

Hot Seafood Casserole

- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 cup celery, chopped
- 1 can (6 oz) crab meat (flaked)
- 1 pound shrimp, cleaned, cooked, cut into pieces
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. pepper
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 cup buttered Ritz-style crackers, crumbled

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine all of the above ingredients except the buttered cracker crumbs in a medium bowl. Mix gently. Spoon into an 8-inch square baking dish. Sprinkle with buttered cracker crumbs. Bake for 30 minutes.



A Touchstone Energy® Partner

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FROM THE CEO'S DESK

J. Ronald McElheney

Federal curbs on emissions of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas blamed as a principal cause of climate change, are quickly becoming a reality. It's just a matter of which government branch gets there first: legislative, executive—or both.

This past December, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), part of the executive branch, declared that six key greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, are endangering public health and welfare. Emissions from motor vehicles contain four of those greenhouse gases (including carbon dioxide) and they are also said to contribute to dangerous air pollution under this “endangerment finding.”

This action puts a ‘foot in the door’ for the EPA to promote sweeping new regulations that could impose strict limits on carbon emissions from power plants, driving up consumers’ electric bills.

The concern is that with carbon dioxide emissions from vehicles falling under federal Clean Air Act regulation, other emitters of carbon dioxide—fossil fuel-fired power plants included—may also soon be subject to EPA oversight. The Clean Air Act, as written, was never designed to deal with carbon and it would be awkward at best and probably a disaster at worst.

We believe that if any controls on carbon dioxide should take place, it should be established by Congress, where the impact of these proposals can have a full public debate. Unfortunately, a climate change bill passed by the U.S. House last summer (H.R. 2454) and another reported by the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in November (S. 1733) include unachievable goals and timelines for reducing carbon dioxide emissions, inadequate technology development incentives, and no guarantee that electric bills will remain affordable. Current proposals will unfairly penalize consumers in fossil fuel-dependant states by saddling them with higher bills to essentially subsidize and lower electric bills for those in other regions.

What’s more, Senate leaders have admitted that climate change legislation has stalled and will likely be picked up sometime in the spring. This legislative logjam makes it all the more important for all of us to pay careful attention to the EPA’s current efforts.

It is imperative that any climate change legislation protect consumers and preempt use of the federal Clean Air Act and any other existing laws. Otherwise, electric utilities and businesses could be burdened with the task of trying to comply with more than one set of regulations.

Regulation of carbon dioxide as a pollutant may occur with or without congressional input. But Congress must not simply add new legislation on top of old regulations. Any climate change bill should become the roadmap—the single strategy—for reducing carbon dioxide emissions at federal, state, and local levels.

With all the talk of who’s going to be in control of curbing emission and climate change regulation, please remember that it has been reported by various media outlets that many in the science community believe that the science of climate change is flawed and inaccurate. What if they are correct? It would be a shame that all the new regulations and mandates, in the end, simply cost electric customers in the United States a lot more money.



Spotlight

A Monthly Publication for the Customers of Jones-Onslow EMC

A Touchstone Energy® Partner

Cold Temperatures Bring Higher Usage And Higher Electric Bills...

Weather and your electric bill go hand in hand. And the extremely cold temperatures that we experienced in December of last year and for the first part of January 2010 has proven to be some of the coldest on record for this time of year. This will or has already been reflected in your monthly electric bill.

“As we look at more and more of the weather data from the National Weather Service, December 2009 and January 2010 are breaking all kinds of historical records for low temperatures,” said Tommy Pritchard, Jones-Onslow’s Chief Utility Engineering Officer. Consider the following:

- From January 2-15, the average daily temperature was 33.3 degrees, the lowest on record for that period. In addition, during the same period, the average low temperature of 23.6 degrees exceeded all historical lows since 1951.
- During this same time, our area experienced 14 straight days of lows at or below 24 degrees (this topped the previous record by three days set in 2001).
- At the time this newsletter went to print, new daily low temperatures (for January) had been set on three different days.

The common way to measure the requirements for heating (and cooling) a home is from a number calculated from daily temperatures by the National Weather Service called Degree Days. A degree day is simply the measurement of how much the average

temperature for a given period is above or below 65 degrees. The higher the number the more requirements are for heating (or cooling) your home.

From December 15 to January 15, we experienced 780 degree days. The 10-year average for that period of time was 509 degree days. And, looking at December bills (usage for parts of November and December) compared to bills from January, to date, the increase between the two months is over 465 degrees days (or close to 150%). That’s an increase of roughly three times to heat your home from the previous month.

“If you are heating your home with electric heat, whether it’s baseboard heating, an electric furnace, or a heat pump, your heating system has been working overtime recently,” said Jones-Onslow Member Services Representative Charles Westmoreland.

“During extremely cold weather, strip heat may run almost constantly and it doesn’t take long for kilowatt-hours to add up to sizeable bills,” Westmoreland said. “Heat pumps are more efficient than resistance heaters under normal operating conditions because they use less energy. Heat pumps, however,



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George Jones Retires From Cooperative's Board Of Directors



George Jones, Jones-Onslow board member for the past 12 years, retired from that position this past December. In addition, Jones was also the board's secretary/treasurer during his tenure of service.

Mr. Jones loyally served the cooperative customers and Jones-Onslow EMC, representing both with dignity and strong moral and business ethics during his time.

"Mr. Jones' leadership over the years has been an enormous benefit to the board of directors and to me," said Jones-Onslow CEO Ron McElheney. "He always gave freely of his time while serving the cooperative and its customers and he played an integral role on the board and the executive committee."



Twist in a CFL... Turn on the Savings.

Send us or bring in the receipt for your CFL purchases to receive a \$1 credit on your electric bill for each bulb. The full name of the customer, the account number, and the complete mailing address and daytime phone number must be written on your receipt.

Those sending in receipts for a credit on their electric bill must have an ACTIVE Jones-Onslow account. Customers are limited to receiving credit for 20 CFL bulbs per calendar year.

If CFL receipt is mailed, send to:
 Jones-Onslow EMC
 CFL Credit
 259 Western Blvd.
 Jacksonville, NC 28546

(cold temperatures continued)

use supplemental resistance heaters (heat strips) to help when the temperature drops below or near freezing. This supplemental heat is how the cold temperatures affect the energy consumption of heat pumps."

"Let me add that your electric heating system was operating during this cold period even while you were away," Westmoreland said. "Folks may have been gone over the holidays (or at work) and turned their thermostats back to 58 or 60 degrees but when it's in the teens and low twenties, the heating system is going to run. And if you have a heat pump, it ran in that resistant heat mode." *(See page 3 for more information about heat pumps and how they work).*

"I know that some customers are surprised or will be surprised when they open their bill," CEO Ron McElheney said. "Weather has a direct impact on the amount of electricity customers use and during the last several weeks we have, unfortunately, experienced extremely cold weather and customers have used more."

"While our electric rates haven't gone up, the WPTA (Wholesale Power and TIER Adjustment) credit that was on electric bills from July 2009 to December 2009 has ended," McElheney continued. "During that time period, however, the cooperative was able to return over \$3 million (through the WPTA credit) to customers."

Phantom Power... How Much "Standby" Energy Do You Use?

Phantom, or standby, power refers to electricity consumed by electronic appliances when they are turned off or in a standby mode. Almost all modern appliances and electronics consume electricity when they are not in use.

The dead giveaways are those little green, red, blue, or amber lights that glow in a dark room at night, or the digital clocks on most all appliances today. Less obvious are such items as cell phones and power tool chargers that have transformers (the little black cubes) on their power cords. Also, any device with instant-on capacity, such as a television or personal computer, is never truly off unless unplugged from the wall.

One way to stop these power siphons is to unplug the devices. If that isn't convenient, use a power strip to plug in multiple items, like those at your computer workstation. When you are prepared to shut down, just turn off the power strip.

Below is a list of various electronic devices and the standby kilowatt hours they use each year.

DEVICE	Standby kWh used annually
Computer	16
Computer Printer (ink jet)	70
Clock Radio	18
Microwave Oven	26
Computer Router/Modem	16
Stereo/Surround Sound	128
VCR/DVD Player	59
Cable/Satellite Boxes	128
CRT TV (27")	26
LCD TV (27-40")	123
Plasma TV (50")	145
Rear Projection TV (52-65")	186

Heat Pump 101

What does it mean when that colored light (auxiliary light) on my thermostat comes on?

It means that your auxiliary heat strips are running. This normally occurs if the outside temperature is below 32 degrees or if your heat pump is not functioning properly.

Does it cost me more when that colored light (auxiliary light) is illuminated on my thermostat?

Yes it does. For example, if your heat pump costs you 30 cents per hour when it is operating under normal conditions, it will likely cost you \$1.30 per hour when the heat strips are running.

What does it mean when I see frost or ice on my outdoor equipment?

Under normal operational conditions, frost or ice will appear from time to time. All heat pumps must go through a defrost cycle periodically. However, if frost or ice remains on the unit for more than 24 hours you should contact an HVAC dealer.

More questions about heat pumps? Visit www.joemc.com and look for the Heat Pump 101 icon or call the office and we can send you additional information.

ENERGY STAR Home Energy Yardstick
WHAT'S YOUR SCORE?
 Compare your household's energy use to others across the country and get recommendations for improvement.
 Visit www.EnergyStar.gov