Jennifer Bryant – Oconee EMC 7/29; 6:45pm

• Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

• Introduction
  o My name is Jennifer Bryant and I am the Member Services Director at Oconee Electric Membership Cooperative.
  o Oconee EMC is located in Middle Georgia where we serve approximately 8,700 members in seven counties.

• On behalf of Oconee EMC, I ask the EPA to withdraw these proposed rules, and start over.

• The cost of electricity directly impacts the quality of life in the 7 counties we serve at Oconee EMC in Middle Georgia. Increased costs of electricity will slow economic growth, reduce job opportunities and force families to make tough budget choices. For our most vulnerable members, an increase in the cost of electricity could force families to choose between filling up the car with gas, and keeping the lights on.

• As a cooperative, all of these increased costs will have to be borne by our members, many of whom cannot afford even the tiniest increase in their weekly expenses.

• The cost of energy is not the only concern we have at Oconee EMC. We care deeply about our environment and the communities we serve. But support for the environment and a true all-of-the-above energy policy are not mutually exclusive.

• Unfortunately, this proposal slams the door on an all-of-the-above strategy. With these rules, the EPA is hand-picking winners and losers. And in the end, the impact of these regulations will be statistically irrelevant on the issue of climate change.

• I urge you to withdraw this proposal and work with us on a new, common sense approach, that will be a true “All-of-the Above” energy strategy.

• Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.