



ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATIONS
OF MISSISSIPPI

ENERGY SOLUTIONS



We believe in straight talk

The environment — and most significantly “climate change” — is demanding worldwide attention. Your electric power association, its board and management share a healthy concern for our environment, and our power suppliers operate in an environmentally responsible manner. We have and will continue to be steadfast in this commitment.

Our quality of life is based upon safe, clean, reliable and affordable electric service. Electricity is the engine that drives our economy, and we must be careful as policies are developed to address problems related to the climate change.

The electric utility industry is facing critical issues. It's important you know what's happening and stay informed as elected officials consider solutions, because it's likely you will be affected by their decisions.

As the new administration in Washington considers our energy future, your electric power association will be watching for legislation that could cause you to pay more for electricity, or make your service less reliable.

We pledge to keep you informed of

You need to know

As we monitor energy-related proposals and legislation in Washington, our chief areas of concern are:

- Your **cost of electricity**, which could certainly increase as a consequence of federal mandates or legislation.
- The **availability of electricity** now and in the future. Our country is facing a supply issue with electricity. You can help by practicing energy efficiency in your home and business. But a growing population and greater dependency on electricity will certainly create the need to build plants to generate additional power.

legislation that affects our industry. The quality of life we enjoy depends upon reasonable action by our elected officials. They need to be urged to support sound policies to ensure we maintain an electric service system that serves our electric power association members.

You and more than 1.7 million Mississippians depend on a not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric power association for affordable, reliable electric service. And because high-quality service, not profit, is our goal, we have an obligation to deliver straight answers to your energy-related questions.

We work for you. And we will do everything in our power to keep your electric service affordable and reliable.

Terms you should know

Learning a few common terms will help you understand the energy issues being reported in the news media and debated in your community.

- **Base load plant:** A power plant that runs throughout the day to produce the electricity (base load power) that customers use constantly.
- **Cap and trade:** A system of regulating greenhouse gases, like carbon dioxide, where each source (like a power plant) has a limit placed on the amount of gases it can release — the *cap*. Those who emit less than the cap can sell their extra allowances to those who are not able to make reductions as easily — the *trade*.
- **Carbon tax:** A proposed tax on energy sources that emit carbon dioxide, based on the carbon content of a particular fuel, meant to curb both carbon emissions and consumption of coal, natural gas, and oil.
- **Clean coal:** Refers to the technology used by a power plant to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.
- **Coal-fired power plant:** A plant that burns coal to produce electricity.
- **Greenhouse gases:** Gases in the atmosphere (including carbon dioxide, methane and ozone) believed to contribute to global warming.
- **Grid:** The network of power lines used to move electricity from power plants to electric utility customers.
- **Nuclear power plant:** A facility in which nuclear fuel produces heat to power a steam turbine to generate electricity.
- **Renewable power:** Electricity generated by natural resources that can be replenished, such as wind, solar and geothermal.

Sources: Electric Information Administration Web site, South Mississippi Electric Power Association

