



Enhancing Reliability: Five Fascinating Insights into Vegetation Management

In celebration of National Right of Way Professionals Week, June 12-18, Jones-Onslow proudly showcases the expertise of our Vegetation Management program. Vegetation management is a crucial aspect of ensuring uninterrupted power supply. Our program goes beyond the maintenance of clear rights-of-way and is a testament to their unmatched proficiency. Here are some intriguing parts of their approach that might surprise you:

1. Proactive "Danger Tree" Mitigation: JOEMC's approach extends far beyond clearing rights-of-way. Crews actively identify and remove "danger trees," whether dead or at risk of falling, to preemptively prevent storm-related outages and potential circuit damage. By prioritizing the removal of these hazardous trees, JOEMC not only significantly

reduces the risk of prolonged outages but also instills a strong sense of reliability in our members.

2. Limb Interference Prevention: A simple brush of tree limbs against power lines can cause momentary disruptions, known as "blinks," leading to inconveniences such as clock resets. JOEMC advocates for planting only low-growing vegetation near power lines to mitigate this issue. This proactive approach minimizes interruptions and enhances the overall reliability of the power supply for members.

3. Adequate Clearance Advocacy: Visibility and accessibility are paramount during outage situations. JOEMC encourages its members, especially those with underground lines, to maintain sufficient clearance around their equipment. This proactive measure

ensures that during emergencies, such as storms or equipment malfunctions, JOEMC crews can swiftly access and address issues, minimizing downtime and enhancing service reliability.

4. Regular Maintenance Cycles: Regular maintenance of rights-of-way is essential in regions characterized by high vegetative growth. JOEMC adheres to industry best practices by implementing consistent vegetation management cycles. By routinely cutting, trimming, and managing rights-of-way, JOEMC mitigates potential risks posed by overgrown vegetation, ensuring the continued reliability of the power infrastructure.

5. Homeowner Responsibility: While JOEMC takes responsibility for managing vegetation along group lines, homeowners (*continued on page 2*)



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Bright Ideas Early Bird Deadline is August 15

As the school year winds down, teachers in Onslow County, Jones County, and the Topsail area should apply now for a 2024-25 Bright Ideas grant from JOEMC! Creative ideas in the classroom could earn you up to \$1,500 in funding.

The deadline for applications is September 15, but you could get an even bigger reward if you're an "early bird"! Submit your application before the early bird deadline of August 15, and you will be automatically entered to win a \$100 Visa gift card.

For more information and to apply, head to ncbrightideas.com.

Vegetation Management (*continued*)

are empowered to play a crucial role in maintaining the reliability of their individual house connections. They are not just encouraged, but entrusted with the task of clearing vegetation around transformers and other equipment, preventing potential disruptions and ensuring the uninterrupted power flow to their homes.

In addition to these proactive measures, JOEMC utilizes AI DASH (Data Analysis for System Health) to enhance its vegetation management practices. By leveraging advanced data analytics, JOEMC can identify potential risks, optimize maintenance schedules, and improve overall system resilience. Through proactive vegetation management strategies and innovative technologies like AI DASH, JOEMC continues to uphold its commitment to providing reliable and efficient power supply to its members, even in challenging environmental conditions.

As we commemorate this week's dedication to recognizing the expertise of Right of Way Professionals, let us extend our appreciation to our dedicated Vegetation Management team for their exceptional efforts.

Two Local Students Receive Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships

Jones-Onslow is delighted to announce Peyton Hughes and Emmaleigh Hansen have been selected to receive Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships.

Emmaleigh Hansen will be heading to the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp at the North Carolina State University in Raleigh, while Peyton Hughes will be attending the Carolina Basketball School at the University

of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this summer.

"These scholarships are a fantastic way to provide a one-of-a-kind education and athletic opportunity" said Krystal Phillips, Communications and Community Relations Manager at Jones-Onslow EMC. "We're proud to reward local student-athletes with the opportunity to have fun, make new friends and develop skills to help them excel on and off the court."



Elevate Your Energy Management with JOEMC

Navigating energy usage and costs can be challenging, especially with fluctuating temperatures and increased demand. That's why JOEMC provides our members with resources to manage their monthly usage. JOEMC's many offerings are designed to empower you to manage your energy consumption effectively.

Our personalized video bill explanations offer a transparent breakdown of your energy usage, highlighting any significant changes in your bill compared to previous statements. Whether your bill increases or decreases by \$30 or more, you'll receive a tailored video that helps you understand where your energy dollars are going and provides actionable tips to optimize your usage and save money.

a more convenient way to manage your bills. Registering is quick and easy at billing.joemc.com, ensuring you can start receiving your personalized energy analysis videos soon.



In addition to our personalized video bill explanations, JOEMC offers a wealth of resources through our EnergyWise page at joemc.com/energywise:

- Home energy audit tools for gaining insights into your consumption patterns.
- Specialized appliance calculators to estimate energy usage for specific devices.
- A diverse video library featuring practical tips and advice for improving energy efficiency.
- Information about available programs and rebates aimed at incentivizing energy-saving upgrades.

Questions about your bill or need further assistance? Our highly knowledgeable team, equipped with years of experience, is always ready to help. Simply give us a call at **(910) 353-1940**, and we'll provide the support you need.

With JOEMC's commitment to personalized assistance and comprehensive resources, you can take control of your energy usage, reduce costs, and contribute to a more sustainable future. Discover the power of personalized energy management today.

Login to your account

Not Registered?

Forgot your password? Click [Here](#).
You must still call the office at 910-353-1940 to request to have your account unlocked.
Not currently a Jones-Onslow member and need to request service? Fill out an application [here](#).

If you're already enrolled in our online bill pay system and have an active email address, you're already benefiting from this valuable resource. And if you haven't yet signed up for online bill pay, you're just a few clicks away from



TWO-INGREDIENT WATERMELON CREAMSICLE SMOOTHIE

Watermelon can be diced, sliced, balled or blended, and it provides several health benefits. Watermelon contains higher levels of lycopene than any other fresh fruit or vegetable and is a source of vitamins A, B6 and C, as well as potassium.

Source: www.carolinacountry.com
Servings: 1

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups cubed watermelon
- 2 tablespoons heavy cream

DIRECTIONS

1. In blender, combine watermelon and heavy cream; blend.
2. Pour into a glass to serve. Garnish with a small cube of sliced watermelon.



Threatening Reliable Energy



Gary W. Ray, CEO

Ensuring the lights stay on and energy remains affordable for American families and businesses is not just a fundamental expectation, it's a responsibility we all share. However, this assurance is no longer guaranteed. In the next five years, 19 states nationwide face a high risk of rolling blackouts during normal peak conditions. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) has issued numerous reports underscoring the current jeopardy of the grid's reliability.

On April 25, 2024, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) unveiled its long-awaited final rules, targeting existing coal and new natural gas power plants. Unfortunately, the EPA's rule is a misguided plan, arriving at a critical juncture for our nation's energy future. It will diminish available generation resources precisely when we escalate our dependence on electricity

to fuel a more significant portion of the economy.

JOEMC and other electric cooperatives across the country believe these rules are unlawful and unachievable and pose a significant threat to reliable power in the United States. Specifically, we contend that the final rule:

Disregards the Law and Supreme Court Decisions:

The rule violates the Clean Air Act because EPA asserts vast new authority of major economic and political significance without a clear statement from Congress. This disregards the "major questions doctrine" and is inconsistent with the text, structure, and context of Clean Air Act Section 111.

Requires the Use of Inadequately Demonstrated Technology:

While carbon capture and storage is a promising technology, it is not yet widespread or commercially available and thus has not been "adequately demonstrated" as required. No units in the country consistently achieve the EPA's required 90% capture rate while operating at baseload levels. Electric co-ops are national leaders in the testing and development of carbon capture. Because of that leadership in innovation, co-ops understand the complex challenges associated with

making CCS work at every affected power plant.

Mandates Unrealistic and Unachievable Timelines:

Even assuming the technologies work as EPA envisions, there is insufficient infrastructure, especially massive pipeline networks, to support CCS and hydrogen. The necessary infrastructure cannot reasonably be expected to be in place in time to meet EPA's requirements.

Jeopardizes Reliability and Affordability:

The final rule, if implemented, will reduce key generating resources, exacerbating today's reliability challenges and leading to severe consequences for an already strained electric grid. This will coincide with a surge in the demand for electricity as we electrify more of the American economy. In essence, the final rules will jeopardize reliability, resulting in more blackouts, higher costs, and increased uncertainty for American families and businesses.

Your voice matters. I urge you to reach out, through [VoicesForCooperativePower.com/epa-act-now](https://www.voicesforcooperativepower.com/epa-act-now), and let your representatives in Washington know that you stand with JOEMC and the other electric co-ops in the country in opposing the EPA rule. Your actions can make a difference.



Did you know ceiling fans can help you save energy? Ceiling fans create a windchill 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.

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.

Source: energystar.gov

