

THE MPPD MINUTE



New EPA Power Plant Rules Threaten Grid Reliability

On April 25, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released four major new regulations for the electric industry, including a much-anticipated rule to cut emissions from power plants, a sweeping move that will aggravate reliability concerns for electric districts and other utilities nationwide. “The path outlined by the EPA is unlawful, unrealistic and unachievable,” said Jim Matheson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. “It undermines electric reliability and poses grave consequences for an already stressed electric grid.”

The power plant rule constrains existing coal and new natural gas plants by requiring them to install carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology that is not yet reliable or commercially available.

“The new EPA rules ignore our nation’s ongoing electric reliability challenges and are the wrong approach at a critical time for our nation’s energy future,” Matheson said. The power plant rule will force the early closure of electricity generation sources that are available 24/7 and will also impede the construction of new natural gas plants. The timing of these sweeping new rules is particularly troubling as electric utilities face a surge in demand for electricity from factors like transportation electrification and the rapid expansion of data centers to support artificial intelligence, e-commerce and cryptocurrency.

Under the new rule, existing coal-fired power plants that plan to operate past the start of 2039 must install CCS to capture 90% of emissions by 2032. The rule also requires new natural gas plants that operate more than 40% of the time to install CCS and capture 90% of their carbon emissions by 2032. These standards, and their reliance on unproven CCS technology, will undermine electric reliability.

Electric utilities understand the need to keep the lights on at a cost local families and businesses can afford. Clean energy technologies must be balanced with generation sources that are always available to ensure a reliable electric grid. Electric utilities deliver power to 42 million Americans. Our top priority is to meet our members' energy needs, and we must have reliable electricity available to do that.

NRECA's Straight Talk

Konor Rakes Completes Power Delivery Program



Apprentice Lineman, Konor Rakes, has completed the Power Delivery Program through Northwest Lineman College. Along with the distant learning curriculum, Konor must also complete hours of fieldwork training in order to gain lineman and journeyman status. Congratulations Konor!

Casey Roth Promoted to Inventory Manager



McCook Public Power District is pleased to announce that Casey Roth has been promoted to Inventory Manager. This position is responsible for purchasing material, supplies, and equipment for the district. Casey began his career at the district in 2013 as the Warehouse Supervisor.