

Skim the net metering article here (<http://blog.euci.com/?p=321>) and think of the long term implications for our co-op. Gradually, our distribution system is going to have less and less intrinsic value as more and more people opt-out and the co-op tries to pay its bills using “an attempt to desperately cling to an outdated business model”.

Do you sell your buggy-whip factory before or after the Model-T is announced? Before, because after it has only scrap value. It is extremely conservative to say that within 10 years you would not build a rural new electricity-using-facility or home hooked to the co-op, unless you like flushing money down the loo.

That’s why you should never vote for the new by-laws. Section 2.09 (see below) states that if you substantially reduce your electricity use or disconnect from the co-op that you are on the hook for whatever income the co-op thinks they were going to get from you – forever. Say your current summertime bills are \$200. If you conserve and with alternate power that bill is half of what it is today, the co-op can still charge you the full bill – forever.

What a great idea, the co-op that is dying administratively, financially, and democratically is signing us up against our will to pay them - forever. Even if management, and the market forces that the Board refuses to acknowledge, run the buggy-whip factory in the ground – you pay forever. How in the world is that reasonable, fair, or appropriate for a 70 year old co-op? How can that fly under contract law?

Here is new by-law Section 2.09 – Reduction in Cooperative Services:

As required or allowed by Law, and as determined by the Board, if a Member substantially reduces or ceases the use, receipt or purchase of electricity from the Cooperative, then the Cooperative may charge the Member, and the Member shall pay to the Cooperative, the reasonable costs and expenses incurred by the Cooperative in reliance on prior assurances regarding the anticipated future use of electric service by the Member.