

4. Right now, Renville-Sibley Co-op Power is trying to balance environmental goals with reliability and affordability. Are you concerned that the Clean Power Plan and additional proposed regulations in Minnesota will tip this balance away from affordability for our members?

Dahms: The legislature has been very aggressive in changing energy policy over the past few years. In addition, you have the Environmental Protection Agency trying to impose a nationwide greenhouse gas reduction program through the Clean Power Plan. Utilities need an even handed regulatory system that provides long-term certainty and stability so utilities can confidently plan for the future. It is very expensive to provide reliable electricity to rural communities. Each new mandate (federal or state) imposes additional costs to its members. Policy decisions made at the state and federal level need to carefully consider costs and reliability. Any policy changes should be incremental and thoroughly vetted. The Clean Power Plan is most concerning because it not only takes away local decision making, it takes away much of state's control to manage its own affairs.

Kanne: