

Cheddar Taters

- 1 can (10 3/4 ounces) condensed cream of chicken soup, undiluted
- 1 can (12 ounces) evaporated milk
- 1 cup (8 ounces) sour cream
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 package (32 ounces) frozen Tater Tots
- 1 1/2 cups (6 ounces) shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 cup crushed potato chips

Combine first six ingredients. Stir in Tater Tots. Transfer to a greased 13-by-9-by-2-inch baking dish. Sprinkle with cheese and potato chips. Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 30–35 minutes or until bubbly.

Yield: 8–10 servings

Recipe is taken from www.carolinacountry.com



A Touchstone Energy® Partner

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FROM THE CEO'S DESK

J. Ronald McElheney

As highlighted on page one of this month's newsletter, the cooperative is glad to be able to restructure our electric rates so that your monthly bills will be reduced. We realize it has been a burden on customers and your board of directors and management will continue to look for ways to keep the cost of electricity in check.

As the chart on page one shows, the overall rate reduction is 6% compared to our present charges (base rate plus the WPTA charge). Each rate classification will see some cost decrease except the low kilowatt users (1000 kWh's or less) in the small general service rate class (Rate B) — these users will see a minimal increase. What this means to our average residential customer (Rate A), who uses 1500 kWh a month, is that they will see a 6.6% cost reduction or a \$10.44 decrease during the summer months.

The WPTA charge will no longer be applicable and will not appear on any rate classification's bill.

I would like to reiterate that, as I have said many times before in this article, the cost of doing business is going up—whether it's the increased fuel cost associated with producing electricity (natural gas, coal, and nuclear), the increase in interest rates, the large increase in materials to build and maintain our electrical distribution system, or the general increase in cost to operate the company on a daily basis. Costs are simply on the rise—not only with electricity but almost everything that you purchase!

And, of course, natural catastrophes such as hurricanes could drastically increase wholesale power cost again which would probably cause your electric bill to increase again. Hopefully increases in the other costs I mentioned earlier will be kept stable or go down.

But, for now, we are pleased to be able to decrease your cost of electricity. We strive in every possible way to keep our costs as low as possible and to provide our customers the best electric service possible.



Statement of Nondiscrimination

Jones-Onslow Electric Membership Corporation is an equal opportunity employer and strives to comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws, regulations, rules, and orders regarding equal employment opportunities. In particular, the Corporation strives to comply with all applicable provisions of the Equal Pay Act of 1963, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, and the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, and all amendments to these Acts. Furthermore, the Corporation is committed to helping ensure that no individual is discriminated against by the Corporation because of the individual's race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability.

Shirley F. Cox, PHR, the Corporation's Vice President of Human Resources, is responsible for coordinating the Corporation's nondiscrimination efforts. Any individual who believes that he or she has been discriminated against by the Corporation may obtain additional information from, or may file a charge of discrimination with, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Any charge of discrimination, however, must be filed with the EEOC within one-hundred and eighty (180) days after any alleged discrimination.



Spotlight

A Monthly Publication for the Customers of Jones-Onslow EMC

A Touchstone Energy® Partner

Change In Rate Structure Will Bring Reduction In Your Monthly Bills...

In a day when the cost of everything around you is increasing, wouldn't it be nice to see the cost of something go down? Well, we've got good news for you.

After reviewing the various rate classifications and performing a cost-of-service study of providing electric service to the different classes, Jones-Onslow is happy to announce a rate reduction for customers starting with this month's bills.

Systemwide, the rate decrease from all rate classifications is 6% compared to our present charges. Some rate classes will see a greater reduction while others will see less of a decrease. The rate decreases vary because each rate class must stand on its own in terms of actual costs associated with delivering power to that class.

Based on the cost-of-service study, the overall rate reduction for each rate class is as follows:

Rate Classification	Decrease
Residential (Rate Class A)	6.4%
General Use (Rate Class B/B3)	1.9%
Small General Use (Rate Class C/C3)	1.2%
Medium General Use (Rate Class D/D3)	7.7%

All security and area lighting rate classifications will stay the same.

The cooperative keeps an ever-watchful eye on electric rates and when cost-of-service study

shows an adjustment should be made (whether increasing or decreasing rates), we act accordingly. We are glad to be able to reduce rates to our customers and we would like to do more. The simple facts, though, are that the cost of doing business is increasing every day. Interest rates over the last couple of years have been climbing as well as the materials used to construct and maintain the cooperative's electrical distribution system. And, of course, there is the cost of fuels (natural gas, coal, and nuclear) associated with producing the electricity.

Below, the chart shows how the average residential customer's bill will change based on kWh use (for summer and non-summer rates) after the 6.4% decrease for the Rate A classification:

Summer kwh	Current Bill	After Decrease
1000	\$114.89	\$107.93
1500	\$167.19	\$156.75
Non-Summer kwh	Current Bill	After Decrease
1000	\$108.72	\$101.76
1500	\$157.93	\$147.49

“Our number one goal at Jones-Onslow is to provide the best service possible at the lowest price possible,” said CEO Ron McElheney. “We are glad that sound financial planning is allowing us to reduce electric rates to our customers.”

The 2007 Annual Meeting, A Fun Event For Our Members and Guests...



A great time was had by all members who attended this year's Annual Meeting on March 30 at the American Legion Building at the Onslow County Fairgrounds. With free hotdogs and drinks, extension cord gifts plus Gary Jenkin's show that really did leave us breathless with laughter, it was hard to beat.

Attendees were treated to informative displays, the presentation of colors by the Camp Lejeune High School Junior ROTC, and some outstanding entertainment by the Jacksonville High School Show Choir and local favorites Carolina Connection.

In addition, many door prizes were given away throughout the night, with the grand prize (a 2000 F-150 which was recently retired from the cooperative's fleet) being won by Elizabeth Swagel of Jacksonville. Thank you to those who joined us!

Truck Winner Elizabeth Swagel (left) and CEO Ron McElheney.



Special Prize Winners

20 inch Flat Screen Television
Gerald Taylor

Couple Married Least Amount of Time
Mr. and Mrs. William Murdock

Couple Married Longest Amount of Time
Mr. and Mrs. Martin Allen

Oldest Female Member in Attendance
Evelyn West and Lillie Hewitt

Oldest Male Member in Attendance
Charlotte Holden

Ed Cole Honored With Service Award



Jones-Onslow EMC Board of Director, Ed Cole, was recognized in March for his contributions and 20 years of service.

This commendable service award was presented at North Carolina's Association of Electric Cooperatives' (NCAEC) annual meeting in Raleigh. NCAEC is the trade association for the 27 electric cooperatives in North Carolina, including Jones-Onslow.

May Is Electrical Safety Month...

Are you "in the know" about electrical safety?

Do you have any idea what those buttons on your bathroom's electrical outlet are for? Would you know if your home's circuits were overloaded?

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) urges you to use this month to learn the answers to these and other questions about your home's electrical system.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), there was an annual average of 104,500 unintentional electrical residential structure fires from 1999-2003. These resulted in approximately 500 deaths, 4,280 injuries and nearly \$1.5 billion in property loss.

Does your home check out for electrical safety?

Before you leave home in the morning, you run through a mental checklist: Keys? Lights? Blinds?

Most Americans, however, have never thought about running through a checklist that could save

them from electrocution or electrical fire: an electrical safety checklist.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) has created a free, downloadable checklist covering electrical issues that may exist inside your home.

In covering every room from the kitchen to the basement, the checklist guides users through their home's electrical systems with a series of questions and suggested action items. Do your lights flicker when you turn on the vacuum cleaner? Engage a licensed electrician to determine if your home has enough electrical circuits. Are you protected from electrocution that can result from electricity interacting with water?

To download the indoor or other checklists, go to www.electrical-safety.org



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Call before you dig: 811 number set to launch on May 1

Whether you are planning to do it yourself or hire a professional, smart digging means calling 811 before each job. Homeowners often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked, but every digging job requires a call – even small projects like planting trees and shrubs.

If you hit an underground utility line while digging, you can harm yourself or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially be responsible for fines and repair costs.

For more information, visit the Web site at www.call811.com