



## SIERRA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

MEMBER NEWSLETTER    March 2009

Accept that some days you're the pigeon and some days you're the statue.

A truly happy person is someone who can enjoy the scenery even on a detour.

There are new things going on all around us in our economy, in ways of doing things and of getting things accomplished. We have a new President who has his own ideas of how to fix problems. Agree or disagree with him, he is not sitting on the fence but is making decisions and taking actions. All facts considered I would not like to have his job.

There is more and more talk these days about global warming and whether it's real or just the result of natural cycles to occur. No matter which side of that argument you reside on, it looks as if we are going to have some limitations on the continued use of fossil fuels for use in the production of electricity. Different approaches to limit the effects of air emissions and the release of those emissions to the atmosphere are being proposed in regulatory bodies both at home and in our nation's capital.

For the electrical industry, cap-and-trade and a carbon tax are two methods being talked about to reduce the production of carbon dioxide. We are aware that any or a combination of these methods, if imposed on the production of electricity, will come with a price tag. They are expensive. Oil companies use carbon dioxide they capture, confine, and pump back into the ground in the production of crude oil.

Solar and wind energy are alternative methods of producing electrical energy that are themselves non-polluting. Today, their production costs and the uniqueness in their production of electrical energy present problems that have to be solved. Sierra already obtains its full allocation of hydro power that we can, and uses both solar and wind energy where we can. Conservation of electrical energy by using CFLs and new water heaters are proven ways to reduce energy consumption. Sierra members average monthly use of electrical energy is already far below the national average and among the lowest in New Mexico. When you have already squeezed the juice out of the turnip, how do you get more out? Please stay informed on these topics so you are aware of how their implementation will impact you. We will continue to work at being efficient, effective, and economical in our distribution of electricity so that we are the pigeon, not the statue.

## **Attention LIHEAP Eligible Customers: Winter Moratorium Protection Ends March 15, 2009**

Your heat will not be shut-off for non-payment this heating season, ending March 15, 2009. To avoid shut-off after March 15, 2009, please contact Sierra Electric Electric Co-op at 575-744-5231. A Sierra Electric Electric Co-op representative will assist you in making arrangements for payment.

You may also be eligible for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program or LIHEAP. LIHEAP offers additional utility shut-off protections to certain eligible customers during next winter season, beginning on November 15, 2009. Find out today if you are eligible for LIHEAP. Call New Mexico Human Services Department at 1-800-283-4465.

Para información en Español llame' 575-744-5231.