

Vernon Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

"Information for our member-owners."

VEC addressing member resolutions

As many of our members are aware, our wholesale power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative, is installing environmental controls at the Genoa #3 power plant in Vernon County to further improve air quality. Dairyland is under state and federal mandates to significantly reduce air emissions in a timely fashion. Steps Dairyland is taking to meet these laws, and to significantly improve air quality in our region, include installation of a "baghouse" to remove particulate matter, as well as a "scrubber" designed to remove SO₂, the major cause of acid rain.

Some Vernon Electric members concerned about the related Genoa Off-site project brought forth three resolutions at our annual meeting this spring. As a follow-up to that meeting, we are providing an update to our members as to how the Vernon Electric Board has addressed these three advisory resolutions.

The first resolution requested Vernon Electric to get opponents of the project an opportunity to appear before the Dairyland Board of Directors. Dan Korn, Vernon's representative to the Dairyland Board, asked the Executive Committee to accommodate this request. Two Vernon Electric members spoke to the Dairyland Board on May 16 and also passed out materials expressing concerns relating to the Genoa Off-site proposal.

The second resolution asked Dairyland to consider adopting IGCC (Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle) technology at the Genoa Site as an alternative to installation of the scrubbers. Dairyland representatives met with the Vernon Electric Board on April 9 and explained why IGCC is not a feasible alternative for the Genoa plant. The Vernon Electric Board has asked Dairyland to put this explanation in writing and Dairyland is developing a comprehensive response to that request that will be shared with you, our members.

Finally, a third resolution said that if Dairyland proceeds with the off-site project, Vernon Electric should take steps to break our long-term contract for power supply from Dairyland. We have an "all requirements" contract with Dairyland through 2055. That is, we agreed to receive all of our power needs from Dairyland through that time frame. The reason such long-term contracts are necessary is two-fold. First, it enables Dairyland to obtain funding for generation and transmission projects to serve our needs. Second, it assures Vernon Electric members that we will have the benefit of a long-term cost-based power supply, without being at the mercy of an unforgiving market, if power is even available to purchase on the market.

In these unsettled times of rapidly escalating energy costs, this is critically important to our members.

Dairyland is a cooperative owned by 25 distribution cooperatives including Vernon Electric. As owners of Dairyland, we receive the benefits of any "margins" which are returned to us as capital credits, which are ultimately shared with our members. We have asked legal counsel to offer an opinion regarding whether or not it would be even possible to reopen this contract. It is important to point out, however, that finding an alternative power supplier that would be reliable and affordable would be extremely difficult.

A letter will be sent later this summer detailing responses to these issues. If any members have questions about the relationship of your cooperative to Dairyland, or if you need additional information about the air quality improvements Dairyland is making and the need for dealing with coal combustion byproducts, please visit their web site at www.dairynet.com or contact us at 1-800-447-5051, 608-634-3121 or vec@mwt.net.

Member Appreciation Picnic

For the members of Vernon Electric and Vernon Telephone Cooperatives

Wednesday, July 6, 2008
3 p.m. to 7 p.m.



Genoa Park
(can be seen from Hwy. 35 along the Mississippi River).

Complimentary pork sandwiches, hot dogs, chips, beans, pop, milk, coffee and ice cream.

Door Prize Winners from Viroqua and Hillsboro Member Appreciation Picnics:

Dorothea VonRuden, rural Westby	bird feeder
Walter Johnson, rural Westby	household tool kit
Carrie Urbanek, rural Cashton	kick scooter
Jenifer Hunter, rural Norwalk	toaster oven
Mary Gajewski, rural Westby	solar accent lighting
Glen Stalsberg, rural Westby	household tool set
Dave VanEvery, rural Hillsboro	fold-&-go arm chair
Mary Kretche, rural Hillsboro	electric skillet
Kalyn Biermeier, rural Hillsboro	backpack
Shawn Wallace, rural Hillsboro	cooler
Arnold Lewis, Sr., rural La Farge	LED flashlight

Kid's



Corner

Good luck & have fun!

Win a chance for a gift card from a local restaurant by completing the following activity and mailing it back to our office by September 7th. You must be 12 or under to enter.



Fill in the blanks with the proper word to finish the money saving tip of the month!

AIR CONDITIONER ROOM
ENERGY OFF
FAN

YOU CAN SAVE _____ BY USING A ____ INSTEAD OF AN _____, BUT REMEMBER TO TURN IT ____ WHEN YOU LEAVE THE ____.

Name _____ Age _____
Parent(s) or Guardian _____ Account # _____

Last month's Kid's Corner winner was Timothy Fish, age 10, son of Wayne & Rosalie Fish of rural Westby.

Get \$5.00 back...

...on your next electric bill. Just sign up for the Automatic Payment Plan.

- Save time. You won't have to write a check or send in a payment anymore.
- Save a stamp and save money.
- No bills lost in the mail.
- No worries about late payments. The bill is always paid on time.
- Earn more interest on your money because your payment isn't withdrawn from your bank account until the 20th of the month.
- Your co-op benefits by having less mail processing to do.
- You still receive a regular billing statement each month to keep you up to date on your account.

Authorization Form

I want to participate in the Automatic Payment Plan

Name(s) shown on VEC bill _____

VEC account number _____

Billing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Work phone _____ Home phone _____

Your financial institution _____

Financial institution address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Your financial account number _____

If your payment is to be deducted from a checking account, enclose a blank check. Write VOID across it and DO NOT SIGN IT. If your payment is to be deducted from a savings account, enclose a deposit slip that includes your account number.

VEC has the right to cancel my use of the Automatic Payment Plan. I will write to VEC if I decide to cancel my use of the Automatic Payment Plan. If I do not participate in the Automatic Payment Plan for 12 months, the \$5 credit will be charge back to me.

Account Holder(s) _____

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Note: If the account is in two names, both account holders must sign here. Mail this form with your current payment or mail it separately to Vernon Electric Cooperative.

E-Billing now available! Sign up anytime at www.vernonelectric.org and get another \$5.00 off your next bill.

LOCAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Aug. 23 **Hmong History & Culture** ~ art, food, and dress. Short DNR film on the history of the Hmong supporting our troops in Southeast Asia. Presentations by the Lao Veterans of America Pres., DNR Hmong Liason, and DNR Warden Supervisor will discuss Hmong hunting issues and will take questions. The event will end with a tour of the Kickapoo Valley Reserve. Reception 10 a.m., tour at noon. KVR Visitor Center, Hwy. 131, 1 mi. north of La Farge. 608-625-2960, <http://kvr.state.wi.us>.
- Aug. 23-24 **Leon Gatorfest.** 3 mi. south of Sparta on Hwy. 27. Car show (Sat. 11-2), Laundry Basket Softball tournament, live music, kids games, reptile exhibit, arts & crafts show, "stand-still" parade (Sun. noon), Chicken-Q (Sat. at 11) & fun. 608-269-4123.
- Aug. 31 **Norskedalen's Ice Cream Social** at the Skumsrud Heritage Farm. Free admission, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Open-air museum, lawn games, live auction of antiques and other items, Chicken-Q 11 a.m.-2 p.m. 1/2 mi. west of Coon Valley. 608-452-3424 or www.norskedalen.org.
- Sep. 1 New Hope United Methodist Church **Labor Day Pancake Breakfast**, 8-11 a.m. Free-will offering. E2290 Hwy. 82, Redmound.
- Sep. 5-7 **Cashton Fall Festival**

If you know of a local event taking place between September 10th and October 10th, we would be happy to advertise it for you, for free, in this newsletter, at our discretion. Please provide us with information before August 12th.

Watt's New

The information in this newsletter has been prepared for you by David Maxwell, Marketing and Communications. Comments or questions regarding information contained here should be directed to:

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