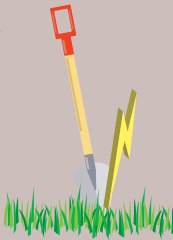




Dial Before Digging

You never really know what's below the surface when you dig. You may chop right into underground power lines. In addition to causing outages, this is very dangerous. Before digging in your yard, have the underground electric lines located. Please give us three days notice before you dig. Call us at (252) 426-5735.



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www.albemarle-emc.com

For outages, call
1-800-274-2072

Charity Golf Tournament Continues to Grow

Sixty-four players turned out for Albemarle EMC's 2nd Annual Light Up Christmas golf tournament. The number of participants was a significant increase over last year's tournament, which had 56 players.

The tournament raised more than \$14,000, which was added to \$4,000 in other contributions and used to fund the co-op's Light Up Christmas toy drive.

The tournament was recently held at the Sound Golf Links at Albemarle Plantation, located in Hertford. The Sandhills Utility Services team took first place with a score of 57. Transformer Maintenance and Utility came in second place with a score of 58. Lee Electrical Contractors came in third place, also with a score of 58.

"We can't thank the folks who played in or contributed to the tournament enough," said Brad Furr, general manager of Albemarle EMC. "Many families in our area are experiencing difficult economic challenges. We want to make sure that every child has a toy under the Christmas tree this year."

The money will be used to purchase toys for children who have been identified by coordinators in local school systems. Albemarle EMC employees volunteer their time to purchase the toys. The toys are then sorted, bagged and delivered to local schools in the counties of Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank and Camden. From there, school personnel coordinate the delivery of the toys to the parents.

"We encourage all of our members to drop off a toy at our office in Winfall," Furr said. "This toy drive is about electric co-op members joining together to help their community."



The Sandhills Utility Services golf team took first place in the 2nd Annual Light Up Christmas Golf Tournament.



Members of Carden Printing's company golf team enjoy a day on the links at the Albemarle EMC Light Up Christmas golf tournament. Carden Printing is based in Elizabeth City.

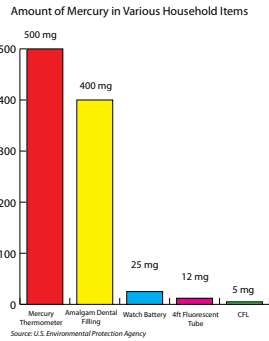
Know the Facts About Mercury in CFLs

If you have dental fillings in your teeth, chances are good that you already have more mercury in your mouth than what is in an entire compact fluorescent light (CFL).

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, an amalgam “silver” dental filling can contain about 400 milligrams (mg) of mercury, whereas a CFL bulb contains less than 5 mg of mercury. A 4-foot fluorescent tube light contains 12 mg of mercury.



If you happen to break a CFL in your home, there is no need to panic. The Environmental Protection Agency recommends that the bulb be swept up and placed in a sealed bag, such as a freezer bag. Then place the first bag in another sealed bag and throw the contents into the garbage.



Field Collections to Discontinue

Effective Jan. 1, 2010, Albemarle EMC personnel will no longer accept bill payments in the field.

The new policy will be put into effect for the safety of Albemarle EMC employees. The policy was approved unanimously by the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors. Once a service representative is dispatched to disconnect, no further time will be given and the meter will be disconnected. The member can then pay online, phone the payment in using a credit or debit card, or go to the office and pay using cash or money order. When they have paid the arrears bill, plus disconnection and reconnection fees, the service representative will return to reconnect the meter.

Members are urged to closely view the dates on their bills. If they have an arrears portion, that amount and their disconnect date will be shown in green ink, in three different places on that page. Members can save a large amount of money in fees by paying before that disconnect date. Anyone with questions regarding their due date, is advised to call the Albemarle EMC office at (252) 426-5735.

Cut Down on Water Heating Costs

To assist members with becoming more energy efficient, Albemarle EMC is now selling water heater blanket kits.

Albemarle EMC will sell the water heater blankets for \$12. In addition, members will receive a low-flow shower head, pipe insulation and two sink aerators at no extra charge, with each purchase of a water heater blanket. The blanket kits can be paid for and picked up at the Albemarle EMC office, located at 159 Creek Drive, in Hertford. Members can pay for the kits with either cash, check or credit card.

Members will be responsible for installing their own blankets. The blankets will be large enough to fit all sizes of water heaters and may need to be trimmed for smaller water heaters. A blanket will typically save between 4 and 9 percent in water heating costs.

The sale of the water heater kits enables Albemarle EMC to begin complying with the North Carolina Renewable Energy law. The state mandate requires power providers to purchase a certain percentage of electricity generated by renewable sources such as wind and solar. The mandate also gives co-ops the option of complying by enacting energy efficiency measures (such as the sale of water heater blankets). By selling water heater blankets, Albemarle EMC can earn Renewable Energy Credits (RECs). A REC is equal to one megawatt-hour of electricity generated by a renewable resource or one megawatt hour of generation that is avoided through energy efficiency initiatives.

Capital Credit Checks to be Mailed this Month

If you received service in 1985 or 2008, you will be receiving your capital credit refund check in early December.

Grant Given to Food Pantry




A \$3,600 Albemarle Community Trust grant was recently given to the Camden Food Pantry.

Merry Christmas!

Albemarle EMC will be closed Thursday, Dec. 24th and Friday, Dec. 25th for Christmas. Happy Holidays!



Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

At Your Service

How Albemarle EMC works to provide its members with the highest-quality service possible.

North Carolina's Senators Front and Center in Energy Debate

by Brad Furr, general manager of Albemarle EMC

The debate on energy legislation, including climate change, has moved to the United States Senate. As with most major legislation in the Senate, the result could come down to a close vote. Both Senators from North Carolina, Richard Burr and Kay Hagan, will play important roles in the debate. It is up to consumers to communicate with our state's Senators and let them know that cost matters.

Due to complex Senate rules, controversial legislation generally requires support of 60 out of 100 Senators. The Democrats currently hold 60 seats, but the majority does not guarantee the party will pass the legislation it wants. On energy issues, Senators must take a bi-partisan approach or bring together a majority that represent a wide range of regional interests.

North Carolina is one of only 12 states represented in the U.S. Senate by one Democrat and one Republican.

Richard Burr is completing his first term in the Senate and will stand for election in 2010. Burr has extensive experience on energy, serving on the key energy committee when he was in the U.S. House, and now in the Senate. Burr has been vocal in his support for nuclear power, criticizing the House's energy bill as too costly and lacking in support for base load generation. Burr has opposed a cap and trade program for combating climate change. Burr sits on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Kay Hagan is in her first year as a U.S. Senator. Hagan is new to many of the energy issues for electric cooperatives. It is up to consumers to communicate with Senator Hagan so she can have a full understanding of energy legislation's impact. Hagan has shown in her initial actions that she is open to a balanced approach on energy legislation. When the Senate's energy bill reaches the Senate floor, Hagan will be a key vote.

A poorly written energy bill could raise electric rates in the Southeast disproportionately to states that have more renewable energy resources. Electric cooperatives are urging both Burr and Hagan to consider the regional impacts of any energy bill that moves through the Senate. Cooperatives in North Carolina have asked their Senators to support energy legislation only if it creates real environmental benefits and protects consumers from burdensome cost increases. North Carolina's electric cooperatives support strong incentives for nuclear power, energy efficiency which benefits residential and small business consumers, and the development of cost-effective renewable resources.

Will Congress Support Nuclear Power?

Congress is working on legislation that would mandate nationwide greenhouse gas reductions. But with or without legislation, our country will move toward cleaner fuel sources that emit less carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. As we move forward in this carbon constrained world, nuclear power is one of our best energy options. North Carolina's electric cooperatives are asking their members of congress to include robust incentives for nuclear power in federal energy legislation.

Public attitudes are shifting on nuclear power. Some former opponents of nuclear power now see the benefits of this emission-free resource. A Gallup poll earlier this year showed a majority of Americans favor nuclear power.

Public opinion, Congressional action and regulatory hurdles make it difficult to construct new coal power plants. Without coal, we must depend on nuclear power, natural gas and renewable energy for future power. Nuclear power plants, while expensive to

build, are economic to run, and provide the most reliable power of all emission-free fuels. As not-for-profit power providers, co-ops have the benefit of the consumer connection – we search for affordable, clean power resources. Right now, cooperatives, by law, cannot take advantage of federal tax incentives on nuclear power. We are asking Congress to create comparable incentives so cooperatives have the ability to participate in future nuclear power projects if they benefit cooperative consumers.

One major challenge for nuclear power is the proper handling of nuclear waste. Current nuclear sites have the ability and capacity to continue storing nuclear waste onsite, but this situation cannot continue indefinitely. Congress must follow through on a plan to dispose of nuclear waste safely at a central repository or allow for next generation reprocessing as done in Europe and Japan.

Currently, half the power used by electric cooperatives in North Carolina is generated by nuclear power. When cooperatives invested in nuclear power decades ago, many wondered if the costs would ultimately benefit consumers. Now that carbon emissions are an increasing concern, emissions-free nuclear power is more attractive than ever. Cooperatives' nuclear portfolio also has provided reliable power generation at a consistent cost.

Nuclear power continues to be a topic that causes strong reactions. We hope consumers will see the benefits of nuclear power and the long safety record in this country. Nuclear power must be a major component of carbon reductions in this country to ensure that we responsibly meet our energy needs.

You can contact your Senate offices directly to tell them your concerns on energy by calling (877)-40BALANCE or by visiting the website www.findabalancedsolution.com.