

## IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE

### *Customer Buried Piping*

**A** federal law administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation (Title 49 CFR 192.16) is important to members with buried natural gas piping.

Customer-owned buried piping is typically not maintained by Rock Energy Cooperative (REC). If you have buried natural gas piping, be advised of the following:

- Buried piping that is not maintained may be subject to the potential hazards of corrosion and leakage.
- Buried piping should be:
  - Periodically inspected for leaks;
  - Periodically inspected for corrosion if the piping is metallic;
  - Repaired or removed from service if any unsafe condition is discovered.
- Before excavating near buried piping, the piping should be located and excavating done carefully by hand. Underground locating contractors may assist with locating buried piping. Many plumbing or heating contractors can perform inspections and make repairs of buried piping.

In most cases, REC maintains buried gas piping up to the outlet of the gas meter on your property. All gas piping beyond this point is the responsibility of the member.

Some examples of buried gas piping that are not maintained by REC are:

- Buried piping past the outlet of a meter supplying mobile homes;
- Buried piping past the outlet of a meter supplying secondary buildings, such as a detached garage and workshops;
- Buried piping past the outlet of a meter supplying additional equipment, such as pool heaters, gas grills and yard lamps.

**If you have questions or need more information, call our 24-hour Customer Service Center at 1-866-752-4550.**

## AVISO DE SEGURIDAD IMPORTANTE

### *Tuberías enterradas de clientes*

**L**a ley federal administrada por el Ministerio de Transporte de los Estados Unidos (Título 49 CFR 192.16) es importante para los clientes con tuberías enterradas de gas natural.

Rock Energy Cooperative (REC) generalmente no da mantenimiento a las tuberías enterradas que son propiedad de los clientes. Si tiene tuberías de gas natural enterradas, tenga presente lo siguiente:

- Las tuberías enterradas que no reciben mantenimiento pueden presentar riesgos potenciales de corrosión y fugas.
- Las tuberías enterradas deben:
  - Revisarse periódicamente en busca de fugas;
  - Revisarse periódicamente en busca de corrosión si son metálicas;
  - Repararse o dejar de utilizarse si se descubre cualquier condición insegura.
- Antes de excavar cerca de tuberías enterradas, la tubería debe localizarse y la excavación debe realizarse cuidadosamente a mano. Los contratistas expertos en localizaciones subterráneas pueden ayudar a ubicar tuberías enterradas. Muchos contratistas de plomería o calefacción pueden realizar inspecciones y reparaciones de tuberías enterradas.

En la mayoría de los casos, REC da mantenimiento a las tuberías enterradas hasta la salida del medidor de gas en su propiedad. Toda tubería de gas que esté después de este punto es responsabilidad del cliente.

Algunos ejemplos de tuberías enterradas que no reciben mantenimiento por parte de REC son:

- Tuberías enterradas después de la salida de un medidor que alimentan a casas rodantes;
- Tuberías enterradas después de la salida de un medidor que alimentan a edificios secundarios, como cocheras independientes y talleres;
- Tuberías enterradas después de la salida de un medidor que alimentan a equipos adicionales, como calentadores de piscinas, parrillas a gas y lámparas de jardín.

**Si tiene preguntas o necesita más información, llame a nuestro Centro de Servicio al Cliente las 24 horas del día al 1-866-752-4550.**



# Rock Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner





By Shane L. Larson,  
Chief Executive Officer

## More Power to You

**W**hen you heard news that the House of Representatives took action on climate change legislation, you may have thought it was time to kick back, relax, and enjoy the rest of the summer.

Well, that's not the way Congress works. The House passed its version of the bill,

commonly called cap and trade, on June 26. But that's just the beginning. The same process now begins in the Senate, and it's impossible to predict what might happen there.

In fact, it's difficult to figure out exactly what happened in the House. The climate change bill is more than 1,500 pages long, and a 300-page amendment was added the morning of the vote. Do you think anyone has read it? And if they have read it, do they fully understand the ramifications of everything in it?

By the way, if you're interested, the Library of Congress has the full text posted on its web site at <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d111:H.R.2454>: Doctors are recommending that insomniacs read it as a sure-fire way to help them get some sleep.

Seriously, that 1,500-page bill is as long as Tolstoy's epic novel "War and Peace." The bill's stated goal is admirable: "to create clean energy jobs, achieve energy independence, reduce global warming pollution, and transition to a clean energy economy." Who can argue with that? But as good intentioned as those goals are, no one can predict the bill's unintended consequences. And surely those 1,500 pages contain at least a few.

How high will energy prices go? Are consumers ready to pay the extra costs? Will this new energy policy further damage the nation's economy?

Remember the old saying: The devil is in the details. Even if the overall bill appears to be good, it might include small things that could cause big problems down the road if overlooked. You can imagine how easy it would be to overlook several small details in 1,500 pages. To quote another old saying: It would be like trying to find a needle in a haystack.

Granted, the House bill includes some compromises

that would protect co-ops if they make it to the final legislation. Co-op members from across the country—including those from Rock Energy Cooperative—voiced their opinions on climate change, and the House of Representatives appeared to listen.

In the initial bill, industries could have received more than 100 percent of the allowances they need to comply with mandatory reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. So, for example, one California-based utility would have received 181 percent of the allowances it needs, while a Midwest energy co-op would have received only 59 percent of its needs. The California utility could have sold its extra emission allowances to the Midwest co-op. Essentially, rural America would have been subsidizing the energy bills of consumers with greater access to low-carbon energy.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association pointed out this unfairness, and the wording was changed. "Providing language that no utility should receive allowances in excess of 100 percent of their needs deals with an inequity that could have cost consumers," Glenn English, NRECA CEO, said in a letter to the chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Commission.

The bill now calls for any allowances above 100 percent to be transferred to other utilities based on their emission levels. That provision is fair

and makes more sense.

Another change in the bill focuses on small utilities, like Rock Energy. A total of 0.5 percent of all allowances would be set aside for co-ops and municipal systems with less than 4 million megawatt-hours in annual sales. Those allowances would be based on emissions and must be used for energy efficiency, renewable electricity, or low-income assistance programs.

The transformation of the climate change legislation in the House shows democracy in action and demonstrates the power of the people. You've heard me mention the Our Energy Our Future campaign many times before. The grass-roots campaign encourages co-op members to talk with their elected representatives about how the country can meet climate change goals while keeping electricity affordable and reliable. Since the campaign started in February 2008, I'm proud to report that Rock Energy members have sent more than 1,400 messages to their lawmakers. ▶





I believe that House members listened and took co-op members' concerns into account as they shaped their version of the bill. It's time now to turn our attention to the Senate. They say that enacting legislation, like making sausage, is messy and not very appealing to watch. But we need to do more than just watch. We must participate in the process.

Please join the more than 362,000 co-op members nationwide who have sent more than 2.2 million messages to their congressional representatives. Please take a few minutes now and go to [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop). Click

on "Join the campaign" and complete the simple form. Rock Energy members who live in Illinois should select Wisconsin as the location of the cooperative because that's where our headquarters is located. E-mails and letters will be sent to legislators based on your address. If you don't have Internet access, just call our office and we'll fill out the online form for you.

It's a great privilege to serve your energy needs and do our part to keep your service affordable and reliable. If we can do anything to improve, please let us know by stopping by or calling our Janesville or South Beloit offices. ■

## Can You Help Us Find These People?

Rock Energy Cooperative holds unclaimed funds for the people listed here. These funds will be forfeited and paid to the Wisconsin Electric Cooperatives' Federated Youth Foundation for educational purposes unless claimed by Sept. 30, 2009. You may send claims to Rock Energy Cooperative's headquarters at P.O. Box 1758, Janesville, WI 53547-1758 or call (608) 752-4550 or (866) 752-4550.

Phyllis B. Abb  
Abrahamson Bros  
Thomas L. Adelman  
Gladys Anderson  
Adevor Farms  
Jeanette Arnold  
Carol J. Atkinson  
Attica Towers Inc.  
Badger Farm Store  
Marvin W. Bailey Jr.  
Alan W. Bailey  
Robert Bartlett  
Janet R. Baumann  
Mike D. Bennett  
James C. Berlin  
Besly Welles Corp.  
Sandra J. Beyer  
Alvin A. Bluhm  
Karen M. Boughton  
Nancy Braun  
A.J. Brinkman  
James Brockner  
Edward J. Brown  
Grant P. Budd  
Gregory L. Burkheimer  
Ursel I. Byrski  
C-5 Partners (Dairy Feed)  
Allan Calhoun  
Chancellor Outdoor Group  
Gordon Chapman  
Norm N. Clark  
Bob Clayton

Kyle F. Condon  
Consolidated Freightways  
James Cooke  
Richard A. Coplien  
James Costigan  
Ivan Cowell  
Kenneth Cutsforth  
Dahlen Transport Inc.  
Jerry Dassow  
Jennifer S. Delaney  
Delite Outdoor USA Inc.  
Kevin Derus  
Gerald A. Dionysius  
Thomas A. Douglas  
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Michael Duft  
A. Dwyer  
Sylvia Eberbach  
Kermit J. Elliott  
Grace Ellis  
Employability Inc.  
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Family Foot Clinic  
Perry A. Fischer  
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Kenneth B. Guernsey  
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Lawrence Harding  
Marvin W. Harris  
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Bruce Heyerdahl  
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Phyllis Hoekman  
Robert E. Holmes  
Kirk D. Hovland  
Robert Hufford  
Roger H. Hull  
Philip Johns  
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Russell S. Johnson  
Everett Johnson  
Edith Jones  
Marion G. Jorgensen  
Verne Kapke  
Gail Katzman  
Alvin O. Keeseey Jr.  
Walter R. Kemmerer  
Kathryn Kuschel  
Daniel J. LaBonte  
Edward J. LaCount  
Wilbur Lakin  
Robert K. Larsen  
John Laurenson  
Philip H. Lindgren  
David E. Link  
Steven A. Loblillo  
Justiliano Lopez  
Joynelle J. Lovell

Albert S. Lowell  
Robin R. Lucas  
Kenneth Luckey  
John Lynch  
Clifford Maas  
Steven J. March  
William H. Marcum  
Daniel R. Martin  
Steven Martin  
James W. McCarty  
Lyle McClay  
MCI Communications  
Webb R. McNall  
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Judith Meidl  
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Mobile Communications Corp.  
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Philip Zeilinger ■

# Waste Not, Want Not

## Efforts Under Way to Manage and Reprocess Nuclear Waste

Nuclear energy, first generated in the 1950s, supplies power to one out of five homes and businesses nationally. With climate change policy dominating congressional debate, nuclear power—largely dormant for the past 25 years—may be poised for a comeback.

Unlike fossil fuels like coal and natural gas, nuclear generation does not emit carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas blamed as the principal contributor to global warming. In addition, nuclear reactors produce electricity in much larger quantities and more reliably than other non-carbon emitting generation sources like wind and solar.

“As a zero-carbon energy source, nuclear power must be part of our energy mix,” predicts U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Stephen Chu.

Nuclear power plants use fission, the process of splitting atoms apart, to produce electricity. When a uranium atom splits, heat and radiation are released. The heat turns water into steam, which spins turbines to generate electricity. The uranium, housed in special rods, becomes highly radioactive once used.

The main drawback to nuclear power has always been the waste. Currently, spent fuel rods are stored at nuclear power plants in one of two ways: in special cooling pools where water removes heat from the rods and shields the area from the radiation and in dry cask containers stored in air-conditioned concrete or steel buildings. Both measures, however, were only meant as temporary steps.

For the last 25 years, the federal government has pursued a policy of developing a permanent, central repository for waste storage—an effort that’s met political and legal resistance and appears to have been abandoned. Yet as of the end of 2008, nearly 66,000 tons of nuclear waste was sitting at 126 temporary sites in 39 states, all in above-ground cooling pools or dry casks. DOE says the nation’s fleet of 104 commercial nuclear power reactors could produce 143,000 tons of waste over their operating lives.

According to the Electric Power Research Institute, a utility research consortium that includes electric co-ops, almost 100 times more energy remains available in spent fuel rods than is produced during the first cycle of use. To fully realize the potential of nuclear power as an essential part of America’s energy mix, scientists are researching how to effectively and safely recycle used nuclear fuel and affordably reprocess it to generate electricity again.

With this capability, nuclear power plants could

operate with a closed fuel cycle—the same material being used many times, leaving limited waste to store. The World Nuclear Association estimates materials potentially available for recycling spent fuel rods could keep American nuclear reactors running for the next 30 years.

To learn more about America’s evolving nuclear power program, visit [www.ne.doe.gov](http://www.ne.doe.gov). ■

**Four Generations of Nuclear Power**

Nuclear power has been evolving since the first atom was split in 1934. Four waves of technology mark its development:

- 1940**  
**Dec. 2, 1942**  
The world's first nuclear reactor is constructed and tested on a squash court at the University of Chicago  
Capacity: No electricity produced
- 1950**  
**FIRST GENERATION**  
**1950s and '60s**  
The initial wave of prototype reactors is built for demonstration and research, with limited capacity  
- Capacity: Around 50 MW  
- Example: Dairyland Power Cooperative's La Crosse Boiling Water Reactor (1967 - '87)
- 1960**  
**SECOND GENERATION**  
**Late 1960s - Early 1980s**  
The majority of reactors in the U.S. are built, using a wide variety of designs  
- Capacity: Limited to 1,300 MW for safety reasons  
- Example: North Anna Nuclear Power Station, co-owned by Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (1978 - present)
- 1970**  
**THIRD GENERATION**  
**1990s - 2030**  
The next wave of U.S. reactors, already operating in some countries, will utilize three primary designs  
- Capacity: Up to 1,500 MW  
- Enhanced safety and plant efficiency
- 1980**  
**FOURTH GENERATION**  
**2030 - ?**  
Advanced reactors will feature additional safety measures and compact, economical designs  
- Produce minimal radioactive waste  
- Large reactors can be scaled down for use as small, local sources of power

Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association  
Image Sources: U.S. Department of Energy; Dairyland Power Cooperative; Old Dominion Electric Cooperative; CANDU; Hyperion

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Save the Date...

**MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY 2009**

**Saturday, September 19  
REC Headquarters**

Hot dogs • Brats • Hamburgers  
Chips • Popcorn



**Energy Efficiency**

*Tip of the Month*

Keeping your tires properly inflated improves gas mileage for the average vehicle by around 3 percent, saving up to 20 gallons of gasoline per year.

Source: Alliance to Save Energy



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