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Rural Montana

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VIEWPOINT Dave Wheelihan



Dave Wheelihan

New technologies to energize the future

This month's Rural Montana takes a look at, among other issues, new technologies being deployed or worked on by electric cooperatives across the nation.

The technology issue is important to our electric cooperatives because it holds one key to better uses of electricity and cleaner new generation. We have said it before that our country needs to invest in new technology that speeds up the timeline for bringing new, clean generation on line to meet electricity demands.

We believe that Congress also understands the need to develop new technologies. The recently passed bill to address the nation's financial crisis contained several provisions that will stimulate new technology development in energy.

The bill contained an

extension of the production tax credit for wind generation, funding for clean renewable energy bonds, which electric cooperatives use for development of renewable energy projects and funding for clean-coal technology and enhanced oil recovery.

All of these incentives should help the development and deployment of technologies that will be the future of energy production. Our thanks to Sen. Max Baucus, who fought hard to include these provisions in the final package approved by Congress.

Also in this month's Rural Montana, our Trustee Speaks piece addresses geothermal energy potential in Montana. We recap the recent Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association annual meeting with relevant comments on the leg-

islative landscape and our energy future from speakers at the meeting.

Hunting season is here and we have a photo quiz and story on ethics in the field. Brian Shinn, coordinator of Montana's Fish, Wildlife and Parks TIP-MONT program shares his views on proper hunter behavior. Thanks to our readers for providing most of the game photos we used in the article.

Be sure to check out the Face of Montana, Del Lonnquist of Helena, who has devoted much of his life to the service of seniors.

In our Dateline, D.C., feature, members of the Montana delegation share their remarks from the annual meeting.

As always, we hope you enjoy this month's issue of Rural Montana.

Dave Wheelihan is CEO of the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association

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