

The Circuit!

AUGUST 2021

A publication for our Members
in the counties of
Atoka • Bryan • Choctaw
Coal • Johnston



February's Polar Vortex Suspended Progress

Cost of Service Study (COSS) Resumes...

Early this year SEC gave notice to the Members of work that was in progress aimed to update the Co-op's Rate Schedules. Most of the Cost of Service Study analysis had already been accomplished by the C. H. Guernsey Company (Rate Consultants/Engineers); and the Board of Trustees were prepared to move through the approval process for a moderate rate adjustment when the **Polar Vortex** hit. This historic 11 day event

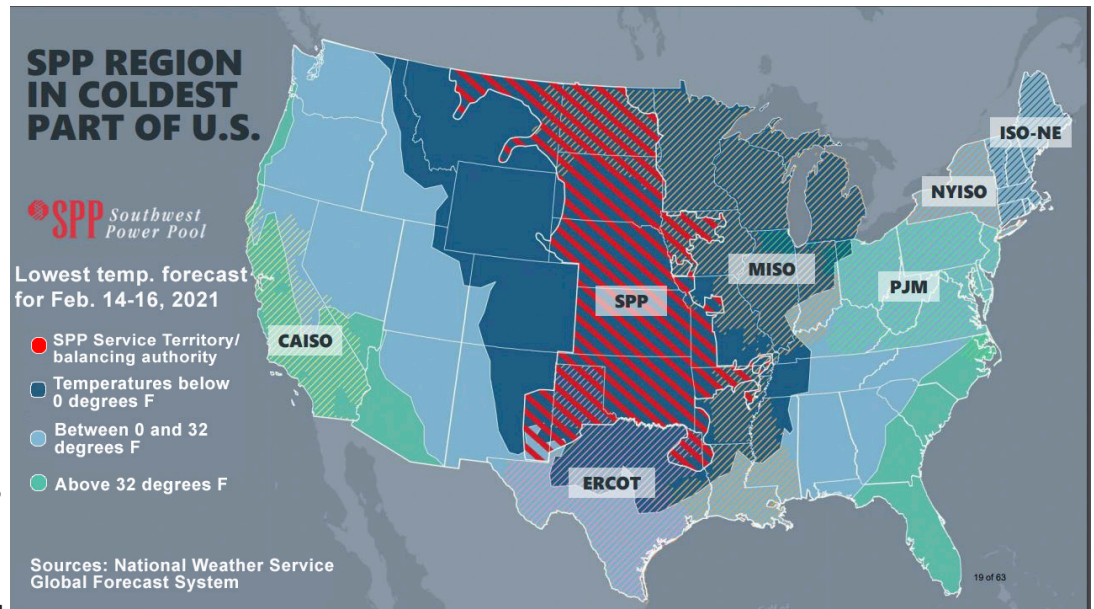
in mid-February changed the capability to generate and supply electricity in the deep South, causing the progress on the Rate revision to be halted in order to evaluate the impact.

Every consumer in this region experienced either a rolling blackout or some measure of a usage restriction; along with higher electric bills. These were not local decisions but actions deployed by the Regional Transmission Operator, the Southwest Power Pool (SPP). We weathered the storm so-to-speak but there were costs incurred by the power generators and passed down to the distribution utilities (like SEC) that will have a long lasting impact on future electric bills.

Fortunately, the enormous financial impact that was expected right after the Polar Vortex has not come to fruition. Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, (SEC's power provider) has worked tirelessly with the SPP on the Market Settlement pricing which has resulted in a greatly improved outcome for our consumers.

The SEC Board of Trustees wants to assure the Membership that the upcoming Rate Revision will be designed to minimize the impact of the Polar Vortex with the objective to provide a moderate Rate increase to our residential consumers. The last Rate Revision was over 8 years ago but due to the sound financial decisions since 2013 by the Board of Trustees and Management, we believe that the adjustment to the Residential Rate Schedule will be minor and equitable to all residential consumers.

In the **September** edition of *The Circuit!*, we will provide more details of the 2021 Rate Revision so that each consumer Rate Class can see the impact of the adjustments.***



Right-of-Way Spray Finally Begins



SEC has finally been able to schedule its annual Right-Of-Way Spray Program for the 2021 year. Normally, the SEC spray program begins mid spring. However, with the consistent heavy rainfall our service area has been getting it has caused a rather lengthy delay.

This year, Apex ROW LLC, a highly experienced Spraying Contractor out of Arkansas will be doing the service. SEC contracted with Apex ROW back in

2019 as well.

The areas that will be treated in 2021 are the areas off of the Coleman, Boggy Depot and Lane Substations. These substations include but are not limited to the townships of Coleman, Lane, Crystal, Bentley, Harmony, Stringtown, Atoka and Tushka.

The purpose of this program is extremely important for our rural electric Members to receive quality service. Brush and shrubs that are in SEC's right-of-ways are the target for the spray. This will help prevent growth up into the powerlines.

The herbicide mixture that will be used consists of Method 240 SL, Arsenal, Escort XP and MSO which is a product added to the mixture to enhance the effectiveness of the treatment. These herbicides are manufactured and supported in the US by Corteva Agriscience, BASF and Bayer.

There will be five Apex crews assigned to this project. There will be a team leader/driver to supervise each crew. The herbicide will be fully enclosed and secured and there will be a full time manager on duty at all times to oversee all operations. For any questions, please contact the Cooperative at 580-924-2170. Also, remember to "LIKE" and follow our Facebook page for the latest updates. ***



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