

# We're Ready for the Storm



**MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER ALAN LESLEY**

**With the coming of spring, thoughts turn to warmer days ahead. And, given the long dry spell we Texans have endured, hopefully we'll have some wetter days ahead.**

While it would be a blessing for our area to receive some much-needed rain, what we at CECA don't want to see are the strong storms that often accompany the turning of the season.

Besides hail and the threat of tornadoes these storms bring, they also feature frequent lightning and strong winds. These can all leave damage in their wake, especially to our electric distribution system.

Fixing this damage is a part of our lineworkers' job, and, as I have often stated, these people are exceptional at what they do. If the power goes out, whether from storms, vehicle accidents or even a curious critter getting into equipment, they are there to restore your power—day or night, and usually in a matter of hours.

In fact, they are so good at what they do, longtime co-op members may take this speedy restoration for granted.

A manager of one Texas electric co-op that recently added several new members told me a story about a weather event that spoke volumes about the co-op's reputation for reliable service.

A couple of months ago, the manager said, a storm left some of the co-op's members in the dark. The phones at the office lit up with frantic calls—almost all from

But, no matter how much you trust us to return your life to normal after the power goes out, it's still important to report any outages to us so we can more easily pinpoint the source.

those newest members, concerned about a long wait without electricity. Virtually none of the old-guard members called, because they were so used to getting their lights back on quickly. Well, as they expected, power was quickly restored thanks to a crew of dedicated lineworkers.

We hope that you take our service equally for granted. But, no matter how much you trust us to return your life to normal after the power goes out, it's still important to report any outages to us so we can more easily pinpoint the source.

You can do that by calling our 24-hour outage line at 1-800-915-2533.

I also want to remind you that if a storm or other event downs power lines, stay away from them and call us or local authorities as soon as you can. Even if the lines don't look energized, treat them as if they are. Live lines often don't spark or jump but still carry a deadly current. And if the ground is wet, stay far away from them. Water is an excellent conductor of electricity.

Let's hope for rain. We certainly need it. If that rain comes with storms, we are ready to deal with the aftermath.

After all, at CECA, our mission is to provide you with safe, reliable electricity at the most reasonable cost possible to improve your quality of life.

## CECA

P.O. Box 729  
Comanche, TX 76442

*Operating in Brown, Callahan, Comanche, Eastland, Mills, Shackelford and Stephens counties*

### HEADQUARTERS

201 W. Wrights Ave.  
Comanche, TX 76442

### EASTLAND OFFICE

1311 W. Main St.  
Eastland, TX 76448

### EARLY OFFICE

1801 CR 338  
Early, TX 76801

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday  
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
*Eastland closed from noon to 1:15 p.m.*  
*Early closed from 1 to 2 p.m.*

### YOUR LOCAL PAGES

This section of Texas Co-op Power is produced by CECA each month to provide you with information about current events, special programs and other activities of the cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Shirley at the Comanche office or at [sdukes@ceca.coop](mailto:sdukes@ceca.coop).



## CONTACT US

### CALL US

**(325) 356-2533** local or  
**1-800-915-2533** toll-free

### FIND US ON THE WEB

**[ceca.coop](http://ceca.coop)**

# The War Years

Part III of Comanche Electric Cooperative History

BY SHIRLEY DUKES



**War changes things. There's probably not one among us who has not had our lives touched in one way or another through some war in history. For Comanche Electric Cooperative, formerly Comanche County EC, it happened first in December 1941, when Pearl Harbor was attacked. World War II was just beginning for the United States, and the sacrifices began immediately. On December 13, 1941, at the last board meeting of the year, CCECA faced the first of many issues that would plague it during the WWII years: Should CCECA's substation be monitored 24 hours a day during a State of National Emergency? Should priority rating be given to securing materials for the purpose of building extensions to dairy farms, poultry farms and oil-well production to assist the National Defense Program? Should the cooperative purchase defense bonds and savings stamps?**

The decision was made to contact with Texas Power and Light Company to guard the CCECA substation, and a suggested plan of action was worked out for the organization of a REA Civil Defense to patrol sections of cooperative lines. Due to the critical situation of vital materials necessary for the national defense, it was decided that the cooperative would notify persons who had not connected service. If they had not wired within a period of 15 days, their services would be removed so that the co-op could serve persons who desired to become members of the cooperative to produce food vital for the National Defense Program. They also addressed the issue of savings stamps in the following letter that was sent to each employee, accompanied by a \$5 savings stamp:

*"To The Employees:*

*Christmas of 1941 is here and what a present has been laid in our National Chimney Corner.*

*The world is topsy-turvy, every Nation is fighting for its conception of world values. Some conceptions are right and some are wrong. We will go forward with the assurance that ours are right and that right will win.*

*The Great Teacher, whose nativity we celebrate, taught men to live and die. Rather than give up his ideals he gave up his life. Like Him, we of America have no choice but to fight for our conception of right. And in the fight the entire Nation must be mobilized; Military, Civil, Business, and Home.*

*During this time the Comanche County Electric Cooperation Association will serve in every possible way it can considering present world conditions. The service of the Cooperative depends on you as an employee to do your part, we are counting on you. We wish to express our sincere appreciation for your cooperation in the past and we trust you will accept this token of appreciation in the spirit it is given.*

*The age old 'Merry Christmas and Happy New Year' seems a bit incongruous. But we wish you for Christmas inward calm and peace and determination now so necessary and the sincere hope that 1942 will bathe dawn of a brighter International Day, but until the dawn of this new day, 'Remember Pearl Harbor' and 'KEEP 'EM FLYING.'*

*Sincerely,*

*BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND SUPERINTENDENT"*

World War II brought with it a shortage of many items and services that would ultimately affect the cooperative through the new power supplier, Brazos River Transmission Cooperative. By early 1942, the War Production Board had issued a stop order to the newly formed transmission cooperative. Through a report from Mr. Reonigke with the Rural Electrification Administration, the board was informed that the previous application to become a member of the Texas Power Reserve would have to be resubmitted. The first application was signed for the sole purpose to purchase a mobile generating unit to be owned and controlled by Group IV of the Texas Power Reserve, of which CCECA was a member. Legally the funds could not be made available to one group but would have to be made to the State of Texas Power Reserve.

Now, due to a mandate from the government's Office of Production Management, work was frozen on all projects less than 40 percent complete as of December 5, 1941. In February 1942, after an investigation by the War Production Board, the newly formed transmission cooperative was given permission to proceed with a portion of the line construction, but other construction not necessary to the war effort would be put on hold until shortages ceased.

By June of that year, the war began to affect the employees of the cooperative. As best can be determined, J.D. Guy was the first to resign because of war-related issues when he was appointed chairman of the War Board. In September, two more employees, a Mr. Watson and a Mr. Kibler, had joined the Army. But that would not be the end. In 1943, CCECA attorney Fredrick G Harmon was granted a leave of absence after being appointed to the office of Immigration and Naturalization Examiner in the Department of Justice at its district office in Denver. And in July 1943, A.C. Thomas, superintendent and manager of CCECA was reclassified from III-B Classification to I-A Classification, meaning he was placed high in the order for the military draft. In an effort to retain the services of this man who was considered to be irreplaceable, the board drafted a 523-word resolution and appointed a committee of two to personally appear before the State Appeals Board to first request a reconsideration of the I-A Classification, and a six-month deferment if the

reclassification did not pass.

The November 1942 board meeting was dedicated to the war effort, with an emphasis being made on the scrap metal market, or lack thereof. In attendance were: C.F. Denny, chairman of the Comanche County Salvage Campaign; Mr. Jessup, chairman of Eastland County; J.E. Whitesides, chairman of Brown County; and Maj. E.L. Glasier, coordinator of scrap collection for the Army with headquarters at Camp Bowie in Brownwood. A recent survey had shown that 83 percent of all iron and steel scrap was in the possession of individuals and families in rural areas. Glasier stated that the nation's steel mills needed 17 million tons of steel and iron if they were to continue at full capacity.

"Fighting equipment and weapons are made with materials taken from the soil, the same good Earth that supplies us with our life's blood—food," he said. "Our War Machines need steel, copper, brass, zinc, lead, rubber, gasoline and oil, and this supply cannot be met by digging in the earth, but must be collected from the junk that is scattered all over this Great Nation of Ours, the majority of which is in the hands of the farmers. Farmers of this section have generously answered the call to arms by supplying not only their share of the manpower for this great struggle, but are working day and night to furnish this Nation and our Allies with food and clothing."

Glasier further stated that the U.S. Army would lend to the cooperative, both trucks and men; trucks to help in the pickup of hard-to-move scrap, and soldiers from intelligence units whose appearance in uniform could be counted upon to help emphasize the need. The result of this all-important meeting would be a Scrap Salvage Campaign in the rural areas of Comanche, Brown, Eastland and Stephens counties that would unite and coordinate rural areas of the CCECA service territory.

By the end of that first year of the war, Comanche County Electric Cooperative had a net income of \$18,446.59, derived from 740 miles of rural electric power lines serving farmers in Comanche, Brown, Mills, Eastland and Callahan counties. That included about 16 miles of idle line as a result of the unusually heavy migration of small farmers to industrial centers in search of higher wages. With this in mind, the board unanimously voted to use the idle line and materials for the sole purpose of furnishing power to members who would produce more necessary food to assist the farmers in meeting the increased food production requirements in 1943.

January 1943 started out on much the same note as 1942 had ended. At the January board meeting, Miss Mamer, home economist of the Applications and Loans Division of REA,



explained to the directors the use of electricity in the war effort, stating that the women members of the cooperative should be mobilized to assist in the job of increasing essential foods that would, as stated by U.S. Agriculture Secretary Claude Wickard, "win the war and write the peace." Miss Mamer explained to the board that she, the superintendent and office personnel had worked out a form that would help organize cooperative members into an organization known as the REA Food Forces. A survey form to be filled out by each member would indicate approximately 60 jobs that could be done by the cooperative member to assist in the food production and would greatly assist the cooperative and the USDA War Boards in securing material and equipment for the cooperative member to not only increase food production, but also to alleviate the manpower shortage, which was very critical on U.S. farms at that time.

The board of directors of CCECA voted unanimously to enter into this program with the Agriculture Adjustment Administration (AAA), and other agricultural agencies assisting the farmers to increase the food production of 1943. A record would be kept at the CCECA office to recognize the efforts of cooperative members in the program, giving members who enrolled in the REA Food Forces recognition of their work and rank them according to the number of war jobs completed, as well as publishing each month in the local newspapers and Kilowatt Express, the name of cooperative members completing war jobs.

At the same time this was happening, Board President W.S. Price was attending the first Annual Meeting Convention of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in St. Louis. Apparently the meeting was a huge success, as it had to be moved to a larger room because of the attendance of more than 1,000 delegates from 40 states. These delegates came to the conference determined to make the requests and demands of the American farmers heard in Washington, D.C., and let Congress and the president know that the farmers of REA cooperatives were determined to take full advantage of their REA power in the Food Production Program. Price reported that the convention delegates "were fighting mad." They elected a delegation to go to Washington to work out something with the War Production Board, whereby the farmers could make greater use of electric power available in the rural sections of the country for the "winning of the war."

CCECA's own A.C. Thomas was one of the delegates selected to attend the Washington conference. He reported that the farmers had heard repeated calls made upon agriculture to produce at a rate never before achieved and that coop-

eratives had been repeatedly rebuffed in their efforts to provide electric service with which more farmers might power the tools of production. They had lost all patience with the groups who apparently believed agriculture should try to do the job with wooden plow methods and drastically reduced number of farmworkers.

The convention followed on the heels of an order from the War Department Board, which, at face value, appeared to release stocks of idle materials for additional farm production use. Known as P-46-c, the order gave permission to use some of the idle materials. However, 6A and 8A copperweld and amerductor were excluded. On January 27, 1943, the delegates to Washington had a conference with Mr. Nelson, Mr. Krug and Mr. Marks of the War Production Board (WPB) in regards to the use of the 6A and 8A conductor. The WPB assured the group that they would either take up the idle materials and put them into the armament program, or permit the cooperatives to use it until steel could be made available, and that they hoped to announce shortly new allocations of steel to be used for the increased food production.

These same delegates also conferred with Acting Secretary of Agriculture Grover Hill, requesting that he appeal to WPB to reduce the animal unit requirements. On average, only big farmers could qualify for service, and most of those were already connected. The average farmer at that time with five animal units was producing for the war and needed the use of electric power to assist in the movement. Therefore, the group urged that the minimum number of animal units be reduced to five. In an effort to solve the farmstead wiring problem, the delegates requested that the WPB make available materials to help resolve the problem.

It was about this time that a number of bills were introduced into the House and Senate that could have endangered the entire Rural Electrification Program in the state.

House Bill 230 required special approval by the attorney general of all contracts involving public power projects, a move that would cause the REA to be bogged down in legal red tape. Private utilities, whose contracts were not subject to such special supervision, could build their well-known “spite” lines and ultimately obstruct the REA in various ways.

Senate Bill 309 aimed to dismiss the present 21-member Board of Directors of the Brazos River Conservation and Reclamation District and replace it with a new board of nine members. In plain language this was, in effect, a disguised attempt by the private utilities of the state to steal the Possum Kingdom project from the public and divert it to their own hands.

House Bill 520 would have increased the taxes on public power properties and boosted the price of electricity to all rural users.

In February 1943, the directors of CCECA began a cam-



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paign in which they telephoned and wrote to their representatives and senators protesting these bills and any bill that would affect public power in the state. By April it was decided that more drastic measures be taken, and former state Rep. Frank Howington of Comanche was authorized to travel to Austin and do whatever he could to defeat these bills. Through these efforts and the efforts of the REA cooperatives and the State of Texas, Senate Bill 309 was killed in committee by a vote of 9-3. House Bill 230 passed with a vote of 69-55, but only after suitable compromises were made.

In June 1943, the cooperative decided it was time to purchase war bonds. With an interest rate of 2.53 percent, and a maturity of 12 years—redeemable after six months with probated interest—it was decided that the Series F bonds were the most practical option. CCECA purchased a \$5,000 war bond at a cost of \$3,750. Additional \$5,000 Series F war bonds were purchased in August and September of that year, and February and July 1944 and in May 1945.

In January 1945, A.C. Thomas, manager of CCECA, announced his desire to retire from CCECA as of January 31 to accept a position as manager of Texas Power Reserve Electric Cooperative, Inc. W.S. Price was selected as the director of choice to serve on the Brazos River Transmission Electric Cooperative in fulfillment of Thomas' seat on that board. Ory J. Grigsby was selected as the temporary superintendent of the cooperative for a six-month period at a salary of \$225 per month and \$25 per month mileage. At the February board meeting, out of six applicants, Grigsby was permanently selected as the new manager. However, the REA did not approve of CCECA's choice of manager and Grigsby still had to fulfill his probationary six months, and had to write a letter to the REA explaining his accomplishments before he would receive their blessing.

In September 1945, Japan officially surrendered, the final act in ending a war that had affected the lives of all Americans, as well as Comanche County Electric Cooperative.

# Welcome Our New Employees

**Elizabeth Weathermon** is the new accounting clerk for CECA. She is a recent graduate of Tarleton State University, where she received a business degree with a focus on accounting and finance.

Weathermon resides in Comanche, where she enjoys playing tennis, spending time with family and friends, and reading.

**Thomas Stevens** is our newest addition to the outside crews. He is a groundsman working in our northern territory out of the Eastland office.

Stevens is a recent graduate of Ranger High School and a member of Gunsight Baptist Church. He enjoys the outdoors and loves to fish.



**LEFT:** Elizabeth Weathermon joined CECA as an accounting clerk.

**BELOW:** Groundsman Thomas Stevens is the latest addition to our Eastland outside crew.



## Larry Jacobs Retires

**Congratulations to Larry Jacobs on his recent retirement from CECA! Jacobs retired January 8 after 33 years of dedicated service to the cooperative.**

Jacobs began his career with CECA in 1979 as a groundsman and equipment operator. In 1990, he moved to the Maintenance Department, where he remained until his retirement.

Jacobs has not decided just what he is going to do now that he is all grown up.

We thank him for his dedication these last 33 years, and wish him a very happy retirement and good luck in the future!!

**Save at all the right places!**

Another great benefit from CECA

Save from 10 to 60 percent on prescriptions at more than 60,000 pharmacies nationwide. Use your card to get discounts on prescriptions that are not covered by insurance.

It's so easy. When purchasing prescriptions, just present your Co-op Connections card at a participating retail pharmacy to receive a discount!

To find providers in your area, go to [locateproviders.com](http://locateproviders.com). Use 22203 as the group number under the "Groups" login section and enter your ZIP code to search for providers near you.

For other great discounts with your Co-op Connections card, visit [ceca.coop](http://ceca.coop).

*Pharmacy discounts are not insurance and are not intended as a substitute for insurance. The discount is only available at participating pharmacies.*

# Scholarships Available

**CECA will award four \$1,000 Scholarships for Excellence and two \$1,000 Operation Round Up Scholarships in 2013.**

To qualify for the scholarships, students must be claimed as a dependent of parents or legal guardians who are active CECA members residing within the cooperative's service area. They must maintain a 2.0 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale, and must meet general entrance requirements at an accredited school. The applicant can be a graduating senior or a student currently enrolled in a college or university.

For the Scholarship for Excellence, students are required to write an essay on the topic: "What Makes a Business Excel for 75 Years." For the Operation Round Up Scholarship, an essay is not required, but students' parents or legal guardians must be members of the CECA Operation Round Up program. Applications must be received by April 12, 2013.

For details on scholarships or to obtain entry forms, contact the Member Services Department at 1-800-915-2533.



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## Pay Your Bill Online!

**Springtime is just around the corner, and who wants to be stuck in the house writing checks and paying bills? With CECA's many bill-paying options, you won't have to!**

### Automatic Payments

CECA continues to offer automatic bank draft and credit card payment options. If either of these methods are for you, contact any one of our customer service representatives for information and forms.



### Online Bill Pay

We invite you to try out our easy-to-use online features. With this option you can:

- ▶ View your current and past bills.
- ▶ Make payments.
- ▶ Set up a one-time payment or recurring monthly payments.
- ▶ Sign up for alerts and notifications.
- ▶ Update account information.
- ▶ View your billing and payment history.
- ▶ Sign up for leveled billing.
- ▶ Sign up for paperless e-billing.

First-time users are required to contact CECA for setup instructions. Once your account is registered, you may access it at any time by visiting our website at [ceca.coop](http://ceca.coop) and clicking on the "Pay Bill Online" or "Account Services" button. This service is always available for your convenience.

Online Bill Pay and E-bill not only makes life easier for you, but it also saves the cooperative money, allowing us to keep our rates low and competitive.

For additional information or questions, contact CECA's Member Service Department, or any of CECA's customer service representatives at 1-800-915-2533 or [memberservices@ceca.coop](mailto:memberservices@ceca.coop).

## 'WE PROMISE'

**CECA HAS A PURPOSE:** To power communities and empower members to improve the quality of their lives. We do this by providing you with quality electric service and exceptional commitment to our members through the service we provide. In an effort to prove to you our dedication to this purpose, our employees make a promise to you to always be there for you.



*'I'm working hard to earn your trust every day.'*

**JIMMY CUELLAR** is a customer service representative in our Comanche office and has been with us for nine years. His is the smiling face that greets you as you walk through the front door.



*'CECA donates its time and resources to improve the quality of life at the center. We are proud to be members.'*

**ALDERSGATE ENRICHMENT CENTER** is a Christian-based organization near Early. It is designed to help those individuals with limited abilities maintain their dignity and reach their full potential.



# Conservation **MATTERS**

Drips aren't just a noisy annoyance in the middle of the night. They can waste a gallon or more of water every day—water you've paid to heat, if it's a hot water leak.



## Save Money on Water Heating

**Besides heating and cooling your home, heating your water uses more energy than anything else in the house.**

In fact, the U.S. Department of Energy estimates that the typical family spends up to 18 percent of its utility dollars on water heating.

Good news: It's simple to lower that cost. Here are eight tips:

- 1.** Get rid of your old showerheads and bathroom faucets: They pump out way more water than you need to comfortably get clean. In their place, install low-flow faucets and aerating showerheads. The less water you use, the less you have to pay to heat it.
- 2.** If you notice a leaky faucet, repair it immediately. The U.S. Geological Survey estimates that a faucet that drips 20 times per minute will waste a full gallon of water every day. If that happens to be hot water, you are washing money down the drain with every drip.
- 3.** Lower the thermostat on your water heater to 120 degrees. The Department of Energy says that's a safe and sanitary temperature, and it will keep you comfortable at bath time, too.
- 4.** Insulate your electric hot water tank—but don't cover the thermostat. Do-it-yourself kits are readily available and very affordable.
- 5.** Wrap the hot and cold water pipes that connect to the water heater.
- 6.** Drain about a quart of water from the tank every three months to remove sediment. Built-up gunk in the water heater can make it inefficient because it has to work harder to transfer heat to the water.
- 7.** If you're in the market for a new water heater, choose a high-efficiency model with the Energy Star label. High-efficiency water heaters use 10 to 50 percent less energy than traditional models.
- 8.** Water heaters can last for up to 15 years, but new models are so much more energy efficient than older ones that it may be worth it to replace yours if you've had it for seven or more years.

If you do install low-flow faucets or showerheads, or if you are looking at changing out your water heater or adding a blanket or pipe wrap, contact the Member Services Department at CECA by calling 1-800-915-2533. You might qualify for one of our ecoPOWR Rebates!



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## Featured Businesses

### CJ's Diner

Located on the northwest corner of the Comanche Courthouse Square, CJ's offers a full menu of classic Texana dishes, all served in a friendly atmosphere. CJ's features homemade pies and real homestyle cooking. Original hardwood flooring and collectible decorations create a setting that is unmatched in Central Texas. A full menu is served from 5:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday, closed on Saturday and Sunday with the exception of special weekends. The restaurant also features a noon buffet. A separate dining room is available for private parties, special occasions and meetings.

- LOCATED:** 135 W. Grand Ave., Comanche
- PHONE:** (325) 356-5330
- HOURS:** Monday-Friday, 5:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
- OFFER:** 10 percent off on Monday lunch

### Seal-Tite Insulation

These days you have to be very careful what you put into your home and into the environment. Seal-Tite Insulation is not only safe for your home and future, but it will also help you save money on your utility bills from the moment it is installed in your home. Our product could cut your energy consumption by up to 50 percent, thereby decreasing the amount of energy used, and reducing your power bill as well as reducing the waste of our planet's valuable resources. We offer a 5 percent discount to all cooperative members within a 60-mile radius of our home base. Call us today for a free in-home estimate.

Serving the Central Texas Area

- PHONE:** (254) 967-5891
- OFFER:** 5 percent discount on the gross total of your job



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# Tame Your Trees

We love our trees, but when branches are too close to power lines, they can cause power outages, fire hazards and other safety concerns.

**Here are some rules to follow:**

- ▶ If a tree or a large branch is touching—or falls on—an electric line, call your electric cooperative immediately. Tree sap is an excellent conductor of electricity, so a downed branch on a line is an electrocution hazard as well as a fire hazard.
- ▶ Never trim trees that grow close to power lines; that is a job for professionals. Call your electric cooperative for assistance and guidance.
- ▶ Use extreme caution when doing any overhead trimming. Branches often fall in unexpected places.
- ▶ Don't allow children to climb trees or build tree houses close to power lines.
- ▶ Plant trees appropriate distances from all power lines, including those along the street or right-of-way, as well as those running to your home and outbuildings.
- ▶ When planting a tree, plan ahead. A tiny tree may eventually grow large enough to damage power lines and possibly interrupt power during storms. At maturity, your trees should be at least 10 feet away from power lines.

**CECA encourages you to always be safe.**



## Spring Forward!

**Daylight Saving Time begins March 10.**

Set clocks one hour forward, and change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

HEMERA | THINKSTOCK



*Save ENERGY • Save MONEY*

**Appliances account for about 13 percent of your home's energy use.**

- ▶ If your appliances and electronics have energy-saving settings, use them.
- ▶ If they're nearing voting age, consider replacing them with a new, energy-efficient model. Consider both the purchase price and operating cost when buying new appliances.
- ▶ Use smart power strips for smaller appliances and electronics that continue to draw power even when turned off.

*Source: U.S. Department of Energy*