

# FEC® POWER

## Source

Vol. 25 No. 04

Farmers' Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer

## Look For The Energy Label

Over \$1200 of the average annual household budget goes toward operating and heating and cooling equipment. Those energy bills, though, can be reduced by using high-efficiency appliances and space conditioning equipment.

When you shop for a major appliance, look for the yellow Energy Guide labels. There are three types of labels: Energy Cost, Energy Efficiency Rating, and Generic.

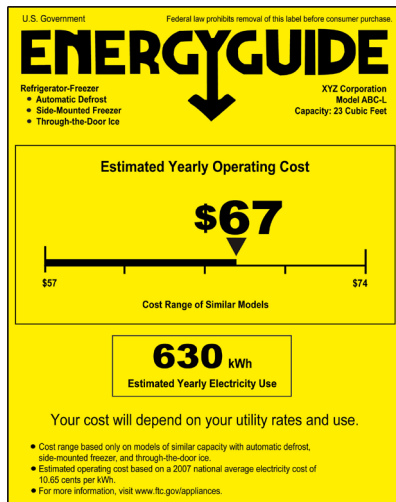
**Energy Cost:** These labels provide you with the estimated annual cost of the energy needed to operate the appliance. The bar beneath the annual cost shows the range of operating costs of competing brands and models of similar size and features. At the bottom of the label is a chart that allows you to estimate what your cost to operate that appliance will be, based on your local utility rate.

**Energy Efficiency Rating:** These labels indicate the energy

efficiency of climate control appliances such as room air conditioners. The large number in the center of the label indicates the efficiency. The larger the number, the more efficient the appliance. This label also provides a range of ratings for similar conditioners and a cost/use chart that allows you to calculate the energy cost of the appliance based on local utility rates.

**Generic:** This label appears on furnaces and contains general information on how to save energy. It also directs you to an energy fact sheet developed by the manufacturers. This sheet contains information on the seasonal efficiency of a particular model and the efficiencies of the highest and lowest efficiency model with similar capabilities.

So remember, the price of the appliance is not the only consideration to be taken, in the long run, the operating cost may prove more important.



## Why Seal and Insulate?

Air that leaks through your home's envelope – the outer walls, windows, doors, and other openings – wastes a lot of energy and increases your utility costs. A well-sealed envelope, coupled with the right amount of insulation, can make a real difference on your utility bills.



### Increased Comfort

Sealing leaks and adding insulation can improve the overall comfort of your home and help to fix many of these common problems:

- Reduced noise from outside
- Less pollen, dust and insects (or pests) entering your home
- Better humidity control
- Lower chance for ice dams on the roof/eaves

### Most Homes Will Benefit

Most homes in the United States don't have enough insulation and have significant air leaks. In fact, if you added up all the leaks, holes and gaps in a typical home's envelope, it would be the equivalent of having a window open every day of the year!

### Rebates from Farmers' Electric

Currently FEC offers a \$500 cash-back rebate for qualifying homes that have added insulation to at least R30. Call (800) 445-8541 for more details.

Manager's Message...



**Lance Adkins, GM**

**Over \$1.5 Million Being Returned in Patronage Capital Refunds**

**I**t is the time of year when Farmers' Electric (FEC) would normally be gearing up for the Annual Membership Meeting. We are excited to see New Mexico trending in a positive direction regarding active COVID cases, greater flexibility in business operations and relaxed travel/quarantine restrictions. However, it does appear that our "traditional" Annual Meeting of members, with some 400 people gathered in one location, would be difficult to manage and would be subject to cancellation or delay based on changes to the New Mexico Public Health Order. We will continue

to evaluate alternate methods of holding a meeting or at least a method to take care of key business functions. We do expect to be able to schedule the Annual or "Special" meeting as conditions allow and in accordance with FEC Bylaw provisions.

In addition to the Annual Meeting, this is the time of year FEC allocates margins from the previous year (2020) and retire patronage capital "Capital Credits" to the membership. Annual margins (profits) are those dollars left at the end of the year after all expenses have been paid and are then allocated back to the members as patronage capital, often referred to as Capital Credits. Each member's share of capital credits is based on their purchase of electricity and other electric services. Instead of these "profits" going to some distant shareholder or investor, they belong to the membership and are returned at the direction of the Board of Trustees and as FEC's financial conditions permit.

***"In fact, over the past five years FEC has returned over \$8.1 million in patronage capital refunds to the membership."***

I am pleased to report, at the FEC March Board Meeting, Trustees authorized the return of over \$1.5 million in patronage capital refunds. In fact, over the past five years FEC has returned over \$8.1 million in patronage capital refunds to the membership. All members of record in 1995 will receive the remaining balance of their capital credit allocation for that year, a total of \$798,711 with the remaining monies being returned on a percentage basis to all members of record through 2019.

To reduce the cost of printing and mailing refund checks, as well as reissuing lost checks, active members with refunds of \$100 or less will receive a credit on their electric bill rather than a paper check. Bill Credits will be issued on the April billing invoice issued at the end of April. Refunds over \$100 and inactive members will receive a refund check mailed to their current address on file around the same time.

Again, it is great to see COVID cases on the decline and the ability of businesses to increase their activity. We hope to see you soon.

Until next month,

**See the related NOTICE on page 3: "Please Help Us Find These Members"**

- Board of Trustees:**  
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**Lance R. Adkins**

**POWER SOURCE**

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[thom@fecnm.org](mailto:thom@fecnm.org)

We are on-call 24 hours each day, 365 days each year, to serve your electric power needs

To Report an Outage Call:

**Clovis**  
 (575) 762-4466  
**Fort Sumner**  
 (575) 355-2291  
**Santa Rosa**  
 (575) 472-3971  
**Toll Free**  
 (800) 445-8541



## SWIMMING POOL SAFETY

- Make sure that any lighting equipment in your pool is up to code and regularly examined by a professional. To change or repair a light, ensure the electricity to the pool is first turned off at the circuit breaker.
- If you are in the water and feel electric current, which can cause a tingling sensation, shout to let others know, try to stay upright, tuck your legs up to make yourself smaller, and swim away from anything that could be energized. Do not use a metal ladder to exit the pool.
- Remember, water and electricity are a dangerous mix, even outside the pool. Never touch any electrical appliances or outlets when you are wet or standing in water.



## Pole Inspectors in Area

Continuing through April, weather permitting, GLS, Ground Line Services out of San Antonio, Texas, will be testing poles for Farmers' Electric Cooperative (FEC) out of the Clovis Substation.

Pole testing is a yearly maintenance program that FEC performs, however, every pole is not tested each year, rather, FEC strives to test each on a ten-year rotation.



This type of maintenance program helps to ensure that FEC can continue to supply the very safest, reliable electricity to our members.

All FEC contractors should be marked as such, "FEC Contractor" on their trucks. They should also, have a letter from FEC on their vehicle dash when parked and working. You may also see some four wheelers in and around these areas as GLS crews use these to get to most of our poles. If you have any questions about pole testing or the pole testers, please feel free to contact the office at (800) 445-8541 and ask for Member Services or Engineering.

## Important Notice!

### NOTIFY FARMERS' ELECTRIC NOW IF OUTAGES WOULD STOP LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Farmers' Electric Cooperative (FEC) maintains a list of members who depend on oxygen, those on medical alert systems, or other life support systems. FEC maintains this list to provide priority service in case of scheduled outages or outages caused by storm damage.

It is your responsibility to inform FEC if any member of your family is dependent on a life support system.

In the event of a major outage, the cooperative will make efforts to contact these individuals to inform them of the approximate length of the outage and to inquire if they are in need of care.

If a member of your family is dependent on a life support system, please call the Clovis office at 1-575-762-4466 or 1-800-445-8541.

## NOTICE

### "Please Help Us Find These Members"

If you still have your April *enchantment* laying around, you might be able to help us find some folks we've been looking for. These members or former members' addresses are marked in our system as undeliverable for delivery of capital credits. Once you see the list, you'll have a better understanding as to why we are now issuing bill credits for capital credits of less than \$100 (if the capital credit is greater than \$100 or if money is owed to an inactive member, we will still issue a check). This move will save considerably on the costs of issuing so many capital credit checks. If you look back at your April *enchantment* and have information on how we can contact someone on the list, please call our office today.

## Don't Let Metallic Balloons Ruin the Party

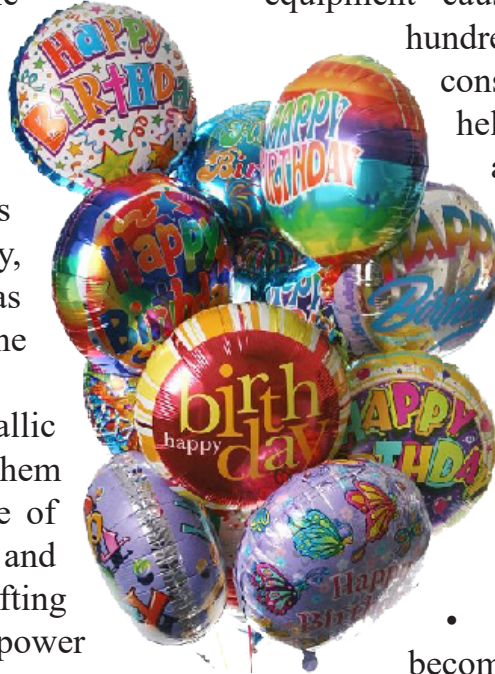
Very recently, it was determined that a rogue Mylar (metallic) balloon floated into one of our overhead powerlines causing a direct fault and power outage. It was in the middle of the day, sunny, dry, calm, not a cloud in the sky. Unfortunately, school, work, cooking, washing, drying, bathing, a whole gamut of things was interrupted by this very nuisance outage. Fortunately, the balloon on the wires was discovered fairly quickly, and the outage was short-lived.

If you celebrate with metallic balloons, remember to keep them tethered at all times and dispose of them properly. Proper handling and disposal keeps them from drifting into our power lines and causing power outages as in this case.

When a metallic balloon touches a power line or floats into substation equipment, it can cause these faults which will lead to power outages, fires, and possible injury or even death.

FEC is not alone when it comes to utilities being negatively affected by drifting metallic

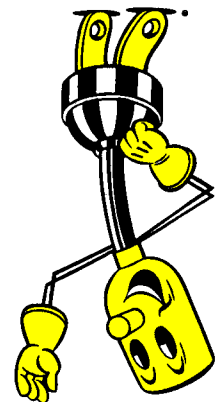
balloons. Our research showed that in a course of a year, metallic balloons that come into contact with overhead power lines and/or substation equipment cause power outages that affect hundreds of thousands of electric consumers across the country. To help reduce these nuisance outages and keep the lights on, keep the following tips in mind.:



- Keep balloons tethered at all times and attached to a weight.
- When no longer in use, puncture and deflate the balloons before disposing of them properly.

- If a balloon or another toy becomes entangled in an overhead power line, do not attempt to retrieve it. Call FEC for assistance.

Additionally, always assume power lines are energized and keep yourself and all other items away from them.



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