

# Highlines

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A Publication  
for Cleco Power  
Customers

*Thank you Cleco Power customers. Without you, we couldn't serve our community.*

## New power plant halfway complete

Travelers on Interstate 49 near Boyce may notice the progress Cleco is making on its Rodemacher (pronounced road-uh-maker) 3 unit. Construction is halfway complete, and work is progressing on the conveyor system that winds over Hwy. 1 and under I-49.

"We're also building an unloading facility on the Red River," said Clark Bordelon, senior engineering project coordinator. "The conveyor will move the fuel, petroleum coke, from the unloading facility to the power plant."

This unique way of moving the fuel as well as the fuel itself will save Cleco customers money, Bordelon said. "Petcoke is a product left over from the oil refinery business," he said. "We're going to use this Louisiana product and



▲ **U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander (center) recently visited the Rodemacher Unit 3 construction site accompanied by Cleco leaders, (from left) Anthony Bunting, Jeff Hall, Bill Fontenot & Brady Baudin.**

transport it on Louisiana's waterways. This is good news for customers as the price of natural gas keeps going up."

During the construction process, the plant has had visitors from across the United States and throughout the world. Recently, U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander toured the construction.

"As a nation, we are facing many challenging energy issues from the types of fuels we use to the costs of those fuels," he said. "Cleco is one company tackling these tough issues with this \$1 billion project. Rodemacher Unit 3 will supply low-cost power to their customers by using an innovative fuel. This project is good for the state and comes at a time when it is needed the most."

The unit is on schedule for completion by late 2009.

◀ **Rodemacher Unit 3 project team members, Bud Frederick, Thomas Nash & Clark Bordelon review construction plans.**

## Cleco lowers storm costs for customers

Although hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit nearly two and a half years ago, Cleco and the Louisiana Public Service Commission haven't stopped working to lower the customer costs associated with the storms.

In March Cleco issued \$180.6 million of securitized storm

recovery bonds.

"We're using approximately \$50 million to prepare for future storms and the rest to pay for repairs following Katrina and Rita," said Mike Madison, president and chief executive officer of Cleco Corporation.

"We've been working on this

process for more than two years," said Madison. "We made a commitment to implement the best storm-recovery plan for our customers, and we kept our promise." Customers have seen a \$2.26 decrease in their average monthly bills due to the storm cost reduction.

# WATCH OUT FOR Hot Spots



## Help us keep you safe

Cleco needs your help in teaching children to respect electricity.

“Most people don't know that about seven children in the United States are injured each day because they inserted an object into an electrical receptacle,” said Mike Clark, manager of safety, training and emergency management for Cleco. “We want to keep you and your children safe.”

According to a study by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, about 2,400 children receive emergency room treatment as a result of not being safe around electrical outlets. The report found that more than 70 percent of these incidents occurred while an adult was present.

Each spring, Cleco promotes safety awareness through its Hot Spot demonstrations at dozens of schools throughout Louisiana. In addition, safety advertising and other school presentations target children. “We're going to do everything we can with our message, but the most effective way to reach a child is through their parents or grandparents,” Clark said. “It just takes a minute to point out what is safe and what is unsafe.”

Simple tips like avoiding receptacles and cords and keeping small appliances like hair dryers away from water are important for children to learn.

Parents and children can also visit the Electrical Safety World site at [www.cleco.com](http://www.cleco.com) for games and tips on staying safe around electricity.



From the Cleco  
Employee Cookbook

## Catfish Parmesan



1/3 cup sliced almonds  
2/3 cup Parmesan cheese  
1/4 cup all-purpose flour  
5-6 small catfish filets  
1/2 teaspoon salt

1/4 cup melted margarine  
1/4 teaspoon pepper  
1 teaspoon paprika  
1 egg, beaten  
1/4 cup milk

Preheat oven to 400°F. Place almonds in shallow baking pan and roast for 4-6 minutes, or until light brown. Cool. Combine Parmesan cheese, flour, salt, pepper and paprika in shallow bowl; mix well. Beat eggs with milk in bowl. Dip catfish in egg mixture, dredge in cheese mixture. Arrange in lightly greased 9x13-inch baking dish. Drizzle with margarine and sprinkle with almonds.

Reduce oven temperature to 350°F and bake for 35 to 40 minutes or until catfish flakes easily.



▲ Cleco Cut-A-Watt Crew members (from left) James Eli, Jill Kelone, Tommy Cartwright and Tripp Dungan apply weather-stripping around the back door of a home. The four were part of a 25-member employee team of volunteers that recently weatherized a total of 10 senior citizens' homes in Deville, Mansura, Bunkie and Cheneyville. Volunteers completed basic caulking, weather-stripping and other simple projects and installed compact fluorescent light bulbs throughout the seniors' homes. Cleco worked with a local non-profit agency to identify the seniors.

◀ Cleco's Gwen Olivier, shows Gloria Girouard, executive director of United Way Iberia, some of the coats Cleco employees collected during the Coats for Kids program.

# Cleco investing in good service

In 2007 Cleco invested nearly \$6.9 million in clearing rights of way and inspecting and maintaining its system. The numbers show the investment is paying off with fewer outages and outages that are for shorter periods of time.

According to 2007 data reported to the Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC), the average Cleco customer has fewer than two power outages a year. Combined duration of these outages is two hours and 21 minutes in duration.

“We are constantly looking for ways to provide better service to our customers,” said James Lass, Cleco general manager of distribution engineering and emergency management. “While we've always trimmed trees and made repairs to our system, last year we implemented a new approach that will ensure we take

**Scotty Franks (right), a Cleco project coordinator in Bunkie, works with Shannon Franks, Pike Electric contractor, to be sure the lines are clear of vegetation near the Hunt Plywood Plant in Pollock.**

care of the lines with the worst performance to ultimately reduce the number and the length of outages for customers.”

Part of the planned approach is pole inspection, and the company inspected more than 13,000 poles last year. Following the pole inspections, Cleco is performing additional maintenance to help prevent outages. Also, Cleco cleared 1,616 miles of right of way with 2,000 miles planned in 2008.

“Vegetation seems to grow nonstop in Louisiana,” said Floyd Pittman, manager of distribution



reliability and maintenance. “On top of that, we have a number of dead trees due to the 2005 hurricanes that we are trying to remove to reduce power outages.”

Cleco has always met targets set by the LPSC for the number of outages and the length of outages by the average customer.



**A group of Cleco employees recently participated in a Women's Build project in Covington for the St. Tammany West Habitat for Humanity. Shown taking a break from the work are: Lodie Javery, Jan Bennett, Vivian Ordone and Shelly Varnado.**



**R**ecently, a group of 10 Cleco employees spent their Saturday talking trash at New Iberia's Household Hazardous Waste Day. Cleco volunteers and about 100 others from the community helped to properly dispose of more than 82 tons of hazardous materials.

By bringing in items like paint cans, batteries and electronic equipment, area residents helped the environment by keeping these materials from ending up in landfills.

This is the seventh year that New Iberia has sponsored this event, and Cleco has participated in the program every year.

**Kevin Perrodin, (back, center) senior storekeeper with Cleco, is pictured with his three children, Kevin Jr. (front left), Miriah and Christian who helped out during Household Hazardous Waste Day. With them is Geri Frederic, (front right) city recycling coordinator. Also pictured is, Marcus Debany, (back left) a local volunteer.**



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Are you paying

*Big Time*  
 for your  
*Big Screen?*

Product	Annual Cost
32-inch picture-tube	\$40
36-inch picture-tube	\$50
37-inch LCD	\$50
40-inch LCD	\$55
56-inch rear-projection	\$65
42-inch plasma, 720p	\$70
52-inch LCD	\$80
50-inch plasma, 720p	\$80
50-inch plasma, 1080p	\$110

Based on Department of Energy's 2007 national average pricing for energy, 10.65 cents per kilowatt-hour.

When most people buy a new television, they are thinking about watching the game and not about the additional electricity...



▲ Cleco's Sheena Jefferson advises customers to turn off televisions when they're not being watched.

According to Consumer Reports, a 50-inch plasma television with 1080p resolution uses twice as much energy as the biggest picture-tube set.

All types of bigger screens consume more electricity than smaller ones. Plasma screens use individual pixels, which are lit separately. So, the more pixels, the more energy the set will use. With LCD sets, the backlight setting affects the amount of electricity used. A brighter setting will consume more energy.

"More and more homes are replacing their televisions with larger screens, and most homes have multiple sets," said Sheena Jefferson, senior call center specialist. "Energy costs can add up, and around my house I always turn off our televisions when no one is watching."

