

# REA loan fund faces depletion

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — A major source of funding for the nation's rural electric and telephone systems is in danger of being depleted unless Congress acts to keep it self-sustaining, a National Rural Electric Cooperative Association spokesman said Tuesday.

Charles Robinson Jr., deputy general manager of the NRECA, representing 1,000 rural electric systems serving more than 25 million people in 46 states, said his group is proposing a comprehensive legislative proposal "designed to ensure the continuation of adequate, long-term financing."

Robinson said his group is most concerned about the status of the Rural Electric Administration's Revolving Fund, which is used to fund telephone and electric transmission systems. Of the \$3.3 billion in outstanding loans, \$2.08 billion is currently at least 1 percent or higher than the current Treasury rates.

"High interest rates of the past several years are threatening the future of the Revolving

Fund because of the disparity between the rates paid to the U.S. Treasury by REA for borrowings to meet loan requirements and the interest rate at which loans are made to rural electric systems," he said.

Under the proposal, loans issued over the current interest rates could be re-financed and pre-1973 REA principal obligations would be converted to permanent capital in the Revolving Fund, adding about \$7.9 billion total.

The legislation also would allow the re-financing of long-term loans over current market rates. The long-term loans total about \$7 billion, of which \$3.3 billion could be re-financed.

"If the interest rates go up and the REA administrator allows them to rise, that will be reflected to some extent in the ultimate consumers' bill but it will be very small compared to the effect of the impact of the price of amount wholesale power," Robinson said.

The proposals would represent the first major change in the Rural Electrification Act in 10 years.

## Rain continues to fall

# Storm death toll 20

United Press International  
More than a dozen tornadoes slashed across Michigan, Ohio and New York, killing four people, flipping cars through the air, flattening houses and leaving hundreds homeless.

Thunderstorms that spun off the tornadoes weakened as they moved into northern New England early Tuesday.

Another line of heavy thunderstorms dumped up to 4 inches of rain on Arkansas and Kentucky. Flash-flood watches were in effect early Tuesday from Arkansas and Missouri through Kentucky, Ohio and western New York.

The death toll stood at 20 from four days of tornadoes, thunderstorms and floods across the Midwest and Great Lakes area.

A tornado at Mayville near Lake Chautauqua in western New York killed two women Monday night — one in her mobile home and another who had just driven into her garage when the tornado hit.

"The car was picked up and

hauled through the air about 75 to 100 feet," Chautauqua County Sheriff John Bentley said. The car landed on its roof, killing June Young, 58, and injuring her husband.

Tornadoes in western New York flattened several houses, knocked out power and blocked roads with felled power poles and trees. More than a dozen people were injured.

A 45-foot truck loaded with 5 tons of fireplace bricks was blown off the highway by one twister.

"I didn't see anything. The wind just blew the truck over," said driver Ron Turnbull, who suffered cuts and bruises.

Tornadoes in Ohio killed two people and left hundreds homeless.

The worst damage was at Weston, a small community south of Toledo, where the storm cut electric power just as the warning siren came on.

"Basically, no one had any advance warning at all," said Police Chief Steve Graf.

The Weston tornado went through a trailer park like a

giant buzz saw, scattering debris for 4 miles. An elderly man trapped in his home died.

In the Cleveland suburb of Broadview Heights, a woman died when a tornado struck her home, toppling a brick chimney onto her.

Earlier deaths in four days of storms included three tornado victims in Missouri and Illinois, a young Ohio mother whose car was crushed by a falling tree, and a dozen people killed in floods in Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri and Ohio.

One car carrying four Kentucky men was recovered Monday from floodwaters in Brownsville, Ky. All four had drowned, two in the car and two who apparently tried to go for help.

Tornadoes, high winds, rain and hail smashed into Detroit suburbs Monday.

Fire Chief Lynn Heraty of Harsen's Island, Mich., said 25 to 35 houses were damaged or demolished, for a damage toll of at least \$2 million.

# Frozen egg lives; woman pregnant

United Press International  
MELBOURNE, Australia — Claiming a medical breakthrough, an Australian research team said that a woman is in her 14th week of pregnancy with an embryo that had been frozen for four months before being implanted in her body.

The research team announced the successful experiment Monday and said all tests show the fetus is healthy.

The embryo was frozen at minus 320 degrees Fahrenheit for four months before being implanted in the woman, who asked not to be named.

The woman was impregnated with one of her own eggs fertilized by her husband, said Dr. Alan Trounson, scientific director of the research team at Monash University's infertility unit and Melbourne's Epworth Hospital, where an operation implanting the embryo was performed late last year.

He said the woman was infertile because both her Fallopian tubes were blocked.

While claiming a "world breakthrough," Trounson said that the team recognized the legal and ethical questions involved, and that its work is monitored closely by an ethics com-

mittee at Monash University's Queen Victoria Medical Center.

The research team removed four eggs from the woman and fertilized them using a technique pioneered by team members, Trounson said.

Three of the embryos were implanted almost immediately in the woman, but she miscarried after eight weeks. The fourth embryo was in deep freeze for four months before being implanted.

Trounson said the woman was one of 13 women implanted with frozen embryos, and hers was the first successful case. He said the team hoped to refine the procedure and achieve an 80 percent success rate in the future.

In theory, human embryos can be frozen for 100 years before being damaged by cosmic rays, Trounson said. Under current medical ethics, however, experimenters cannot freeze a human embryo for more than 10 years.

Trounson admitted that many people may object to the experiment. He said he preferred to freeze several embryos to spare the woman the risk of going through a second operation to obtain more of her eggs if the first implant fails.

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