

THE CANEY VALLEY ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

# The Voice

## Caney Valley Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc.

Allen Zadorozny—General Manager

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### Contact Us

401 Lawrence, P.O. Box 308  
Cedar Vale, KS 67024  
620-758-2262, Fax: 620-758-2926  
cve@caneyvalley.com.

### Office Hours

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

## Power Cost Adjustment

The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) for August is \$0.03629/kilowatt-hour. This calculates to an additional \$36.29 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 bill.

## FROM THE MANAGER

# Rate Increase Effective with October Billing

After two years of consideration and study of the cooperative's financials and operations, the Board of Trustees of Caney Valley Electric approved the electric rates published in the June and July issues of the "Voice." The new rates, also included in this issue, will begin with the October 2014 billing.

As announced in the June and July issues, a special board meeting, open to all cooperative members, was held on July 8 at the cooperative's office where the board discussed and voted upon the proposed rates.

Members at the meeting asked questions and provided comments about the rates before the Board's action was taken.

The only increase for residential and farm accounts will be to the "customer charge", which will be from \$10 to \$17. All of the kilowatt-hour charges will effectively be the same.

The small commercial accounts will see a larger increase. The customer charge for single-phase services will increase from \$8 to \$20 and three-phase services will see an increase from \$11 to \$23. In addition, small commercial accounts will have an increase in the kilowatt-hour charge of \$0.0054 per kWh. This will make the kWh charge the same as the residential and farm accounts.

Again, as we have expressed before in earlier newsletters, increasing the electric rates is a matter of paramount importance. The coopera-

tive's Board and staff have evaluated the issue for a long time, and deem the increase as being necessary for the responsible operation of the cooperative—both for the quality of service and financial stability.

Please feel free to contact me any time to visit about any questions, concerns or suggestions you may have.



Allen Zadorozny

	Existing	Approved
PCA Base	\$0.05	\$0.07
<b>Rural &amp; Town Residential Service</b>		
Customer Charge	\$7.00	\$17.00
Energy Charge: Summer	10.66¢	12.66¢
Energy Charge: Winter	10.06¢	12.06¢
<b>General Service Small</b>		
Customer Charge:		
Single Phase	\$8.00	\$20.00
Three Phase	\$11.00	\$23.00
Energy Charge: Summer	10.12¢	12.66¢
Energy Charge: Winter	9.52¢	12.06¢
<b>Large Commercial and Industrial Service</b>		
Demand Charge	\$7.75	\$8.25
Energy Charge	8.41¢	10.41¢
<b>Large Power Load Control Rate</b>		
<i>Usage for the months of June, July, August &amp; September:</i>		
Coincident Peak Demand	\$16.25	\$16.25
Non-Coincident Peak Demand	\$1.00	\$1.50
<i>Usage for the months of October through May:</i>		
Non-Coincident Peak Demand	\$1.00	\$1.50
Energy Charge	7.65¢	9.65¢
<b>Municipal Rates</b>		
Energy Charge	9.41¢	11.41¢

## Right-of-Way Spraying in Grenola, Howard & Moline



**Craig Lampson**

As part of the cooperative's ongoing program to control harmful vegetation near our power lines, we have contracted with Northeast Rural Services of Vinita, OK, to apply herbicide along our rights-of-way in 2014. The lines serving members on the Grenola substation in Elk County (areas around Grenola, Moline, and Howard) that were not sprayed last year 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 herbicide 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 1-800-310-8911 or 1-620-758-2262.

## What is Peak Control & How Can You Help?

This month, we are asking members to participate in the Peak Control program. This voluntary program can help hold down the wholesale power costs incurred by the cooperative.

The peak demand for electricity recorded in July and August drives a major part of the wholesale power billing process for the eight off-peak months that follow, October through May. This means that the lower the peak demand registered, the lower demand charges will be.

Members who voluntarily participated in "Peak Control" helped save on the wholesale power costs in the last eight-months during our off-peak period.

### What is Peak Control?

Peak control is a voluntary program in which our members can participate to hold down electricity costs to both Caney Valley and themselves.

### What Can You do to Participate in Peak Control?

You can participate by voluntarily monitoring when you use electric appliances and equipment that require larger amounts of electricity.

### When do You Need to Participate in Peak Control?

During the hours of 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. every weekday from June 1 through September 30. The actual peak demand for June, July, August, and September is the billing demand for each respective month. Special emphasis is placed during July and August, as the peak electricity demand registered by Caney Valley during those two months drives the electricity billings for the following "off-peak" eight months. Be aware of days that have high temperatures forecasted above 90 degrees Fahrenheit. These are the type of days when peak demand can occur.

### What are the Benefits of Taking Part in Peak Control?

By helping hold the line for the kilowatt demand charges on Caney Valley wholesale electric bill, you will also limit the amount of the resulting power cost adjustment (PCA) charges added to your electric bill.

If you have any questions call 758-2261 or 800-310-8911. Thank you for your participation in this program.

## Access to Member Property is Necessary for Maintenance

Maintaining our electric distribution system to ensure that we are delivering safe and reliable power is our main objective. We have hundreds of miles of wire, poles, transformers, fuses, and miscellaneous hardware that need to be inspected and maintain.

Your cooperative staff is in the field performing these duties every day from the substation to your meter. There are times when we may need to access your property to inspect our facilities that are serving you and your neighbors. Our staff will always

be respectful of your privacy and property.

Our vehicles are easily identifiable with our Caney Valley logo and name and we require our staff to have their identification available in case there is a concern about their presence. In some circumstances, we'll notify our members ahead of time if we need to perform a planned outage to repair or replace equipment.

We appreciate your understanding and patience. If you have questions or concerns please call our main office at 620-758-2262.

## Keep Food Cool as Temperatures Heat Up

Summer months are great for grilling. And that means you don't have to use electricity to operate the oven or stove—or cool a hot kitchen. It's a great way to be energy efficient and save, but don't stop with energy efficient cooking methods. Consider how you can conserve and save money while cooling those leftovers after the barbecue. Use these simple tips to keep your food—and your bill—cool this summer:

- ▶ **Fill the fridge.** Full refrigerators and freezers don't have to work as hard to cool the warm air that enters when you open the door. If you are busy freezing fresh vegetables from the garden for winter use, this should be easy. If not, use jugs of water or ice bags in the freezer to keep your fridge full and cool.
- ▶ **Do some maintenance.** When was the last time you moved your refrigerator away from the wall? Last month? Last year? When the delivery man put it there? Pull the unit away from the wall and spend a few minutes cleaning the coils. When the coils are clean, the refrigerator cycles on and off less, saving you money.
- ▶ **Wait to put the leftovers away.** If those burgers are still hot from the grill, let them cool off a little before you put them in the fridge. Of course, health and safety come first, and you should never consume food that has been sitting out too long, but waiting just a few minutes to put hot food away will mean your fridge isn't working as hard to cool it down.
- ▶ **Check your settings.** You probably don't need to keep your refrigerator and freezer on the coldest settings. Your refrigerator can be set between 36 and 38 degrees, while your freezer can be set anywhere from zero to five degrees.
- ▶ **Shut the door.** The more you open



To help keep your food cool during an outage, make sure your refrigerator and freezer are full.

the door of your refrigerator and freezer, the more cold air escapes and warm air gets in. Of course you have to open the door to get food in and out, but an organized fridge means less time spent staring at containers of mystery and moving pizza boxes around to dig for that much-coveted piece of lemon icebox pie.

### Other tips to help you save

- ▶ Consider getting rid of that extra fridge or freezer in the garage. If you aren't really using it, that old fridge is costing you a few dollars every month to cool a few cans of soda. That adds up throughout the year. Is it worth it?
- ▶ **If you do decide to get rid of the refrigerator in your garage or if it's time to replace the one in your home, don't just leave it at the dump.** There are recycling programs that help you get rid of your old refrigerator responsibly. Some retailers will take your old appliance and make sure the materials in it will be reused or properly disposed of, and many cities will pick up large appliances as well.
- ▶ **Visit [energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) before making a purchase.** Their refrigerator retirement savings calculator (<http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=refrig.calculator&>) can be a big help, and their advice can help you determine the best, most efficient appliance for you.

## School Bus Safety for Your Children

For millions of students nationwide, the school day begins and ends with a trip on a school bus. Unfortunately, many children are injured and several are killed each year in school bus incidents.

Although drivers of all vehicles are required to stop for a school bus when it is stopped to load or unload passengers, children should not rely on them to do so. The National Safety Council encourages parents to teach their children these rules for getting on and off the school bus.

### Getting on the school bus

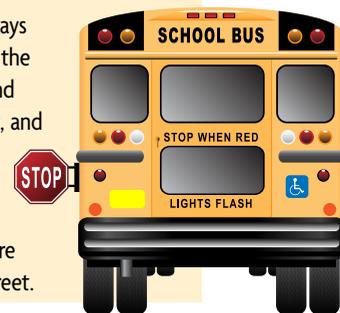
- ▶ When waiting for the bus, stay away from traffic.
- ▶ Do not stray into streets, alleys, or private property.
- ▶ Line up away from the street or road as the school bus approaches.
- ▶ Wait until the bus has stopped and the door opens before stepping onto the roadway.
- ▶ Use the hand rail when stepping onto the bus.

### Getting off the school bus

- ▶ If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk at least 10 feet ahead of the bus along the side of the road until you can turn around and see the driver.
- ▶ Make sure that the driver can see you.
- ▶ Wait for a signal from the driver before beginning to cross.
- ▶ When the driver signals, walk across the road, keeping an eye out for traffic.
- ▶ Do not cross the center line of the road until the driver has signaled that it is safe for you to begin walking.
- ▶ Stay away from the wheels of the bus at all times.

### Crossing the street

- ▶ Children should always stop at the curb or the edge of the road and look left, then right, and then left again before crossing. They should continue looking until they are safely across the street.



## Statement of Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) or at any USDA office, or call 866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax 202-690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

## Tip of the Month

During the summer, our homes can be hot, making living conditions uncomfortable. Before you fire up your air conditioner, try cooling off with a ceiling fan first. Using ceiling fans can actually raise your thermostat setting by four degrees and still feel just as comfortable.

## Caney Valley's Operating Statistics

For Month Ending	April 2014	April 2013
Meters Billed	5,568	5,567
kWh's Purchased	5,830,477	5,054,225
Cost per kWh	\$ 0.07923	\$ 0.08648
kWh Sold	5,283,501	4,976,453
Total Revenue	\$ 709,167	\$ 702,205
Purchased Power	\$ 462,010	\$ 437,096
Operating Expenses	\$ 194,381	\$ 199,772
Depreciation Expenses	\$ 54,283	\$ 51,520
Interest Expenses	\$ 28,612	\$ 29,907
Other Expenses	\$ 125	\$ 159
Operating Margins	\$ (30,244)	\$ (16,249)
Non-operating Margins	\$ 1,781	\$ 1,791
Total Margins	\$ (28,463)	\$ (14,458)
Margins Year-to-Date	\$ (32,263)	\$ 31,602

## Insurance Coverage is Members' Responsibility

We are often asked by members who have had damage or loss during a power outage if their loss is somehow covered by Caney Valley Electric Cooperative's insurance.

Unfortunately, we have no way of insuring our members from the effects of outages which are beyond our control and are always going to be part of providing electrical service.

Although we try to provide the most reliable service possible and have an excellent record of reliability, some outages must be expected. Weather, vehicle accidents, birds, animals, falling trees, and a variety of other causes will continue to create out-

ages and inconveniences for all of us. These outages are not only expensive and inconvenient for you, but also ex-

tremely expensive for your cooperative to correct. This leaves you with the burden of insuring yourself for these occurrences caused by nature or otherwise.

Each of you should consider having adequate insurance to cover such incidents.

There are many things you can do to help eliminate potential problems. Having proper protection on electric motors, an alarm system to notify you of an outage and possibly a standby generator when 24-hour electrical power is absolutely essential.

We intend to keep doing our best to prevent service interruptions, but we urge you

to consider having proper insurance protection for those occasions when the unexpected happens.



## INSURANCE

**We will do our best to prevent service interruptions, but we urge you to consider having proper insurance protection for those occasions when the unexpected happens.**

## Outages for June 2014

Occasionally, a part or parts of the delivery system fail and an outage occurs. Listed below are the larger outages that occurred in June.

Date	Area	Members Affected	Duration	Cause
6/2	South circuit-Cedar Vale sub	240	10 min	Fault on line
6/5	Howard area	35	1 hr 10 min	Reset OCR
6/7	Cedar Vale north circuit	60	1 hr	Reset OCR - rain
6/10	Grenola, Moline, Howard	474	1 hr 30 min	Westar off
6/11	Grenola area	25	8 min	Scheduled to switch line
6/13	East of Cedar Vale	50	10 min	Reset OCR
6/15	Grenola, Moline, Howard	474	30 min	Westar off
6/28	South and east of Howard	30	1 hr 30 min	Refused line - lightning
6/30	Longton substation	366	2 hr 30 min	Westar off-snake on switch
6/30	Oak Valley	28	1 hr 30 min	Reset OCR - squirrel