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September 2013

# Hot Watts

PUBLISHED BY COOKSON HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Like homes and other businesses, farms of all types can lower their electricity bills by turning off or reducing use of lights and small equipment in outbuildings. Timers and sensors can help, too. Regular cleaning, maintenance, and seasonal tune-ups help keep larger equipment running at top efficiency.

Source: U.S.  
Department of Energy

### Congratulations

Donna Brizendine is our online survey winner!



**Offices Closed**  
CHEC will be closed September 2nd in observance of Labor Day.

## Annual Meeting Around the Corner

■ *Registered members will receive a \$20 electric credit.*

Please mark your calendars for the Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative's 65th Annual Meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 5, 2013, at the Sallisaw High School Gymnasium. Registration will open at 10:00 a.m. with the business meeting starting at 11:00 a.m.

Annual meetings are designed to be enjoyable and entertaining for the members. The Ritter's Family Band will return this year and will provide entertainment prior to the business meeting. Each Cookson Hills Electric (CHEC) member who registers at the meeting will receive a gift bag and a \$20 credit per membership. Additional prizes include cash and gifts made available by our material suppliers and contractors. As a member you can help make that process easier by bringing your annual meeting notice that you receive in the mail to the registration table at the meeting. Your name must be on the membership account and you must be present to vote and claim prizes. Also, you must have a photo ID to claim prizes.

This year at the meeting, the Board of Trustees of Cookson Hills Electric will request approval from the membership to adopt the proposed changes to CHEC's bylaws. Please see our current edition as well as our August edition of the Hot Watts for each listing of the proposed revisions. Along with receipt of your Official Notice of the Annual Meeting, you will

also receive a copy of the proposed revisions. These documents will be mailed on September 18. If you should have any questions about the proposed changes, please call Kendall Beck, General Manager, at 800-328-2368.

Please join the employees and the board of CHEC for the 65th annual meeting. We hope to see you there!



General Manager  
Kendall Beck



2012 Annual Meeting photos

### Hot Watts

is published monthly by Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. *Hot Watts* informs members in parts of seven Eastern Oklahoma counties about Cookson Hills' programs and issues. Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative continually strives to provide quality electrical service at a reasonable cost for its members.

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### Cookson Hills Staff

Kendall Beck  
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Eric Johnson  
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Dalen Garner  
Director of Operations

Brett Orme  
Director of Engineering

Juli Orme  
Chief Financial Officer

Amy Smith  
Manager of Accounting Services

Kristie Cash  
Manager of Office Services

### Cookson Hills Board of Trustees

William T. Mills ..... President / District 4  
Joe Falleur ..... Vice President / District 3  
Kenneth Kelley ..... Sec.-Treas. / District 5  
William R. Wilson ..... Trustee / District 2  
Rocky Woods, Sr. .... Trustee / District 1  
Joe Ogle ..... Trustee / District 6  
Ronnie Pevehouse..... Trustee / District 7

Bill V. Wilkinson - Attorney

Donna Rhodes - Editor

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. welcomes members to submit photos, and articles which will be subject to editing.

Cookson Hills reserves the right to publish or modify any article. Companies and individuals featured in the *Hot Watts* newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official policy, position, or view of Cookson Hills.

**If You Find Your Account Number  
Hidden in This Issue of the *Hot Watts*  
You'll Receive a \$25 Credit on  
Your Electric Bill**

# Proposed Revisions for Cookson Hills Electric's Bylaws Continued

CHEC's 65th Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 5, 2013, at the Sallisaw High School Gymnasium. At the meeting members will be asked to consider the approval of proposed changes to the cooperative's bylaws.

Last month we published the first section of the proposed changes to the bylaws. We want to share the final section of the proposed changes this month.

Please note: in the following proposed bylaw changes, additions are inserted in "red".

## SECTION 7.02 -- Allocating and Crediting Capital. In operating the Cooperative:

- A. Capital Credits. Members shall furnish, and the Cooperative shall receive, as capital ("Capital") all funds and amounts received by the Cooperative from Member for the Cooperative's provision of a Cooperative Service that exceed the Cooperative's costs and expenses of providing the Cooperative Service ("Operating Margins"). For the Cooperative Services, the Cooperative shall annually allocate to each Member, and pay by credit to a Capital account for each Member, Operating Margins from the Cooperative Services in proportion to the value or quantity of the Cooperative Services used, received, or purchased by each Member during the applicable fiscal year ("Capital Credits").
- B. Affiliated Capital Credits. The Cooperative may separately allocate and credit to Members capital allocated and credited to the Cooperative by any organization furnishing services, supplies, or products to the Cooperative ("Affiliated Capital Credits"):
1. In proportion to the value or quantity of each service, supply, or product furnished by the organization that is used, received, or purchased by each Member; and
  2. If the Cooperative determines, and separately identifies, the Affiliated Capital Credits.
- C. Non-Operating Margins. Funds and amounts, other than Operating Margins, received by the Cooperative that exceed the Cooperative's costs and expenses ("Non-Operating Margins") may be:
1. Allocated as Capital Credits to Members in the same manner as the Cooperative allocates Capital Credits to Members; or
  2. Used by the Cooperative as permanent, non-allocated capital.
- D. Joint Memberships. Upon the termination of a Joint Membership, and upon the Cooperative receiving written notice and adequate proof of the Joint Membership termination, the Cooperative shall re-allocate and re-credit to the Joint Member selected by the Cooperative all Capital Credits and Affiliated Capital Credits previously allocated and credited to the Joint Membership.
- E. Allocating Losses. In the event that the cooperative incurs a net loss, that loss shall not be allocated to its members (patrons). The loss shall be accumulated and offset by future non-operating margins.

# Cookson Hills Pays Taxes to Local Schools

Many students are back in the classrooms as area schools are now in session. Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) believes strongly in education and believes in supporting the local school districts within our service territory.

CHEC pays a gross receipts tax equal to 2% of the total gross revenue. Ninety-five percent of the tax paid is distributed by the Oklahoma Tax Commission to area

schools. Each school receives an amount determined by the miles of electric line within its district. The chart, to the right of this page, provides a breakdown of the distributions of the 2012-2013 taxes paid by CHEC per school district.

For the 2012-2013 fiscal year, CHEC paid \$563,762.62 on 2,853.16 miles of line to 23 school districts in its seven county territory.



Photo by: Donna Rhodes

Central Public Schools District is located northeast of Sallisaw in Sequoyah County.

## 2012-2013 Fiscal Year

School District	Miles of Line	Taxes Paid
Belfonte	55.881	\$11,072.25
Bokoshe	0.736	\$145.83
Brushy	65.402	\$12,917.66
Central	124.444	\$24,604.48
Gans	117.054	\$23,134.35
Gore	231.703	\$45,807.42
Keota	221.795	\$43,818.43
Kinta	167.262	\$33,053.21
Liberty	43.29	\$ 8,577.48
Marble City	61.454	\$12,158.86
McCurtain	116.563	\$23,078.13
Moffett	2.333	\$462.31
Muldrow	216.259	\$42,714.51
Porum	135.62	\$26,783.65
Quinton	59.630	\$11,786.90
Roland	77.024	\$15,114.80
Sallisaw	284.008	\$56,038.54
Stigler	391.382	\$77,313.55
Vian	285.119	\$56,346.64
Warner	59.945	\$11,854.02
Webbers Falls	83.997	\$16,625.54
Whitefield	51.153	\$10,134.30
Wilburton	1.109	\$219.76
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,853.16</b>	<b>\$563,762.62</b>

# REBATES STILL IN PLACE

Are you considering replacing outdated or inefficient water heaters, air conditioners, or heat pumps in your home? If so, you may want to check out the energy efficiency program offered by Cookson Hills Electric (CHEC) and Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. The program called "Take Control & Save" was designed to promote efficient use of electric in an effort to reduce consumer energy costs. We understand that by spending less on your energy costs, you can save money for the other important things in life.

CHEC has rebates available on room air conditioners, electric water heaters, dual fuel heat pumps and ground source heat pumps as well.

To qualify for these rebates you must be a member of CHEC. A complete list of the eligibility criteria 68605 and rebate requirements is available online at [www.cooksonhills.com](http://www.cooksonhills.com) and at your local CHEC office. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Rhodes at 800-328-2368 or 918-775-2211.





# U.S. Lime Company – St. Clair



Have you ever wondered how limestone is used? In a recent interview with U.S. Lime Company - St. Clair, that question was answered. In the heart of Sequoyah County beneath red dirt and layers of shale and sandstone, U.S. Lime Company - St. Clair, located northwest of Marble City, operates an underground limestone mine. The mine dates back to the 1930's when mining began for quality limestone. U.S. Lime - St. Clair, a subsidiary of United States Lime & Minerals, Inc. took over the plant in December of 2005.

“The name U.S. Lime - St. Clair has two significances: St. Clair is the name of the deposit we are mining from, and U.S. Lime could differentiate this plant from Arkansas Lime and Texas Lime, our sister companies,” said Kevin Gann, Accounting Manager for U.S. Lime - St. Clair.

The limestone is hauled from the depths of the mine in trucks. After the limestone is mined, it is crushed into different sizes. The majority of limestone is kiln fed where it goes through one of two kilns. The kiln operation began at the current site in 1964, but prior to that time it took place in Sallisaw.

U.S. Lime - St. Clair manufactures five products: Quicklime (which is their primary product), Hydrated Lime, Met Lime, Lime Kiln Dust (LKD), and Pulverized Limestone (PLS) or Ground Calcium Carbonate (GCC). These lime and limestone products are used in many industries such as construction (including highway, road, parking lots, and shingles used for roofing), metals (including steel producers), environmental (including municipal sanitation and water treatment facilities, and power plants for scrubbing air), and for agriculture (including poultry and cattle feed producers). Limestone is also used in making paper and in making antacids.

U.S. Lime - St. Clair covers this regional area of the United States. Commercial sales comprise 99.5% of the business.



The plant currently employs 57 employees. Mr. Gann stated, “I think one area where there is an opportunity in the future is in the environmental communities. As power plants are forced to make changes, there are going to be some opportunities for growth in those areas.”

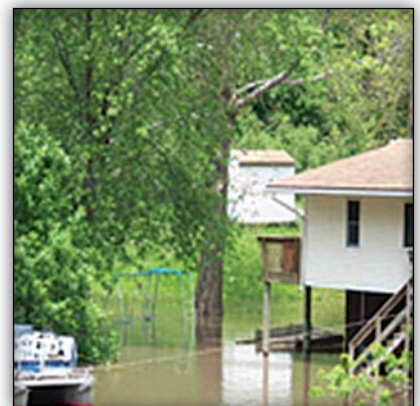
“We are always planning for the future, and we have enough reserves here for many years. It is always contingent upon construction. Our products are used in construction and with agricultural products. We are going to follow those cycles as we move forward,” said J.B. Wilson, Production Manager at U.S. Lime - St. Clair.

## Safety

### ***STAY SAFE AROUND ELECTRICITY AND WATER***

Be alert to electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water, along with other potential hazards that create a serious risk of electrocution. Safety measures to keep in mind include:

- Never step into a flooded basement or other room if water may be in contact with electrical outlets, appliances, or cords.
- Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you cannot reach your breaker box safely, call Cookson Hills Electric to shut off power at the meter.
- Never use electric appliances or touch electric wires, switches, or fuses when you are wet or standing in water.
- Keep electric tools and equipment at least 10 feet away from wet surfaces. Do not use electric yard tools if it is raining or the ground is wet.
- Electric motors can be damaged when wet and should not be used after a storm until they have been inspected and approved by a professional. It may be necessary to have some of them repaired or replaced.
- A good safety measure is to have ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) professionally installed on outlets. GFCIs are recommended for outdoor outlets and outlets near wet areas of the home such as kitchens, baths, and laundry rooms.



Source: [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)