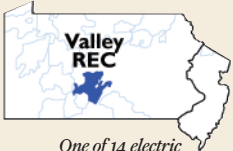


Valley
Rural Electric
Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric
cooperatives serving
Pennsylvania and
New Jersey

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FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Environmental umpire making bad calls



by Wayne Miller
President & CEO

FOR ALL who share my interest in our national pastime, let me remind you ... baseball season is right around the corner!

Over the years, I can remember times when I've been upset by an umpire's decision. I know ump's are needed to enforce the rules of the game, but I've seen quite a few blown calls.

In many ways, umpire mistakes mirror what's going on with government regulation regarding electric utilities and electricity production. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) writes the rulebook for power suppliers. But EPA also serves as an umpire, enforcing the rules of the game.

At Valley Rural Electric, we're committed to keeping your electric bill affordable. So you can understand why I get upset when I see EPA leaders making bad calls that put pressure on how much you pay for power.


Over the past two years, Congress debated, but never passed, a comprehensive climate change bill. Instead, EPA stepped forward and has now fielded a team of new regulations. Out of these "players," three could hit electric bills out of the park.

Clean Air Transport Rule: This rule kicks in next year and aims to cap power plant emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides in 31 eastern states (including Pennsylvania). EPA claims the rule, when combined with other state and federal measures (such as rules for mercury emissions), will reduce sulfur dioxide emissions from power plants by 71 percent and nitrogen oxides emissions by 52 percent from 2005 levels by 2014. However, it will cost utilities \$2.8 billion every year to comply, an expense that would ultimately be paid by consumers.

Cooling Water Intake Requirements: Power plants use water from lakes or

rivers to cool generating equipment. While screens and various components prevent fish and other wildlife from entering water intake pipes, EPA thinks this equipment could be improved. A proposed rule was introduced last month and the impact could be severe. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation, the nation's bulk power grid watchdog, claims if this rule is strictly enforced, one-third of U.S. electricity capacity may need to be retired. If that happens, how — and at what cost — would generation needs be met?

Coal Ash: To ensure the safe disposal of fly ash and other residues (bottom ash, scrubber sludge and slag) produced by coal-fired power plants (known as coal combustion residuals or CCRs), EPA is considering whether or not to designate the materials as hazardous waste. Complying with this rule could cost billions and would also halt recycling efforts. Right now we use one-third of all fly ash as a Portland cement substitute — and for every ton of concrete replaced by fly ash, a ton of greenhouse gas emissions is avoided. On four prior occasions — most recently under the Clinton Administration in 2000 — EPA determined CCRs do *not* warrant regulation as a hazardous waste. Not only did EPA find that CCRs rarely, if ever, exhibit a hazardous waste characteristic, the agency also concluded states can safely manage CCRs under federal non-hazardous waste rules.

At Valley Rural Electric, we strive to keep you informed about government regulations that will increase the cost of electricity. We're joining co-ops nationally to ask Congress for a much-needed timeout in the game — a two-year moratorium on EPA regulation of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. A delay would give lawmakers the opportunity to fashion climate change legislation that protects you, our consumers, and keeps electric bills affordable. 

2010 LARGE MARINA OF THE YEAR: "Seven Points Marina has a rich tradition on Lake Raystown. Still family-owned 65 years later, the marina has spent years serving customers, perfecting the practices of good hospitality," says *Marina Dock Age* Magazine Editor Anna Townsend.

Rising above *the* rest

Seven Points named nation's No. 1 marina

SEVEN POINTS MARINA at Raystown Lake, served by Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, was recently voted No. 1 large marina in the nation by *Marina Dock Age* Magazine.

On Jan. 28, the award of 2010 Marina of the Year was presented to the facility during the International Marina and Boatyard Conference, held in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

It's an honor that's been shared over the years by marinas in places like Kapolei, Hawaii; Riviera Beach, Fla.; Las Vegas; Charleston, S.C.; and the affluent New York Hamptons.

"To receive this honor at this time in my life and after all these years is gratifying," says marina founder James Filson.

He and his family have been in the marine business for 65 years. Filson, 86, continues to work at Seven Points along with his son, BJ, and two daughters, Pauline Filson Hetrick and Pam Filson Prosser.

A family-owned and family-friendly facility, Seven Points Marina offers seasonal houseboat and pontoon rentals, a marina store and restaurant. Facilities

are open annually from April to October.

"My father and mother started in the marine industry in 1946 and we three children were expected to contribute to the success of the business while we were young," says Pam, who also serves as the marina's spokesperson. "That blossomed into a passion for the industry for all the kids."

Originally named Jim's Anchorage, the marina was once located on the old Raystown Dam. Jim, a native of Altoona and a history and science school teacher in Huntingdon, loved the water and spent his summers building the marina business. The first Jim's Anchorage consisted of one small wood building, a steep dirt launch ramp and six docks accessible by a dusty, red shale road. Jim opened for business with an initial investment of \$500 for the purchase of land and four used rowboats. By 1952, he was operating a snack bar and a small store selling and servicing boating equipment.

The Filson marina gradually developed into a popular boating, water ski-

ing and fishing center, offering a wide range of activities. Home of the Raystown Boat Club and the Raystown Ski Club, the original marina featured ski shows, boat tours, jeep tours overlooking the lake and dances during the summer. By 1960, Jim's Anchorage had expanded to include a boat and motor dealership, three different areas for campers and trailers, three additional boat docking areas, a 140-slip marina, rental cottages, and 350 acres of land. The original marina was located about three miles north of the current marina. Before the new dam was constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the lake was about eight miles long with 30 miles of shoreline. Today, it is the largest inland lake in Pennsylvania with 118 miles of shoreline and more than 30 miles of navigable water.

The Filson family was discouraged to lose the original business as a result of the dam's construction, but Jim's luck turned when he became the winning bidder for the Seven Points Marina concession on the new Raystown Lake. (The



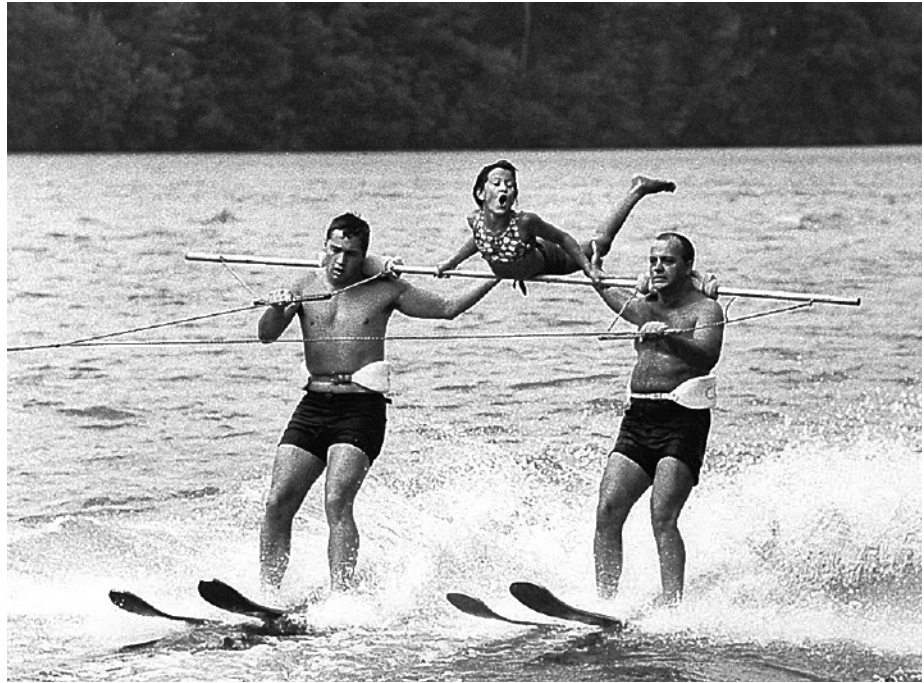
old marina is 100 feet under the water today.)

Seven Points Marina now has 661 docks that are rented seasonally, 20 transient docks and 265 rack or dry storage docks. In addition, there are 19 houseboats, nine pontoons and six utility boats that are available for rent daily. A restaurant and store are also on the property as well as the largest breakwater on the lake. This 500-foot breakwater is home to many private houseboats and helps protect the rest of the marina from rough water.

The Filsons say they are still committed to serving customers and practicing good hospitality. Over the years, the marina has become not only a social hot spot, but also an economic engine for the local tourism industry.

Over the next 10 years, plans for the marina include researching and designing a floating facility for administrative offices and a rental center as well as a restaurant and floating pier. 🌞

Information and photos courtesy of the Filson family. Susan Penning contributed to this article.



MEMORY LANE: The Raystown Ski Club's ski shows were once a favorite attraction at the original marina. "I tried out for this part for three years and was so excited to be able to do this in a ski show," says Pam Filson Prosser (center), current marina spokesperson and daughter of marina founder Jim Filson. "I had a ski on for take off, then dropped this ski and twirled up on the bar to do acrobatics. I remember how thrilled I was to be able to do this." Shown with Pam are Bob Stultz of Hollidaysburg, left, and Bo Shellington of Altoona.

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS.

PLUS
\$15 bill credits
and stainless steel
coffee mugs for all
registered members
who attend!

▶▶ Valley Rural Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting

April 15 - 7 p.m.
Huntingdon Area
High School

*More details coming
in the mail soon!*

Featuring:

Entertainment - Award-winning singer and songwriter Chris Collins, performing a tribute to John Denver

Elections - Districts 1, 3 & 5

For the kids - A big-screen movie, dairy presentation and snacks

Door prizes - Two \$250 co-op gift certificates

Last chance to apply for this year's Youth Tour

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS AND SENIORS:

Are you looking for new experiences and new friends this summer? If so, the 2011 Rural Electric Youth Tour might be for you!

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative will sponsor students from throughout the cooperative's eight-county service territory on an all-expenses-paid trip to the nation's capital June 12-17.

The Rural Electric Youth Tour has brought high school students to Washington, D.C., every June since the late 1950s. More than 40,000 students from rural areas and small towns across America have participated in this unique program.

During Youth Tour, students learn about the important role electric cooperatives play in their communities. They also gain a personal understanding of American history and their responsibilities as citizens by meeting their representatives and senators and exploring the sights around the nation's capital.

It's not unusual to see a former Youth Tour participant who is a congressional aide on Capitol Hill. In fact, several former Youth Tour students have gone on to serve in the highest ranks of our government, including the U.S. Senate.

Juniors and seniors interested in joining the Youth Tour delegation should meet the following criteria:

Any high school junior or senior whose parent or guardian is a member or employee of Valley REC is eligible to apply.

Students will be required to submit a transcript along with additional information to the co-op selection committee.

Selections will be based on academic achievement as well as participation in extracurricular activities and/or community service programs.

Students interested in attending Youth Tour this year should visit their high school guidance counselor's office today to apply. Slots are filling up fast and final selections will be made within the next few weeks.

For more details, visit youthtour.coop or call Valley Rural Electric Cooperative at 800/432-0680, extension 163.



VIPS: Pennsylvania Sen. Bob Casey Jr. (D) speaks to recent Youth Tour students during their visit to Capitol Hill, a key part of the Youth Tour agenda.



Five ways to **SPRING** into energy efficiency

Spring marks a perfect time of year to make your home more energy efficient. Here are five quick tips that will save both electricity and money:

1. Seal cracks and gaps around your home. As you put away your storm windows, consider adding weather stripping around leaky doors and caulking around window frames. A typical Valley REC member can save more than \$200 annually by taking this simple step. Not particularly handy with tools? Visit TogetherWeSave.com, a website sponsored by Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives, to view a video that shows how to use a caulking gun to seal up leaks around vents, ductwork and windows.

2. Change filters regularly. Replace furnace and air conditioner filters monthly. Dirty filters restrict air flow and reduce the overall efficiency of your heating and cooling system by making it work harder on hot summer days.

3. Clean the refrigerator inside and out. Now is a good time to not only throw out that leftover fruitcake, but also to check the temperature setting. Ideally, a refrigerator's temperature should be between 37 and 40 degrees for maximum operating efficiency. And don't forget to pull the unit away from the wall and carefully vacuum the coils. When you move it back, don't push it flush against the wall; air should circulate around the coils.

When it's time to replace that old refrigerator, be sure to buy one that's Energy Star-rated. These energy-efficient appliances can save you as much as \$100 a year.

4. Think sun block. By pulling down the shades on your windows this spring and summer, you could save about \$35 a year. Plus your house will stay cooler and more comfortable.

5. Enjoy spring breezes. Use a clothesline during warmer months and let sunlight and fresh breezes dry clothes naturally. You'll reduce your electric bill by not running a dryer and add a genuine clean scent to your family's laundry.

You can learn more about how to lower your monthly energy bill by visiting TogetherWeSave.com or by calling an energy advisor at Valley Rural Electric at 800/432-0680.

Information from Touchstone Energy