

***Scholarship Opportunities for Sophomores and Juniors!***

Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative along with eight other cooperatives in the northeast Texas area are making plans for the 28th annual East Texas Rural Electric Youth Seminar (*ETREYS*). *ETREYS* is an all-expense paid week-long leadership and motivational seminar that was developed to promote Cooperative philosophy, ideals and values among young people. Speakers will include nationally-known personalities, college professors and community leaders. Students will be given the opportunity to enhance their leadership and problem-solving skills in a positive learning environment on a college campus as well as compete for scholarship monies that will be awarded during the week.

URECC will sponsor 15 students for the seminar which will be held at East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, Texas the week of June 27—July 1, 2016. Students in their sophomore or junior year in high school who are interested in a “life-changing experience” by taking part in the seminar have until March 31, 2016 to submit an application. Applicant’s parents or legal guardians must be active URECC members. *ETREYS* applications are available from your school counselor or they can be downloaded off our website at [www.urecc.coop](http://www.urecc.coop). Click on the “Community” tab, then *ETREYS*.

***Upshur Rural Electric Now Participating in Youth Tour!***

Cooperatives play an integral role in community development. In addition to the scholarships we award to graduating seniors and the scholarship opportunities for Sophomores and Juniors, Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative will now also award an all-expense paid trip for one high school student that has attended *ETREYS* to Austin, Texas and Washington D.C.

The Government-in-Action Youth Tour is sponsored by Texas Electric Cooperatives and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. It provides selected students an unforgettable opportunity to visit our state and nation’s capitals and to see with their own eyes the sights they may have only experienced in history books or on television.

In addition to visiting monuments, museums and historical sites, students will get to meet their members of Congress and have a chance to participate in the wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. For more information, contact Lynn Gray at 903.680.0267 or visit [TexasYouthTour.com](http://TexasYouthTour.com)

**Only students that have participated in our *ETREYS* program may apply to be considered for this trip. *ETREYS* applications for the seminar this summer are due by March 31, 2016!**

**2016 ANNUAL MEETING**

The URECC Board of Directors has set the Annual Meeting of the Members for Thursday, April 7, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. An official notice of the meeting will be mailed to each member of the Cooperative as required by the Bylaws. There will be entertainment and registration beginning at 12 noon. The business session will begin at 1:30 p.m. At the end of the business session, there will be a drawing for door prizes. The prizes will include electric bill credit vouchers and small electrical appliances. The mail in ballot door prize is a \$150 electric bill credit voucher.

We obtained permission to share with our members the following article that was published in the ECT.COOP newsletter. It is an update on the status of the Clean Power Plan.

## Supreme Court Puts Hold on EPA Clean Power Plan

By Cathy Cash, ECT Staff Writer  
Published On February 10, 2016

**Electric cooperatives said they welcome the U.S. Supreme Court's Feb. 9 decision to block the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan until all legal challenges to it are resolved.**



The Supreme Court has blocked the Obama administration's climate change rules from taking effect, pending further litigation. (Photo by: Steven Johnson)

"Charging ahead with implementation of the Clean Power Plan would have caused immediate and irreparable harm to America's electric coops," said NRECA interim CEO Jeffrey Connor.

"Had the stay not been granted, co-ops would have been forced to take costly and irreversible steps to comply with the rule, which is a huge overreach of EPA's legal authority. The Clean Power Plan is a direct threat to co-ops' ability to provide affordable and reliable electricity to their member consumers and should be erased from the books."

Under the 5-4 order, the Clean Power Plan is on hold until the Supreme Court either takes up the case and issues a final decision, or denies a request to hear an appeal.

That means a final resolution might not come until 2017. A federal appeals court is scheduled to take up arguments on the case in June.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative petitioned the Supreme Court Jan. 27 to stay the Clean Power Plan after a federal appeals court rejected pleas to halt the rule. NRECA, 38 electric coops and other utility interests joined the petition.

The order, issued without explanation, responds to a similar request filed by 29 states and industry interests. Legal analysts noted that it is unusual for the court to issue such a stay when a regulation has been finalized, indicating the court has doubts about the plan's legality.

The Clean Power Plan sets carbon dioxide limits for each state to achieve an overall emissions reduction of 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. The rule's compliance period was set to begin in 2022. It is aimed at fossil-fuel generation.

NRECA has estimated that total compliance costs for electric coops could reach as much as \$28 billion.

An appeals court is scheduled to hear arguments in June.



Our offices will be closed on March 25, 2016 in observance of Good Friday.