

THE CANEY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Voice

Caney Valley Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc.

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Office Hours

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Power Cost Adjustment

The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) for May is \$.04015/kilowatt-hour. This calculates to an additional \$40.15 per 1,000 kWh used.

The PCA was implemented in 2002 to cover only the increase in power costs (over and above 5¢/kWh) charged to us by our wholesale power supplier, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) in Topeka. The PCA varies each month depending on the wholesale charges from KEPCo, and is a flow-through on your electric

FROM THE MANAGER

Your Cooperative is User Friendly

The term “user friendly” has been used a lot over the past few years to encourage people to purchase many technically advanced products. Computers, televisions, video games, cell phones, auto and home sound systems, household appliances, and office telephone systems are all promoted as being modern and technically advanced, yet “user friendly” when being operated.

Caney Valley ECA may not be as “technologically advanced” in its operations as some other electric utilities, but we want all of our members to find our business operations and personnel staff “user friendly.”

There are advantages and disadvantages to being a small rural electric utility cooperative. One of the main advantages is being able to communicate with cooperative employees at the cooperative office in person or by telephone. When calling, you will contact a live person. No automated number selections will have to be made. Even after working hours, telephone calls will connect

you directly with a person at our dispatch service. You can visit us at our office. You can make an appointment for us to meet you at your service site.

Problems, questions, service requests, and other matters can be handled one-on-one with cooperative personnel who live in the same general part of Kansas as you. In addition, the cooperative employee is also a member, as are you.

Similarly, your elected Board of Trustees is available to listen to your comments, concerns, and suggestions. If necessary, they can consider your discussions at the monthly board meetings.

The cooperative’s main function is to provide electric service to you. Our constant goal is to do so in a responsive, courteous and professional manner. Please contact me any time if you feel you are not experiencing “user friendly” communications or treatment. I will gladly discuss any issues with you.

Allen Zadorozny, Manager



Allen Zadorozny

Outages for March 2012

Occasionally, a part or parts of the delivery system fail and an outage occurs. Below are the larger outages for March.

Date	Area	Members Affected	Duration	Cause
3/5	Elk City area	25	1 hr 20 min	Scheduled outage
3/8	East of Sedan	40	1 hr 45 min	Tree on line
3/8	South side of Elgin	50	2 hrs	Top burned out of bell on pole
3/8	Phillips substation west of Cedar Vale	161	1 hr 40 min	69 kV breaker off west of Ark City
3/8	Cedar Vale substation	798	30 min	69 kV breaker off west of Ark City
3/13	West of Maple City	30	100	Lightning

Help Electric Cooperatives Battle Copper Crime

Soaring metal prices have been blamed for an increase in thefts of copper and aluminum, primary components of electric distribution lines. Recent thefts of copper wire and equipment from electric utilities have been responsible for power outages, additional maintenance and expenses, diminished service reliability, and, in some cases, serious injury or death.

Copper wire is appealing to thieves who want to sell the metal for scrap. Burglars will often climb power poles, scale fences and break into buildings to steal the precious metal. Needless to say, a 542 percent increase in the price of copper since 2001 has prompted thieves to become bolder and more inventive.

In Oklahoma, members of one electric co-op are facing an estimated \$1 million repair bill because copper thieves wrecked a substation for just \$100 worth of the metal last year. In New Mexico, a man was found dead beneath a power pole, electrocuted

while trying to cut copper wiring from a live transformer. A Texas man lost his life when he cut into a live power line while trying to steal copper.

Your cooperative uses copper wire attached to utility poles to “ground” lightning strikes. With the recent value of scrap copper being at a high level, there are some who are willing to risk their lives to steal the copper wire from the poles.

Within the last month, there have been two service areas near Burden and Longton where a number of poles were found with the copper wire removed.

The labor and materials required to repair the damages are significant, in addition to taking away the linemen’s services needed for normal operations. Thieves may not understand that they are risking their lives by taking copper from substations, where high transmission voltage is stepped down to a lower current for distribution lines. All power lines carry a potentially deadly charge.

Caney Valley urges you

to follow the following guidelines to guard against electrical dangers and prevent copper theft.

- ▶ Never enter or touch equipment inside a substation; stay away from power lines and anything touching a power line.
- ▶ If you notice anything unusual with electric facilities, such as an open substation gate, open equipment, or hanging wire, contact your electric co-op immediately.
- ▶ If you see anyone around electric substations or electric facilities other than co-op personnel or contractors, call the police.
- ▶ Install motion-sensor lights on the outside of your house and business to deter possible thieves.
- ▶ Store tools and wire cutters in a secure location, and never leave them out while you are away.
- ▶ If you work in construction, do not leave any wires or plumbing unattended or leave loose wire at the job site, especially overnight.
- ▶ Help spread the word about the deadly consequences that can result from trying to steal copper or aluminum.



As the economy continues to remain shaky, and the price of scrap metal rises, copper has become a target for theft from electrical substations, which creates expensive clean-up for co-ops and a potentially fatal risk for thieves.

Work being performed on the cooperative’s utility lines should always involve a cooperative’s vehicle nearby. Please report any activity that does not meet this qualification.

Call the cooperative at 800-310-8911 or 620-758-2262. Your awareness and assistance is appreciated.

Vegetation Control Crews May be in Your Area

As part of the cooperative’s ongoing program to control harmful vegetation near our power lines, we have contracted with Northeast Rural Services (NRS) of Vinita, OK, to apply chemicals along our rights-of-way in 2012. The lines serving members east, north and west of Sedan are scheduled to be covered over the next few months.

NRS’s two-man crew will be applying high-volume foliar spray herbicide directly to small trees, saplings, and harmful re-growth

that has occurred since the lines were cleared by tree cutting. They will be using the minimum amount of chemical judged to be effective and will be targeting specific plants that pose a hazard to the electric system.

You should expect to see their pickup and/or ATV with spray equipment working along the rights-of-way under Caney Valley’s electric lines.

Trees continue to pose the greatest physical obstacle to providing economical

and reliable electric power to the consumers on Caney Valley’s system. The problems caused by trees and the costs of controlling them are born by all of our members collectively.

We appreciate your support of the cooperative’s efforts to reduce tree-related problems in a fair and cost-effective manner. If you have any questions about our spraying or line clearing activities, please call us at 800-310-8911 or 620-758-2262.

Stay Cool, Save Money this Summer

Cooling a home on hot, humid days can be an energy-intensive process—in fact, cooling generally becomes the largest energy expense homeowners face during the summer. A room air conditioner may seem like an easy-to-install, low-cost way to add comfort, but it's easy to waste energy and money in the process if you're not careful.

A room air conditioner is an enclosed assembly—a self-contained box, basically—designed to be mounted in a window, through a wall, or as a console. These units deliver conditioned air to an enclosed space or zone.

At a cost of \$100 to \$1,000, room air conditioners can be purchased at home improvement centers, big box retailers—even yard sales and flea markets. They tend to last a long time with minimal maintenance, so selecting the right model can save significant amounts of energy.

Room air conditioners rated by ENERGY STAR, a program run by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy, deliver the same or better performance and use 10 percent less energy on average than comparable models. An energy efficiency ratio (EER)—the ratio of the cooling capacity in British thermal units (Btu) per hour to the power input (in watts)—measures each unit's efficiency. The higher the EER, the more efficient the air conditioner will be.

ENERGY STAR-qualified appliances boast advanced compressors, drawing more heat efficiently from the air. In addition, the high-efficiency motors in these devices use less energy to circulate air and run more quietly. However, they do cost slightly more.

Nationally, an average consumer

saves approximately 76 kilowatt-hours per year—about \$8—with an ENERGY STAR-rated room air conditioner. Over the life of the appliance a consumer could save between \$50 and \$250, depending on the model and climate.

Consumers should look for room air conditioners with timers and programmable thermostats. These features offer better temperature control, allowing users to cool spaces according to their preferences. For example, you can set the unit to turn on 20 minutes before bedtime to make your bedroom comfortable.

Installing a room air conditioner is typically an easy job. Most can be fit into a window in a matter of minutes. Another option is to create a custom opening in a wall.

Room air conditioners come in a variety of sizes. Many people buy the largest one they can afford, assuming more power is better. While that may be true in racing, it's not necessarily the case with an air conditioner. A unit too large will cool a room too

quickly to properly remove humidity, leaving the space feeling cool, but also wet and clammy.

Consumers replacing an existing unit with a more efficient model should not immediately throw the old one away. Air conditioners contain a refrigerant that should be removed by a trained technician first. Contact a local solid waste organization for information on how to properly dispose of old air conditioners.

Air conditioning will raise your monthly electric bills—what type you choose, climate, and length of use will determine the full impact. Making smart energy choices will leave you happier, cooler, and with a couple of extra bucks in your pocket.



To save money on your electric bills, be sure to look for the ENERGY STAR logo when purchasing an air conditioner.

Be Alert—Avoid Lightning

Did you know lightning can strike even if it's not raining? Lightning strikes kill 55 to 60 people every year, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). More than 400 people are hit by a bolt each year. If you prepare before an outdoor event and know how to protect yourself, you can keep your family safe from lightning. Follow these tips from NOAA:

► **Plan ahead.** Just as you have an emergency plan for fires and weather events like tornadoes, form an action plan for lightning. Choose a safe shelter, and time how long it takes to get there.

► **Check the weather.** A simple forecast can tell you whether you should delay outdoor activities to avoid a dangerous situation.

► **Look to the sky.** Dark skies, whipping winds, and lightning flashes are all signs that you should seek shelter.

► **Seek shelter.** As soon as you hear a rumble of thunder, head for a safe place—an enclosed structure, one with plumbing and wiring is best, or a car. Open-air shelters, sheds, and covered porches are often not safe places. Avoid tall trees that stand alone, towers, and poles, as well as metal fences and other conductors of electricity. And keep out of open areas, so that you're not the tallest object in a field.

► **Wait it out.** Leaving safe shelter too quickly makes you vulnerable to lightning strikes. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder before you head back outdoors.

► **Avoid corded phones and appliances.** If you're indoors when a storm hits, do not use corded phones or appliances. Lightning can travel through your home's wiring. Also, water is a great conductor of electricity, so don't take a bath or shower.

If someone near you has been struck by lightning, call 911 immediately. A certified person should begin CPR right away if necessary—the victim will not have an electric charge and is safe to touch.

For more information on how to stay safe in a lightning storm, visit www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

The Science of Conduction BY DOUG RYE



Doug Rye

Recently, I was driving to St. Louis to conduct seminars. With plenty of windshield-time, I thought about the great opportunity I've been given to help folks across

this country enjoy more comfortable homes with lower utility bills.

As I looked at hundreds of houses over the six-hour drive, a recurring thought came to my mind. How can building science and energy efficiency become important action items for all Americans? How do we generate the interest or motivation for Americans to build or make their existing homes more energy efficient? That thought never ceases to overwhelm me. What a gigantic, almost unbelievable, opportunity we have.

Notice that I said we, not I. There was a time only about 35 years ago when a handful of energy efficiency pioneers were among the industry vanguard. Over time, nationwide interest in building science and energy efficiency began to grow.

Now, there are hundreds who have the experience and training to help you test your house and provide you with a list of needed improvements. Your local electric co-op may have an employee on staff or can recommend a local auditor. Because you are a co-op member, your co-op wants to help you. It's one of the cooperatives' primary purposes.

In my article "It's All About the Sun," Lesson No. 1 reminded us that all energy as we know it comes from the sun. So, for Lesson No. 2, let's discuss basic energy as it relates to heat in some form or fashion. The sun is a really big blob of heat. I expect that you already knew that, but

let's look at how that heat affects practically every aspect of our life.

First, I think that it is neat, and not by coincidence, that our earth seems to be the only planet that is just about the right distance from the sun to support life as we know it. If we were much closer to the source of all energy, it might be too hot. If we were farther away, it might be too cold.

The sun always shines and affects the earth every second of every day. It is estimated that about half of the heat from the sun is absorbed by something on earth. It is not possible for us to list all of the things that absorb and benefit from the sun's heat, but it is possible to explain how that heat affects our daily lives.

Heat travels three ways—by conduction, convection and radiation. The better that we understand these principles, the better we can understand how a house uses energy. I am going to do my very best to explain these to you with examples that are easy to understand, but remember that the only reason that I am known as the "doctor" of energy efficiency is because my initials are D.R.

According to Webster's dictionary, conduction is the passing of heat from particle to particle. That means that conduction will occur anytime that one substance of a certain temperature touches another substance of a different temperature. Your foot touching a cold floor or stepping into a hot tub of water is conduction. Your hand touching a cold window-pane or a hot pan in the oven is conduction. Generally speaking, conduction does not occur in gases such as air. That would be convection and will be covered in the next issue.

The speed of the conduction can be very fast or very slow. If the water in the shower is 105 degrees, you say, "Aaahhh that feels great."

If the first blast is 140 degrees, like some motels, you may scream instead.

Remember that a good conductor of heat is not a good insulator and vice versa. Insulation slows the rate of conduction. A rug or a piece of carpet on that cold floor will make that bare foot feel a lot warmer. Heat always moves toward cold, and, in this case, the heat simply does not leave your foot as fast as before.

Not all conduction is a bad thing. Take for instance an electric water heater. The electric element touches the colder water within the storage tank and heats it by conduction. That is a useful form of conduction.

Other useful examples are a coffee maker, a frying pan cooking an egg and a waffle iron. Bet you didn't know building science could whet your appetite!

In future articles, I'll describe how conductive heat often changes to convective heat. The springtime warmth provides us many examples. Stay tuned for the next lesson.

DOUG RYE is a licensed architect and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show. You can contact Doug at 501-653-7931. Source: Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Corporation.

Caney Valley's Operating Statistics

For Month Ending	Feb 2012	Feb 2011
Meters Billed	5,556	5,573
kWh Sold	5,331,966	5,451,953
Total Revenue	\$ 557,315	\$ 691,583
Purchased Power	\$ 445,600	\$ 414,459
Operating Expenses	\$ 169,110	\$ 198,564
Depreciation Expenses	\$ 48,876	\$ 48,120
Interest Expenses	\$ 25,826	\$ 25,971
Other Expenses	\$ 100	\$ 300
Operating Margins	\$ (132,258)	\$ 4,170
Non-operating Margins	\$ 1,730	\$ 3,500
Total Margins	\$ (130,528)	\$ 7,670
Margins Year-to-Date	\$ (51,590)	\$ 51,083