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