

*Your energy provider yesterday, today and tomorrow.*

# NEWSLETTER

**Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative**

**August 2013**

## Mike Yohnk Remembered

**M**ike Yohnk passed away on June 26th, 2013. Mike was hired by Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative as a mechanic in 1971. Shortly thereafter he enrolled in the Wisconsin Electric Lineman 4-year apprenticeship program. Mike then worked as a journeyman lineman from July 1977 until June 2008 when he became our meter man; the position he held until his retirement in 2009.

During his long career at Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative, Mike was a dedicated employee and got to know many of the Members of the Cooperative. Mike was highly respected by his fellow employees and always had a good story to share.

Mike would stop by Chippewa Valley Electric from time to time during his brief retirement to update us on current events. Mike will certainly be missed by his "Chippewa Valley Family."



## Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative Alarmed by President Obama's Proposal to Increase Monthly Electric Bills

**I**n a speech on June 25, 2013 at Georgetown University, President Obama announced a broad new federal mandate to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from electric power plants. The President will instruct federal regulators to apply the Clean Air Act to carbon dioxide issued from power plants.

While the President's scheme will impose a massive new climate tax upon all consumers; we at Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative are especially concerned about this proposal because our members already spend disproportionately more on energy than other consumers across the country.

"The President's proposal will hit co-op served families and businesses here awfully hard," said Todd Howard, CVEC President & CEO. "These regulations are costly, and they take autonomy from our co-op by challenging our ability to make decisions that govern our own infrastructure."

The President's climate tax fails to take into account electric cooperatives' existing efforts to integrate renewable energy into our power portfolios. Co-ops are at the forefront of energy efficiency initiatives working hard to reduce the need to build expensive new power plants.

"Ultimately, electric cooperatives are about keeping electric bills affordable and providing underserved communities the power they need to improve their quality of life," said Mr. Howard. "The President's proposal will make electric power more expensive, causing families and businesses to sacrifice on top of all the other uncertainty in our national economy. Without question, electric bills will get bigger for the Americans who can least afford to pay them."

If the President doesn't see the importance of affordable electric power, then the members of our co-operative will help bring it to his attention."

# Electric Co-ops Concerned

## Presidential Statement on new Climate Change Regulations

**E**lectric cooperatives have serious concerns about President Obama's misguided proposal to use the federal Clean Air Act (CAA) to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. If the President's approach resembles dubious and dangerous plans forwarded by environmental activist groups, he will go far beyond stretching the law. Co-ops urge the President to work with us, not against us, to address our nation's energy needs.

### ► Increase Electric Bills

This new federal mandate—essentially a massive, backdoor tax increase—will increase monthly electric bills, forcing those who least can afford it to make hard choices that will negatively impact their quality of life. Energy taxes are inherently regressive, disproportionately affecting low-income, fixed-income, and rural consumers who already pay a higher percentage of their household budget for electricity.

Fundamentally, the President is asking Americans to make more sacrifices on the heels of the greatest economic hardship most of us have ever lived through by adding a costly new tax on our energy bills.

### ► Jobs Killer

This proposal is also a jobs killer. It will raise the cost of energy, goods, and services. It will hurt American competitiveness and slow down the fragile economic recovery with more uncertainty and risk. It will cause businesses to forego investment to pay higher energy bills. The last thing this nation needs is a new obstacle for our manufacturing and agricultural businesses.

### ► Glorious Mess of Regulations

Using the CAA for the purpose of addressing climate change is also an overreach of historic scale. The law was never intended to be used this way. U.S. Rep. John Dingell, one of the Act's principal authors, famously said using the CAA to regulate greenhouse gases would result in a "glorious mess." The President is attempting to shoe-horn carbon regulations into this framework, and we will soon realize that the shoe just does not fit no matter how much we try to force it.

### ► No Affordable Technology

Studies by MIT and the Electric Power Research Institute

provide ample data showing the monumental technological challenges and costs of reducing carbon emissions. At present, there is no commercially viable technology that can get this job done. Instead, the President's blueprint punitively imposes economic penalties on the American public simply for using electricity.

### ► Electric Co-ops are Focused on Solutions

Electric co-ops support a real "all of the above" energy strategy, not just a rhetorical one, in our effort to provide reliable, affordable power 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. While the White House pushes regulatory mandates, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric co-ops have long argued for a balanced, technically realistic, and economically feasible approach to environmental and climate change policy. To that end we are seeking solutions by:

- Leading the electric utility industry in the deployment and use of demand response, smart grid, and other technologies to that enable more efficient energy management.
- Studying the feasibility of ground-breaking multi-pollutant control technologies for coal-fired power plants, which builds on our strong record of achievement in producing and delivering cleaner energy.
- Working hard to build a strong foundation for an affordable, secure, and clean energy future for the 42 million consumers we serve in 47 states.

**Please contact your local government representatives to express your concern over the proposed regulations:**

#### Senate

Tammy Baldwin (D)  
1 Russell Courtyard  
Washington DC 20510  
202.224.5653  
[www.baldwin.senate.gov/contact.cfm](http://www.baldwin.senate.gov/contact.cfm)

Ron Johnson (R)  
386 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510  
202.224.5323  
[www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact](http://www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact)

#### House of Representatives

Sean Duffy (R) (District 7)  
Washington, DC  
1208 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
202.225.3365

Ron Kind (D) (District 3)  
Washington, D.C.  
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