



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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866-784-5500  
www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC CO-OP

# NEWS

## TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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## OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## CONTACT US

1511 14,000 Road  
P.O. Box 368  
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866-784-5500  
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## FROM THE CEO

# EPA's Power Plant Rule Threatens Electric Reliability

As a consumer-member of Twin Valley Electric, keeping the lights on at a cost you can afford is the focal point of everything we do. Transparency is one of our core values, so in addition to sharing co-op successes, I believe we also have a responsibility to tell you about the challenges too.

In May, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a rule that impacts energy production from power plants. The power plant rule will undoubtedly threaten access to reliable electricity for our local community and communities across the country.

The rule constrains existing coal and new natural gas plants by requiring them to install carbon capture and storage (CCS) — a technology that has potential but has not been proven

to be viable as required. No power plant in North America currently uses CCS at the scale and levels mandated by EPA. When power plants aren't able to comply with EPA's CCS requirements, they will be required to shut down, significantly limit operations, or switch fuels. These unrealistic standards will force the unnecessary and early shutdown of many power plants that currently provide reliable electricity 24/7.




Angie Erickson

Renewable sources, such as solar and

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## SAFETY TIP

Always use a spotter when there is potential for equipment to encroach overhead power lines. A spotter's perspective provides a much broader vantage point than the view from the cab. If your equipment brushes or contacts a power line or pole, stay in the cab and call 911.



SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.COM

# Twin Valley Electric Cooperative Sponsors Students for Summer Trips

**IZABELLA NASH** and **COOPER NEWBY** were selected to attend a cooperative-sponsored educational youth program held this summer. Nash and Newby were selected based on leadership skills, academic achievements, extracurricular activities and character demonstrated during the application, testing and interview process conducted in February.

## ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR

Nash attended the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in



Washington, D.C., June 14-20, along with 33 other student leaders from Kansas and Hawaii sponsored by a total of 22 participating electric cooperatives.

Nash, currently a high school senior from Chetopa, visited many sites on the tour including Arlington National Cemetery and the Changing of the Guards, Washington Monument, World War II Memorial, U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Students also toured the National Law Enforcement Museum, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, several of the Smithsonian museums, the U.S. Capitol and the White House. Students met with U.S. Senator Jerry Moran.

"I think the one thing that had the most impact was the Vietnam Veterans Memorial," Nash said. "One other thing that had a real impact was the Holocaust Memorial Museum. The stuff I have learned about the Holocaust in school has no comparison to what happened to those people. The biggest thing that inspired me on this trip was getting to see all the memorials and getting to see what people went through in their lives. I feel like the memory that will always



Izabella Nash attended Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., representing Twin Valley.

be with me from this trip will have to be the experience of being in Washington, D.C., and getting to meet all new friends."

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour also included a dinner cruise on the Potomac River and the NRECA Youth Program with speakers, games and activities with other state delegations.

## COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP

Newby attended Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat



Springs, Colorado, July 12-18. The camp hosted 79 student leaders from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming. These high schoolers were sponsored by a total of 44 participating electric cooperatives across the four states.

Newby, currently a high school junior from Labette County High School, learned about the electric cooperative business model by creating a model-cooperative with his fellow students, empowering campers to elect a board of directors, appoint a general manager, establish committees, and attend daily membership meetings.



Cooper Newby represented Twin Valley at the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

CYLC participants also attended sessions on leadership, conflict management, co-op careers, and sessions on electric safety and avian protection by HawkQuest. Camp participants also toured the Craig Power Plant.

"I think the leadership seminar affected me the most," Newby said. "All the friends I made pushed me to get out of my shell. That camp is more enjoyable if you make friends fast."

Along with its professional development programs, CYLC included a visit to Mount Werner and downtown Steamboat Springs, white-water rafting on the Colorado River, and other fun activities such as a volleyball tournament, swimming, talent show and a dance.

"Twin Valley is proud to continue our sponsorship of our co-op's student leaders," said CEO Angie Erickson. "It is an honor to provide opportunities that develop leadership potential and encourage engagement in our local communities."

Twin Valley Electric sponsors trips for two high school students each year. For more information about the Twin Valley youth programs, contact Marsha Moses at 620-784-5500.

# Interested in Back-up Generation?

When the electricity goes out, your initial thought might be to run to the local hardware or big box store and buy a generator. However, using a generator should not be taken lightly, since it can be dangerous and even life-threatening if used incorrectly. There are several steps you should take before ever starting one up.

## BUT FIRST, HOMEWORK

Before purchasing a generator, the first step is to research the best option for your home and budget. The second, and more important step, is to educate yourself on how to use one safely.

Homeowners can choose from two types of generators: standby and portable. Standby generators are installed directly into the home's electrical system by a licensed electrician and are typically powered by natural gas or propane. These generators start automatically when the power goes out.

A portable generator is usually gas powered and is, well, portable. You can power appliances by plugging them into it. Your generator should have more output than the wattage of the electronics plugged into it. This way, the generator can create the extra electricity it takes for the initial power surge. Make sure there is nothing plugged into the generator when turning it on.

## SAFETY TIPS

When you refuel a portable generator, make sure the engine is cool. Keep children and pets away from the generator, as it could burn them.

Generators pose electrical risks, especially when operated

during inclement weather. Use a generator only when necessary during wet conditions. Protect the generator by operating it under an open, canopy-like structure and on a dry surface where water cannot form puddles or drain under it.

## GENERATORS CAN BE DEADLY

Carbon monoxide fumes emitted by the gasoline engine on the generator can be deadly. Always operate your portable generator outdoors at least 20 feet from your home.

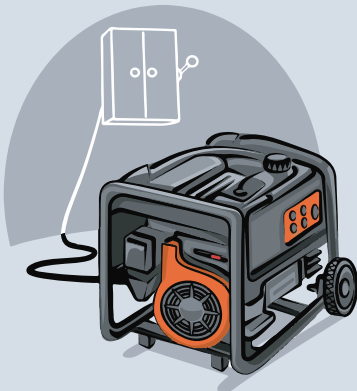
Misusing a portable generator or using a standby generator that is not installed correctly (and does not meet the electrical code) can cause backfeed, which puts others in danger. Backfeed happens when a generator feeds electricity back through a home's electrical system and meter into the power lines. To prevent this dangerous scenario, standby generators should have a transfer switch installed by a licensed professional. Do not plug a portable generator directly into a home outlet or electrical system. Instead, use a properly rated extension cord to plug appliances into an outlet on the generator for power.

## WHEN NOT IN USE

Operate your generator once a month for 10 minutes to ensure it is running properly. Keep your generator well maintained and follow all manufacturer's instructions. Have a standby generator installed in an easily accessible, weatherproof area.

For more electrical safety information, visit [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org).

## What is a **TRANSFER SWITCH?**



### **TRANSFER, THROW OR DOUBLE-THROW SWITCH:**

*An essential mechanism that safely shuts off power to the electrical grid before backup power is used. It is sometimes referred to as a double-throw switch, as it controls two separate circuits.*

This switch's job is to safely transfer power from its primary source to a backup power source, enabling users to maintain power during an outage. It works by connecting a generator to your home's main circuits to provide backup power.

Properly installed transfer switches are essential because they prevent dangerous backfeed into the power grid, which endangers utility workers and others. Never plug a portable generator into a wall outlet, as this can cause backfeed.

SOURCE: [WWW.SAFELECTRICITY.COM](http://WWW.SAFELECTRICITY.COM)

WE SUPPORT

FAIR &  
PRACTICAL

Policy

The EPA power plant rules are unlawful, unachievable and jeopardize reliability. America's electric co-ops will continue to fight for smarter energy policies that prioritize reliability and affordability for all.


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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative COOPERATIVELY WORKING TO  
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OUT  
MORE

## EPA's Power Plant Rule Threatens Electric Reliability

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wind, are important components of our overall generation mix. But given the intermittent nature of these energy sources, we simply cannot depend on them because the wind doesn't always blow and the sun doesn't always shine. The need for always-available power generating resources is still essential.

The timing of the power plant rule is equally troubling. At the same time the EPA is leading our nation down the path to fewer power plants, utilities are facing a surge in electricity demand as Americans are using more electricity than ever before.

Many states have already experienced rolling outages, and if the supply of electricity is further threatened by the EPA's power plant rule, the problem will only get worse. In fact, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the nation's electric reliability watchdog, recently forecasted that over the next five years, all or parts of 19 states are at high risk of rolling power outages during normal peak electricity demand conditions.

It's also no secret that when demand is high and supply is low, costs go up. We're concerned about threats to reliability as well as cost increases to our members.

I don't say all of this to worry

you, but I do want our members to understand the challenges that lie ahead. Just as we've always done, we will look for solutions that serve our members best. We are joining electric co-ops across the country and our statewide trade organization, Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., to fight these regulations, and we are working with our local elected officials and statewide policymakers to help them understand the consequences this would have on all Kansans.

Currently, around 67% of TVEC's power mix comes from non-greenhouse gas emitting sources. We understand the desire to continue increasing the production of clean power. However, the pace at which we do that must be such that electricity remains reliable and affordable.

Electric cooperatives like TVEC deliver power to 42 million Americans. At the end of the day, our top priority is to meet our members' energy needs, and we must have reliable electricity available to do that.

If you're interested in learning more about policy impacts to power reliability, or to make your voice heard on this matter, visit [www.voicesforcooperativepower.com](http://www.voicesforcooperativepower.com).

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Now is the time to schedule annual maintenance for your home's heating system. During fall months, HVAC technicians are typically less busy, making this an excellent time for maintenance and any necessary repairs before the winter months.

A qualified technician can clean filters, check for leaks and ensure all system components are working efficiently to keep your home cozy and warm when the temperatures begin to drop. **SOURCE: NATIONAL RURAL**

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

