

THE CANEY VALLEY ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Voice

**Caney Valley Electric
Cooperative Assn., Inc.**
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Contact Us

401 Lawrence, P.O. Box 308
Cedar Vale, KS 67024
Phone: 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 November is \$0.05027/kilowatt hour. This calculates to an additional \$50.27 per 1,000 kWh used.

The PCA was implemented in 2002 to cover only the increase (over and above 5¢/kWh) in power costs 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 bills based on the factor for the month.

FROM THE MANAGER

Comparing Costs



Allen Zadorozny

The cost of wholesale electricity supplied to your cooperative has steadily increased since 2001.

From 1994 to 2001, the average cost per kilowatt-hour decreased 0.47¢, going from 5.39¢ to 4.92¢. From 2001 to 2010, the average cost per kilowatt hour increased 2.04¢, going from 4.92¢ to 6.96¢. Through September this year, the average cost rose to 8.1¢, over 1.1¢. The last wholesale electric power cost charged in September was 9.5¢ per kilowatt-hour.

These increases dramatically affect your electric bills, as you know. To maintain the financial integrity of the cooperative, the power cost adjustment (PCA) was begun in 2002 to cover the wholesale electricity costs that were above 5.0¢ per kWh. The 5.0¢ base is used since the regular electric rates established in 1993 were designed to cover that amount for wholesale electric costs.

The PCA method of covering the increased costs is used to eliminate the need to have general rate increases every year or two. Of course, with the significant wholesale costs increasing as they are, it makes the monthly PCA factor amount stand out. For October, the factor is 4¢ per kWh, and for November nearly 5¢.

These costs could be “rolled in” to the regular electric rates, and a new PCA base could be raised from 5¢ to 9¢, which would hold the PCA near zero, for a while. The electric bills would still total nearly the same amounts, regardless.

Your electric bills are important, and the cooperative is very concerned about how high they are. Contact me at any time, and I will be glad to discuss the PCA, or any questions you may have, in greater detail.

Allen A. Zadorozny, Manager

Wholesale Power Costs Since 1994

Following is a comparison of the average cost per kWh that Caney Valley has paid since 1994.

Year	Wholesale Power Costs kWh Purchased	Average Cost Per kWh
1994	\$2,797,538 51,872,603 kWh's	= 5.39¢
1995	\$2,801,051 52,505,820 kWh's	= 5.33¢
1996	\$2,936,566 53,842,446 kWh's	= 5.45¢
1997	\$2,833,040 52,756,744 kWh's	= 5.37¢
1998	\$2,769,103 52,901,016 kWh's	= 5.23¢
1999	\$2,442,822 49,278,645 kWh's	= 4.96¢
2000	\$2,568,064 50,865,543 kWh's	= 5.05¢
2001	\$2,616,914 53,178,469 kWh's	= 4.92¢
2002	\$2,895,637 52,689,532 kWh's	= 5.50¢
2003	\$3,083,294 53,903,875 kWh's	= 5.72¢
2004	\$3,032,564 52,805,139 kWh's	= 5.74¢
2005	\$3,415,397 55,800,165 kWh's	= 6.12¢
2006	\$3,746,133 58,265,472 kWh's	= 6.43¢
2007	\$3,629,212 58,789,338 kWh's	= 6.17¢
2008	\$3,969,837 59,819,430 kWh's	= 6.64¢
2009	\$4,026,241 61,351,082 kWh's	= 6.56¢
2010	\$4,678,583 67,209,739 kWh's	= 6.96¢
2011	\$4,346,958 53,821,564 kWh's	= 8.08¢ (Jan-Sept.)

Linemen Qualify in Pole Top Rescue



Anthony Whitley, a summer intern at Caney Valley attempts the Pole Top Rescue.

Each year, every Caney Valley Electric lineman must be able to rescue a 200-pound dummy from an electric pole during Pole-Top Rescue training.

This training is a safety requirement, to prepare linemen in case a crew member is injured or sick and unable to climb down on his own.

They climb the pole, connect a rope to the injured "man," loop the rope over a screw driver imbedded in the pole and wrap it around the pole to give them leverage, and then lower the "man" to the ground.

Managing 200-pounds of dead weight is not an easy task, especially when relying on a spike from each boot and a fall restraint to keep himself on the pole.

Our linemen try to complete the rescue effort from climbing the pole to lowering the man in less than one minute. Hopefully, none of them will every have to use this skill. But if such a situation should arise, they know how to perform a safe rescue.

When Sending in a Payment

Our billing department has asked that when you send in payment, please be sure and send along your billing stub. If you have misplaced your stub, and especially if the account is not under your name, we need to know the name and/or the account number to apply the payment to.

Also, if you are sending payment for more than one account, we need to know how much you are paying on each account in order to get your payment applied correctly. Thank you!

Building Changes at Caney Valley

There have been a lot of changes going on lately at Caney Valley.

A new building is going up in the current pole yard lot next to the office where crews can park trucks. Currently, our trucks have had to remain out in the weather due to lack of inside parking.

Due to the difficulty of loading and unloading poles and equipment in the current lot next to the office, the board of trustees decided recently to expand and purchase the old lumber yard property and adjacent lots across the street.

The old lumber yard and out-buildings have been removed, and plans are to gravel and fence the area for a new pole yard. The spacious area of the new property will make it much more safe and efficient to load and unload equipment.

The Lang-Bell Lumber Company was founded around 1887. The business became M&M Lumber Company in October 14, 1969, under Ralph and Doris Matthews ownership. The Matthews sold the business to Doug Holt; his sister, Terry; and his mother,



Dozers and trucks removed the rubble after demolition.



The Matthew's family purchased the lumber yard in 1969. From left: Ralph and Doris Matthews with Louise and Clyde Shaffer.

Betty; in 1994. It was later sold at auction to Jim Clouston, and then purchased by Caney Valley in May 2011.

Although it's been rather poignant to watch a part of Cedar Vale's history being removed after more than 124 years, we are excited about the changes taking place. Come by and take a look!



Crews spread a new foundation to Caney Valley's equipment warehouse.

Cold Weather Rule Begins November 1

The Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) adopted a statewide, uniform Cold Weather Disconnection Rule on March 20, 1989, which governs termination or restoration of utility service when consumers are financially unable to pay utility bills from November 1 to March 31 annually.

Caney Valley Electric has adopted this Cold Weather Disconnection Rule with certain modifications to accommodate our consumers.

Cooperative members who are unable to pay their electric service bills during the cold weather period may qualify for this program, provided they fulfill certain good faith requirements when attempting to pay.

The requirements members must meet to qualify for the program are summarized below:

- ▶ Members must notify the cooperative and state their inability to pay their service bill in full.
- ▶ Members must apply to federal, state, local or other financial assistance programs for which they may be eligible to receive aid in paying utility bills.
- ▶ Members must make an initial minimum payment equal to 1/3 of the total amount due the cooperative which includes any arrearage. (Example: If a customer owed an arrearage of \$200 and a current bill of \$40, they would owe the cooperative a total of \$240. The initial payment under the Cold Weather Rule would be equal to \$240 divided by three, or \$80.) All previous arrearage average payment plans must be paid off before entering into another plan.
- ▶ Members will be required to enter a level payment plan agreement for past, current and future charges for electric service, with arrears paid in equal installments over the next two months. A consumer and the cooperative may negotiate other payment arrangements mu-



The CWR ensures you will have electric and gas service for your home during the winter. You must make pay arrangements with Caney Valley Electric to use the CWR.

tually agreeable, individualized to the consumer's situation, providing the most appropriate terms, after the consumer has been informed that he or she has at least two months in which to pay under the Cold Weather Plan.

- ▶ Members will be required to provide sufficient financial information to enable the cooperative to determine an appropriate payment agreement.

Please note that consumers may be ineligible for the benefits under the Cold Weather Disconnection Rule if they fail to follow the above requirements, illegally divert utility service, receive service by tampering as defined by KCC rules or default on a payment agreement.

During the cold weather period, your cooperative will do the following:

- ▶ inform you of agencies or organizations which may provide financial assistance in paying utility bills;
- ▶ not disconnect service until the consumer is personally contacted or a notice is posted on the consumer's premises the day before disconnection is to take place.

In no event will the cooperative disconnect service if the temperature is forecast to fall below 30 degrees F. within 24 hours following the time of disconnection.

The Cold Weather Rule is to ensure that human health and safety are not unreasonably endangered during the cold weather months.

Attaching Objects to Poles Puts Lives on the Line

What do yard sale signs, basketball hoops, deer stands, satellite dishes and birdhouses have in common? They're often found illegally attached to utility poles. Safety issues caused by unapproved pole attachments place the lives of lineworkers and the public in peril.

It may seem innocent, but a small nail partially driven into a pole can pierce a lineworker's glove, stripping away critical protection from high-voltage electricity.

Caney Valley line crews climb utility poles at all hours of the day and night, in the worst of conditions. Anything attached to utility poles can create serious hazards for our line personnel. Sharp objects like nails, tacks, staples or barbed wire can puncture rubber gloves and other safety equipment, making linemen vulnerable to electrocution.

Caney Valley lineworkers have reported more poles used as community bulletin boards, satellite mounts and even support legs for deer stands, lights and carports. These attachments don't just put line crews at risk—anyone illegally placing these items on poles comes dangerously close to energized power lines with thousands of volts of energy pulsing overhead.

Unauthorized pole attachments violate the National Electric Safety Code. With this danger in mind, many states make it a crime to attach any unapproved item to a utility pole. Please help us keep our linemen—and our community—safe. Remove any unauthorized items attached to utility poles. Fixtures not belonging to the cooperative or another utility will be removed by Caney Valley line personnel; the co-op is not responsible for any losses if an item is damaged or destroyed during removal.



Satellite dishes and other unauthorized attachments must be removed to protect lineworkers.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

Why is Your House Cold? BY DOUG RYE



Doug Rye

How many of you have had this situation? As the wind blows outside and the temperature drops, you get chilled even while you are standing in the middle of your house. How

does this happen?

The answers are simple. The three biggest problems with the comfort of your house are 1) air infiltration, 2) air infiltration, and, you guessed it, 3) air infiltration.

The total air infiltration in an average house is the equivalent of having a door or window open every day of your life.

Now, you've probably heard it said that a house needs to breathe. In all my years in this work, I've never had anyone really explain why a house needs to breathe or even what that statement really means. Another word for house breathing is, simply put, leaks.

Just think with me for a moment.

Caney Valley's Operating Statistics

For Month Ending	Aug. 2011	Aug. 2010
Meters Billed	5,581	5,531
kWh Sold	7,461,575	6,127,057
Total Revenue	\$ 1,102,984	\$ 829,270
Purchased Power	\$ 653,318	\$ 524,554
Operating Expenses	\$ 192,614	\$ 199,021
Depreciation Expenses	\$ 49,350	\$ 45,916
Interest Expenses	\$ 27,001	\$ 22,542
Other Expenses	\$ 611	\$ 100
Operating Margins	\$ 180,090	\$ 37,137
Non-operating Margins	\$ 1,831	\$ 1,864
Total Margins	\$ 181,921	\$ 39,001
Margins Year-to-Date	\$ (35,198)	\$ 45,915

If you can keep the cold air from getting in, it won't take as much to heat your house, not to mention the fact that you would be a lot more comfortable in your home. So, where does the air come in? Think of it this way. Anywhere an ant can get in, air can get in. Here are a few major problem areas:

- ▶ Where your wall touches your slab.
- ▶ Cracks between the wood framing in your home's walls.
- ▶ Around electrical receptacles and light switches in your house, even on interior walls.
- ▶ Holes and leaks around your sink plumbing. To heck with the ants, sometimes a mouse can get through these holes.
- ▶ Gas and fireplace flues.

Recessed can lights that are not IC-rated. Between three and 10 cubic feet per minute of air will pass through one of these lights. A typical plastic garbage bag is three cubic feet. So that means that three garbage bags full of air can leak out of one of those lights every minute.

The return air system of your heating/cooling unit. In the average house, gigantic amounts of air enter through this system. So, how are you going to stop the cold air from penetrating your home this winter? The solution is mostly labor and a little bit material. Now, say this with me. "Caulk it. Caulk it. Caulk it."

For big holes, such as those under the sink, simply use expandable foam. For the smaller cracks, use a clear siliconized caulk.



For other tips on how to save energy—and money—visit Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives energy-saving website, www.TogetherWeSave.com.

For electrical outlets and light switches, install the insulated foam gaskets and childproof plug inserts. Installing cellulose insulation in your attic will also help reduce air infiltration from your attic space.

These products can be purchased at most home centers. There are also professionals who can test your home and correct the problems. The surest way to find the leaks is through a blower door test, which reveals where all the leaks are, even those you can't see.

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.

Outages for September 2011

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

Date	Area	Members Affected	Duration	Cause
9/12	Chautauqua area	45	30 min	Tree in line
9/21	Peru area	25	35 min	Accident - pulling unit went through line
9/29	Chautauqua area	65	1 hr 15 min	Ravelin on line