

EMC Re-Elects Three Incumbent Directors

Three incumbent directors were re-elected at the Annual Member Meeting of Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation held Saturday.

Re-elected for three-year terms were: James A. Whitehurst, Route 1, South Mills-Camden County; Walter B. Lowry, Jr., Route 4, Elizabeth City-Frisquetank County; John N. Bunch, Route 2, Edenton - for all counties served by the EMC.

During the meeting Ed Brown, Jr., general manager, presented his report to the membership. He stated "reliable and realistically priced wholesale power continues to be the number one problem facing your Cooperative." Brown mentioned that Albemarle EMC paid some \$1.6-million for wholesale power in 1978 - compared to \$664,000 in 1974 - about a \$1-million increase in just five years! "Another way to look at or break down the wholesale power cost in 1978 is to say that for every dollar taken in it costs 62 cents to pay for wholesale power."

Brown reported that the financial condition of the cooperative is excellent and that the membership now owns some 36 per cent of its system debt free.

The EMC manager pointed out the fact that the system is in excellent shape as far as meeting members' demand for power, but, as for service reliability from its wholesale supplier, Virginia Electric and Power

Company, there continues to be a problem. Brown said that, "1978 was the worst year of performance in recent years as an average outage time per consumer was 9.87 hours, 7.37 hours or 75 per cent, came as a result of problems on Vepco's system over which your cooperative had no control."

In other matters, Brown reported that the co-op's board has approved a general return of capital credits to members for 1981 and 1985 of \$38,672, which will be mailed to members the first week in November. With the \$38,672 retirement of capital credits, the cooperative will have returned well over one-half million dollars to EMC members and estates since the cooperative was formed.

The manager made one last point: "That being as we look to 1980's, we have no reason to believe that an end to increases in the price of electricity are in sight."

James M. Hubbard, executive vice president for the N. C. Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc., of Raleigh made some comments before Albemarle EMC and guests.

Hubbard referred to the fact that double digit inflation is taking its toll on the utility business. For instance a power plant in 1969 could be built for \$150 per kwhr of generation capacity but today the cost has risen to \$900-\$1,200 per kwhr. Inflation and time delays are major factors in the increased cost of building a power plant.

Hubbard pointed out that a power plant which was built in five years, today it would take 5-7 years just for the planning of that power plant. The North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Department

of Energy, and Rural Electrification Administration are making efforts to develop a peat fired generation plant in Eastern North Carolina.

Hubbard went on to say that oil and gas reserves in the United States are dwindling. He stated that "we'd better be developing the full potential of coal and nuclear resources of this country."

Strike Continues

TARBORO — The strike by the Communications Workers of America (CWA) against Carolina Telephone and Norfolk Carolina Telephone companies, which began October 1, enters its third week Monday with no change in either side's bargaining position.

T. P. Williamson, vice president - administration with the two telephone companies, said the companies have not changed their offer of pay and benefits packages worth \$15-million for some 3,100 Carolina Telephone bargaining employees and \$1-million for about 255 Norfolk Carolina bargaining employees. The CWA continues to demand a cost of living wage adjustment position.

Carolina Telephone is managing Norfolk Carolina, which will merge into Carolina Telephone. Both are members of the United Telephone System.

Williamson said, "Despite the strike, both local and long distance service remain good companywide and repair service is adequate. However, somewhat limited installation service is being provided."

"So that we do not fall too far behind in installations, and to be sure that we continue to meet the public's service needs, the company will today begin hiring to fill vacancies created by the

strike.

"Customers can help ensure the best service by dialing their own long distance calls direct, avoiding operator assistance, and by calling at nonbusy hours - after 5 P.M. weekdays and anytime on weekends. Also, rates are lower at these times.

"Customers can further help by mailing their payments to the company, or by paying at collection agencies which are located in many towns served by the company."

- Secure reflective tape on all sides of the costume.
- Make swords, knives, broomsticks and magic wands of cardboard. In the event of a fall, cardboard is less likely to cause injury.
- Use makeup instead of a mask. The experts advise that makeup will remove more easily if applied to a cold cream base.
- Chairmen Sharpe says most parents realize the importance of safety precautions for trick-or-treaters, but he offered these reminders:
  - An adult or responsible older teenager should accompany children on their trick-or-treat rounds.
  - Children should stay in their own neighborhoods, leaving only with parent to visit the home of a friend.
  - Youngsters should carry flashlights, not candles.
  - They should look for houses with well-lighted porches or front yards and avoid knocking on darkened doors.
  - An adult should examine carefully all treats before a child eats them. Unwrapped or home-wrapped items such as popcorn should be discarded unless they come from a close friend. Fruits should be washed well and cut into small pieces.
  - "All Hallows Eve" is a night for motorists to take care also. Sharpe says motorists should drive slowly, mindful of children darting from door-to-door.
  - Common sense and a few simple precautions can make Halloween fun instead of frightening.

Vepco Decision Draws Criticism

WASHINGTON — Recent announcement by Virginia Electric and Power Company (Vepco) that it was abandoning its two nuclear reactors under construction at its North Anna Nuclear Plant Site in Virginia due to national unrest and uncertainty over nuclear power, came as no surprise to Operation Overcharge.

J. Larkin Little, chairman of the consumer group battling Vepco over exorbitant electric rates, said the timing was surprising.

"Actually, Vepco stopped construction on the two reactors quite sometime ago, and, obviously, the story was an effort by their public relations consultants to make the most of a bad situation," Little said.

Vepco's announcement would be almost laughable if it didn't concern such a serious subject, Little pointed out. "There are not many power companies in the nuclear generating business as responsible for the national unrest over nuclear electric power generation as Vepco," Little contended. "Vepco has had so many avoidable accidents in the nuclear

generation area that it is the most fined power company in the country by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission," Little pointed out.

Meanwhile, commenting on Vepco's statement that it might convert the two new sites at North Anna to coal producing power plants, Little said some experts would find this "difficult to accept."

"Experts in the field do not think it's wise to build coal using plants on the same site where nuclear power is being produced and

Trojans Crown Homecoming Queen

During the halftime of the Immanuel Trojans' 48-12 Homecoming win over Emmanuel Christian of Elizabeth City, the Trojans crowned their 1979-80 "Trojan Queen."

Escorted by Rev. Ashby Browder of Edenton, Miss Pam Comstock of Plymouth, was crowned Trojan Queen '79 by reigning queen Miss Terri Cowan of Windsor. Miss Comstock is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Julian Comstock of Plymouth.

First runner-up to Miss Comstock was Miss Kelly Coon of Edenton. Tim Brabble of Edenton served as Miss Coon's escort. Miss Coon is the daughter of Mrs. Charlotte Coon of Edenton.

Second runner-up to the queen was Miss Denise Overton of Edenton, escorted by Ricky Browder of Edenton. Miss Overton is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Overton of Edenton.

Miss Coon and Miss Overton will serve as princesses in the court of the Trojan Queen.

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