



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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www.lanescott.coop

**LANE-SCOTT
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

Connections

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In Case of an Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, call 800-407-2217. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. After-hours calls will be answered by the dispatch and standby personnel.

24-hour Electrician Service

If you are without electricity or have an electrical emergency on your side of the meter, we have a master electrician on staff available 24 hours a day.

What Obama's Climate Change Plan Could Mean for Electric Utilities

On June 25 President Obama directed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop greenhouse gas (GHG) emission regulations for new and existing power plants. This directive is just one of the planks of his plan to reduce U.S. GHG emissions by 17 percent below 2005 levels by 2020.

Using the Clean Air Act to regulate GHG emissions will face some substantial legal challenges. When the Act was amended in 1970 to first require the addition of control technology on new industrial facilities like power plants, it presupposed that such technology would exist and could be installed at an affordable cost. But such affordable technology does not yet exist for existing fossil-based power plants, whether they are coal or natural gas-based.

Even without the availability of control technology, EPA improperly proposed new regulations for new coal and gas-based power plants in April 2012, expecting to complete a final rule by early spring in 2013. In fact, EPA proposed a regulatory standard that would have been impossible to achieve by all but the very largest new natural gas plants; coal plants could not have even been constructed at all. EPA recognized its mistakes, and that is why the President has directed the EPA to repropose these regulations. Only when EPA proposes them again for new power plants will we have any idea whether the requirements can be achieved.

Once new power plants are regulated

for GHG emissions sometime in 2014, EPA must also develop some as yet unknown measures by which the individual states must then regulate GHG emissions for existing power plants. While it is too soon to know the eventual impact of GHG regulations on electric utilities there has been speculation that many existing coal-based power plants will have to cease operation.

If the Obama Climate Plan results in coal-based power plants closing and no new coal plants being constructed, then utilities will look to other fuels to produce electricity. Since it is anticipated that the emission regulations for natural gas plants will be more easily achieved, in the near term coal-based plants may be replaced with natural gas-based power plants. Only a few new nuclear plants are being planned. Whatever choice a utility makes, there are concerns that eliminating coal will limit electricity fuel

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options for its members. Limiting fuel options, especially the lowest cost fuel, raises concerns about the ability to keep electric rates as low as possible. For electricity produced in our region, the cost of natural gas is almost twice the cost of coal.

As we await the EPA's plan to reduce GHGs, we—along with Sunflower—will continue to advocate for reasonable, achievable policies that allow us to keep rates as low as possible while protecting the environment. We know you wouldn't have it any other way.

Cold Weather Rule Summary

The Cold Weather Rule (CWR) ensures you will have electric and gas service for your home during the winter. You must make pay arrangements with Lane-Scott Electric to use the CWR.

Member Responsibilities

- ▶ Agree to pay 1/12 of the overdue amount of their bill, plus 1/12 of their current bill, all disconnection and reconnection fees, and applicable deposit (deposit to be spread evenly over the length of plan), and agree to pay the remainder in equal payments over the next 11 months.
- ▶ Other payment plan as negotiated with company (can be less than 12 months).
- ▶ Must pay future bills in full while paying off the overdue amount.

Member Must Not

1. Violate any rule that affects the safety of the member, other persons, or the utility's delivery system.
2. Bypass the meter.
3. Misrepresent identity to obtain or retain service.
4. Tender NSF check as initial or installment payment and not cure the insufficient payment within 10 days after NSF letter is mailed.

Under 1, company can disconnect member immediately.

Under 2 and 3, company can disconnect, regardless of temperature, 48-hours after tagging door or making phone call to member.

Under 4, company must send NSF letter giving 10 days to cure NSF check, then disconnect is allowed regardless of temperature.

Company Responsibilities

A 48-hour window required where tempera-

ture will remain above 35° F.

In first 24 hours, company must call or tag door of member notifying them of disconnect next day.

On the second day (day of disconnect), company must receive forecast that temperature will remain above 35° F for 24 hours, before disconnect can be worked. If forecast indicates temperature will fall below 35° F, disconnect must be canceled and company must wait for new 48-hour window.

Company must inform member they have the right to enter a level payment plan for arrearages paid through an initial payment and equal installments over 11 months. If member still wants plan with fewer months, document that 12 months was offered to and refused by member. Plans with fewer than 12 months are considered to be CWR plans.

Default of Plan

- ▶ Member must pay cash or money order to cure a NSF check within 10 days of NSF letter issued or will be in default of payment plan.
- ▶ Outside of the CWR plan (April 1 through Oct. 31), a member who defaults on a CWR plan is not eligible for another payment plan until they pay all arrearages from prior CWR plan.
- ▶ Inside of the CWR period, a member who defaults on a CWR plan is eligible for a new CWR plan after making initial payment of at least 1/12, as explained above under Member Responsibilities.

Renegotiation of Payments

If member receives lump sum assistance (i.e. LIEAP), the member is encouraged to renegotiate their CWR payments.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc., has filed with the Federal Government a Compliance Assurance in which it assures the Rural Utilities Service that it will comply fully with all requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Age Discrimination act of 1975 and the Rules and Regulations of the Department of Agriculture issued thereunder, to the end that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the conduct of its program and the operation of its facilities.

Under this assurance, this organization is committed not to discriminate against any person on the grounds of race, color or national origin in its policies and practices relating to applications for service or any other policies and practices relating to treatment of beneficiaries and participants including rates, conditions and extension of service, use of any of its facilities, attendance at and participation in any meetings of beneficiaries and participants or the exercise of any rights of such beneficiaries and participants in the conduct of the operations of this organization.

Any person who believes himself, or any specific class of individuals, to be subjected by this organization to discrimination prohibited by Title VI of the Act and the Rules and Regulations issued thereunder may, by himself or a representative, file with the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250 or the Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250 or this organization, or all, a written complaint. Such complaint must be filed not later than 180 days after the alleged discrimination, or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Rural Utilities Service extends the time for filing. Identity of complainants will be kept confidential to the extent necessary to carry out the purpose of the Rules and Regulations.

Steps for Processing a Complaint with Lane-Scott Electric

It is our goal to always do the very best job possible for our members. However, despite our best efforts, there may be times when you feel additional recourse is justified to resolve a service or billing problem.

To assist you, we've provided instructions on how to file a complaint with Lane-Scott Electric and/or the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC).

- ▶ **Step 1**—Please present your complaint to Lane-Scott Electric in Dighton at 620-397-5327 or toll-free at 800-407-2217. Every effort will be made to resolve the problem to your satisfaction, if possible.
- ▶ **Step 2**—If the problem cannot be resolved at your local office, you may contact the General Manager in Dighton at 620-397-5327 or toll-free at 800-407-2217.

- ▶ **Step 3**—If you wish to pursue the complaint, you may contact the KCC's Consumer Protection Office by calling 800-662-0027 or by writing to the Kansas Corporation Commission at 1500 SW Arrowhead Road, Topeka, KS 66604.

If the problem remains unresolved, then a formal complaint can be filed with the KCC. The KCC Staff will advise you of this procedure upon request.