

# CURRENTS

JNEC's August 2024 Newsletter



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## New EPA Power Plant Rules Threaten Grid Reliability



The Environmental Protection Agency released four major new regulations for the electric industry this year, including a much-anticipated rule to cut emissions from power plants, a sweeping move that will aggravate reliability concerns for electric cooperatives 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 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 and 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 due to factors like transportation electrification and the rapid expansion of data centers to support artificial intelligence, e-commerce and cryptocurrency.

Electric cooperatives 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 to ensure a reliable electric grid.

Electric cooperatives like Jasper-Newton Electric Cooperative 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.

## Become a Fan of the Fan

By becoming an aficionado of your ceiling fan, you can save money on your electric bill.

Ceiling fans create a wind chill effect on your skin to make you feel a few degrees cooler. Raise the thermostat a few degrees and turn on fans to reduce air conditioning costs—which make up a big part of your electric bill.

Set fan blades to rotate counterclockwise during summer months and clockwise during winter months. Remember, ceiling fans cool people but don’t actually lower the indoor temperature. Turn them off when you leave the room. If your fan has a light fixture, consider using an LED bulb, and remember to turn off the light when you’re not using it.

Ceiling fan design has come a long way with myriad aesthetic and functional options. You can find ceiling fans big and small with lights, dimmable lights, remote controls, stylish blades, flush-mounts and down-rods. Smart ceiling fans allow you to control the device with a cellphone app.

There are even outdoor ceiling fans designed for patios, porches and pergolas. Turning the outdoor ceiling fan on can help cool you off outside on hot summer days.



Stay safe on the journey  
to and from school.



# Hurricane Preparedness

Hurricane Season is June 1- Nov. 30.

## Preparedness Checklist:

- ✓ **Make an Evacuation Plan.** Find activated evacuation routes here: [DriveTexas.org](http://DriveTexas.org) or by dialing (800) 452-9292. Call **2-1-1** to find out if you live in an evacuation zone.
- ✓ **Sign-Up for Emergency Alerts.** Make sure your device is enabled to receive Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs).
- ✓ **Prepare an Emergency Supply Kit.** Learn how to build an emergency kit here: <https://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>
- ✓ **Review Your Home Insurance Policy.**
- ✓ **Register with State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR):** <https://stear.tdem.texas.gov/> or by dialing **2-1-1** if you live in evacuation zone and:
  - have a disability or medical needs and do not have a car or other vehicle to use in an evacuation.
  - have a disability or medical needs and do not have friends or family to help in an evacuation. **\*\*STEAR Registry information collected is confidential\*\***

### Hurricane Preparedness Online Resources:

Texas Division of Emergency Management Website: [www.tdem.texas.gov](http://www.tdem.texas.gov)  
Texas Department of State Health Services: [www.texasready.gov](http://www.texasready.gov)  
American Red Cross: [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security: [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)  
Office of the Texas Governor Greg Abbott: [www.gov.texas.gov](http://www.gov.texas.gov)



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Placing heat sources, such as lamps, computers or TVs, near your thermostat can result in false temperature readings, increased energy use and inconsistent cooling/heating. Make sure your thermostat is installed in an area clear of obstructions, electronic devices, direct sunlight and drafts.

Ensuring your thermostat is free from these types of interferences optimizes energy efficiency, improves indoor comfort and reduces wear and tear on your cooling/heating system.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



# Preparación para Huracanes

La temporada de huracanes es del 1 de Junio al 30 de Noviembre.

## Lista de verificación de preparación:

- ✓ **Haga un Plan de Evacuación.** Encuentre rutas de evacuación activadas aquí: [DriveTexas.org](http://DriveTexas.org) o marcando (800) 452-9292. Llame **2-1-1** para averiguar si usted vive en una zona de evacuación.
- ✓ **Regístrese para recibir alertas de emergencia.** Asegúrese de que su dispositivo esté habilitado para recibir Alertas de Emergencia Inalámbricas (AEI).
- ✓ **Prepare un estuche de Suministros de Emergencia.** Aprenda cómo construir un estuche de emergencia aquí: <https://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>
- ✓ **Revise su póliza de seguro de hogar.**
- ✓ **Regístrese en el Registro de Asistencia de Emergencia del Estado de Texas (RAEET):** <https://stear.tdem.texas.gov/> o marcando el **2-1-1** si vive en una zona de evacuación y:
  - tiene una discapacidad o necesidades médicas y no tiene un automóvil u otro vehículo para usar en una evacuación
  - tiene una discapacidad o necesidades médicas y no tiene amigos o familiares para ayudar en una evacuación. **\*\* La información recolectada del Registro RAEET es confidencial \*\***

### Recursos en línea para la preparación en caso de huracanes:

Sitio web de la División de Administración de Emergencias de Texas: [www.tdem.texas.gov](http://www.tdem.texas.gov)  
Departamento de Servicios de Salud del Estado: [www.texasready.gov](http://www.texasready.gov)  
Cruz Roja Americana: [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)  
Departamento de Seguridad Nacional de los Estados Unidos: [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)  
Oficina del Gobernador de Texas Greg Abbott: [www.gov.texas.gov](http://www.gov.texas.gov)

