

Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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In Case of an Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, call 800-407-2217. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. After-hours calls will be answered by the dispatch and standby personnel.

24-hour Electrician Service

If you are without electricity or have an electrical emergency on your side of the meter, we have a master electrician on staff available 24 hours a day.

Ditch the Rule—Clean Water Act Changes May Affect You!

The mission of rural electric cooperatives has always been to provide reliable, affordable electricity to their members. Rural electric cooperatives also take pride in taking care of the environment, including water resources. We know that water is essential to the way of life we all value—to our homes, our businesses, and our communities. Without water, life ceases to exist.

We at Lane-Scott Cooperative, along with electric cooperatives nationwide, understand and support the need for reasonable environmental regulations that protect our valuable resources without unduly burdening citizens. We get it. However, we are concerned that the recent actions by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) to expand their authority over the Clean Water Act (CWA) will most certainly have a cost impact on the many we serve.

If issued as proposed last spring, the rule will allow the agencies to dictate land-use decisions on isolated waterways, including puddles, ponds, ditches, and even on areas that are normally dry until impacted by significant rainfall.

I thought the Clean Water Act already protects our water!

If you're thinking that the CWA, which was passed in 1972, protects navigable waters and

tributaries to navigable waters, you are right. Under the CWA, it is unlawful to discharge pollutants into navigable waters—also known as “waters of the U.S.” or WOTUS—unless a permit, is obtained and those discharges are controlled under a program administered by the EPA.

An example of a Kansas navigable waterway that currently falls under the CWA is the Arkansas River; an example of a Kansas tributary that connects to it is the Little Arkansas River. Currently, Kansas has 30,620 stream miles that fall under federal jurisdiction.

Since 1972, however, the EPA and the Corps have tried to broaden the definition of “waters of the U.S.,” which would disallow state and local governments from overseeing smaller waterways. Previously, the U.S. Supreme Court, maintaining that the CWA applies to already defined navigable

waterways, continued to restrain the reach of the EPA and the Corps.

Unfortunately, in 2006, the U.S. Supreme Court was less decisive, with one justice opening the door to the expansion of the EPA's and the Corps' reach. This justice wrote that a “significant nexus” or connection between an isolated waterway and a navigable body of water could make isolated waterways fall under the CWA.

If the CWA is expanded as now proposed, federal oversight will increase. While the CWA currently applies to navigable



waters or those waterways that significantly connect to navigable waters, the proposed rule will apply to smaller waterways and even some dry land. The number of classified stream miles in Kansas will increase from 30,620 to more than 134,000, miles, and many agricultural and industrial activities will be viewed as impacting a “water of the U.S.”

As the Farm Bureau has stated, an expansion of authority, even routine activities—such as installing fencing, managing brush, pruning shrubs and trees, applying pest control, or driving an implement through a ditch on land impacted by infrequent water streams or collection points caused by runoff—could require permits from the federal government.

The revised CWA will require farmers and ranchers to meet otherwise voluntary Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) standards for everyday normal farming activities and voluntary conservation practices or face CWA liability. Linking normal farming exemptions to NRCS standards would make current voluntary conservation standards subject to EPA enforcement.

How will this impact me?

If you are a farmer or rancher, the

impact will be immediate. Even if you are allowed to continue your current land-use practices, now you will have to apply to the federal government for permits to use your land affected by the more restrictive CWA. This process will consume valuable time that could be used for growing your business and helping the Kansas economy flourish.

For those who are not rural business owners, the impact may be less immediate but no less real. When business owners, whether in agriculture or other industry, are forced to comply with unnecessary regulations, the price of goods and services increases.

How can we stop this?

Lane-Scott Electric is not the only entity speaking out against WOTUS. The Kansas Agricultural Alliance—which includes the Kansas Electric Cooperatives and 13 other Kansas organizations—is also supporting the grassroots movement to stop EPA and the Corps from the unnecessary expansion of the CWA. Please consider joining the nationwide movement created by Farm Bureau called DITCH THE RULE! Send your comments to the EPA and Corps via a user-friendly electronic form at <http://ditchtherule.fb.org>. The public comment period ends Oct. 20. Let your voice be heard today.

Thank You Notes

Dear Lane-Scott,

Thank you for the Heritage Meter Lamp. It will be a treasure and reminder of the time spent with friends while serving as a Trustee at Lane-Scott Electric.

Bruce Wilkens

Dear Lane-Scott,

Thank you for supporting the Lane County Fair and 4-H.

Ethan Shapland, Eager Beavers

Dear Lane-Scott,

Thank you for sponsoring the Grand Champion Jr. division wood-working. I enjoyed it. Thank you!

Trey Boone

Dear Lane-Scott,

We greatly appreciate your contribution to our children's summer program, Get Set. Your donation will be used towards helping with the supplies expense for the group and also to help provide the opportunity to take the children on field trips.

Thank you for your generosity

Compass Behavioral Health

8 Things Every Parent Should Teach Children About Electric Safety

Children often do not understand the danger of electricity and electrical equipment. In their innocent and imaginative minds, what can be potentially dangerous may go unnoticed, or even appear enticing and fun. Lane-Scott recommends teaching children to follow these eight electric safety rules:

- 1. Before you climb a tree... look up for power lines.** Even if the power lines aren't touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to the branch.
- 2. Only fly kites and model airplanes in large, open areas.** Look for wide open spaces like parks and empty fields, away from overhead power lines or other electrical equipment such as substations. Electricity can travel down kite strings, especially when the string is damp. If
- toys get tangled in power lines, let go of the line and contact Lane-Scott for assistance.
- 3. Never climb a utility pole or tower.** In addition to the risk of a fall, the electricity carried through this equipment is extremely high voltage and can kill instantly.
- 4. Keep off of pad-mounted electrical equipment.** These green metal “box” transformers on cement pads are normally well insulated, but moving, opening, denting or climbing on the box is dangerous.
- 5. Don't go into an electric substation for any reason—even on a dare.** Electric substations contain high-voltage equipment; even raising your hand inside one can cause an arc that may result in an electric shock. If a pet, ball or
- any toy enters a substation, call Lane-Scott for assistance.
- 6. Tell an adult about downed power lines.** You can't tell if a line is energized or not just by looking at it, so children and pets should stay at least 20 feet away from downed lines. Children should report the downed line to an adult, law enforcement and call Lane-Scott.
- 7. If you're wet, avoid touching light switches, sockets or cords.** Similarly, avoid walking or playing in flooded areas. Wires underground might still be active, and can shock or kill.
- 8. Seek shelter if lightning or thunder is present when outdoors.** Even if a storm seems miles away, you're still at risk. As the saying goes, “when thunder roars, go indoors.”