

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

# New EPA rules greatest threat yet to electric system reliability

## Nearly bans use of fossil fuels to produce electricity

**H**ancock-Wood Electric and our members value the reliability of electricity; it is our No. 1 priority because our lives and livelihoods depend on it. Yet the EPA has recently released new proposed rules that pose the greatest threat to the reliability of our electrical grid that we've seen in our nation's history.

Our statewide organization, Ohio's Electric Cooperatives, has been warning for months that electricity reliability has been under threat. Grid operators and regulators have issued the same warnings, but the EPA appears not to be listening. The new proposed EPA rules released Thursday, May 11, would all but ban the use of fossil fuels to produce electricity by forcing most, if not all, coal and natural gas plants into early retirement, eliminating the reliable, baseload power generation that fossil fuels provide to our electrical grid. Fossil fuel power generation is the foundation of electricity production because it is always available, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, at an affordable cost for consumers.

Our electric power system works on the principles of science and engineering and people of all political persuasions depend on a reliable supply of electricity for our health, safety, and security. Unfortunately, we will need to fight our federal government for many months and likely years to avoid the harmful effects of this unrealistic plan.

Jim Matheson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), issued a statement in response to the EPA's latest proposed rule to regulate power plant emissions: "This proposal will further strain America's electric grid and undermine decades of work to reliably keep the lights on across the nation," Matheson said. "And it is just the latest instance of EPA failing to prioritize reliable electricity as a fundamental expectation of American consumers. We're concerned the proposal could disrupt domestic energy security, force critical always-available power plants into early retirement, and make new natural gas plants exceedingly difficult to permit, site, and build."

"Nine states experienced rolling blackouts last December as the demand for electricity exceeded the available supply. Those situations will become even more frequent if EPA continues to craft rules without any apparent consideration of impacts on electric grid reliability," Matheson said. "American families and businesses rightfully expect the lights to stay on at a price they can afford. EPA needs to recognize the impact this proposal will have on the future of reliable energy before it's too late."



**Bill Barnhart**  
PRESIDENT & CEO

## EV Cars and Coffee

In May, Hancock-Wood Electric hosted an EV Cars and Coffee event at our office in North Baltimore. Our energy experts were available to answer any questions members had about electric vehicles and have an open discussion. HWE recognizes that many members are considering electric vehicle options. One purpose of this event was to provide information about EV charging and electrical requirements to our members so they can make informed decisions about EVs. Members can save with our new time-of-day rates by charging their EV off-peak from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. No matter what our members drive, we want to help you achieve energy savings. More information can be found on our website, [www.hwe.coop](http://www.hwe.coop).

We would also like to thank the Reineke Family Dealerships, which brought the F-150 Lightning ER and the Mustang Mach-E to the event.



## Fry receives Board Leadership Certification

Recently, Board Member Duane Fry completed his Board Leadership Certification. In order to fulfill duties, HWE trustees achieve varying levels of certification through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. HWE encourages all its trustees to earn these certifications because the coursework required dramatically broadens a trustee's knowledge of the electric cooperative industry, thereby enhancing his or her value to all HWE's member-consumers. All electric cooperatives in the U.S. utilize similar training. The first required certificate is the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate (CCD), which covers director duties, board operation, strategic planning, and more. After receiving the CCD, the trustee then goes on to the Board Leadership Certificate (BLC), which specializes in power supply, the cooperative business model, technology and more. The final certification is the Director Gold Credential, which is required to be completed every two years.





# Cardinal Power Plant tour

High school students from four Ohio electric cooperative territories received the rare opportunity to tour the Cardinal Power Plant, considered one of the world's cleanest power-producing coal plants in the world. Cardinal Plant will soon be only one of four coal plants still operating in the state due to overreaching EPA regulations that have forced many coal plants into early retirement.

A total of 127 students from Ohio cooperatives took part in the half-day tour. Participating were Findlay High School and Millstream Career Center (Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative); Fairbanks High School (Union Rural Electric – URE); Sheridan High School (South Central Power); and New London High School (Firelands Electric Cooperative).

“It’s important to show students there are a lot of career opportunities in the cooperative world,” said Coty Lee, safety and health supervisor at the Cardinal Plant. Some opportunities can be pursued right out of high school, and some after college, in many areas, including engineering, finance, IT, communications, human resources, line work, customer service.

The students were first shown a video to better understand the history of how not-for-profit electric cooperatives formed in Ohio in 1935 under the Rural Electrification Act. The purpose was to bring electricity outside the cities, and into the rural agricultural areas of Ohio. Students also learned how the cooperatives’ Buckeye Power, which owns Cardinal Plant, believes in an all-of-the-above approach to power generation, including coal, natural gas, solar, wind, hydropower, and biofuels. Coal is the baseload source of power generation because it is reliable and always available.

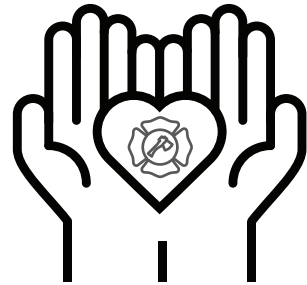
The students were given a guided walking tour inside the plant, which produces 1800 megawatts of power, enough to light 200 million LED lightbulbs. They saw firsthand how electricity is made from beginning to end. And how even the waste material left over, called fly ash, is sold, and used in the manufacturing of concrete products.

“Society pushes the narrative on young kids that coal is bad. It’s nice to have them on site so they can see a coal plant for themselves. When I was in college, all you would hear is move away from coal at all costs. You would never hear about all the jobs it offers, or the benefit of the sustainability and reliability of power generation behind it,” said Corey Seneff, IT systems analyst II.



# Operation Round Up donates \$15,215 to local fire departments

In May, Hancock-Wood's Community Trust Fund board approved two grant applications to local fire departments. Arlington Fire Department received \$7,325 and Cygnet Fire Department received \$7,890. These donations are made possible by our members who participate in the Operation Round Up Program. This program rounds bills up to the next dollar and those cents are collected and used to help fund projects in the communities we serve. To learn more about Operation Round Up visit [www.hwe.coop/operation-round-hwe-community-trust-fund](http://www.hwe.coop/operation-round-hwe-community-trust-fund).



## HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

The Hancock-Wood office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4.

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