

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 December is \$.03251/kilowatt-hour. This calculates to an additional \$32.51 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

Generation Costs Effect Future Bills

Most of you will have a much lower electric bill this month. Your bill will reflect the electric consumption during November, which had mostly mild weather not requiring much air conditioning or heating.

This fall season has brought us some relief from the extremely high bills, which were received during the extra-hot summer. Long-term relief, unfortunately, is not likely to happen.

Costs for fuel and operation expenses at electric generation plants continue to rise at a steady pace. These increasing costs for generating electricity are eventually passed on to your electric bills.

Generation plants constantly have governmental regulations placed upon them, which add even more costs. So, we need to be aware and stay informed about proposed government measures affecting the electric generation plants and the utility industry in general.

“Long-term relief, unfortunately, is not likely to happen.”



Allen Zadorozny

Searching for Nominating Committee Members

Members are needed to serve on the nominating committee to provide candidates for the Board of Trustees. Nominees for the board are considered for election by the members at the annual meeting on May 7.

The nominating committee is appointed by the Board of Trustees in February. Members are encouraged to participate in the nominating process by contacting your district's board trustee and letting them know you are willing to serve on the nominating committee.

Please contact me or your district's trustee if you can serve on the nominating committee, or would be willing to be nominated to run for election to the Board of Trustees.

Allen Zadorozny, Manager

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Caney Valley's office will be closed on December 25 and January 1 to celebrate the holidays. The Board of Trustees, management and employees would like to wish all of our members a safe and happy holiday season! May you all enjoy this time with your family and friends.



I Have to Pay Because My Electricity Was Off?!

Our employees have heard that statement a few times after members receive a bill for charges to restore electricity when the problem was on the member's side of the meter.

When you call our office or dispatcher to report an outage, one of the questions you should be asked is "Have you checked your breakers or fuses, and the breakers under your meter?"

Additionally, you will be asked if you know if any of your neighbors are off, and how long you've been out of service.

By asking questions, our employee or the dispatcher is trying to determine if yours is an individual outage or if the problem is more widespread.

Most of our members will check the breakers and fuses inside their home, but may not be aware that in most rural areas there are breakers under the meter, and many times that is the cause of the outage. Although these breakers, in most instances, are the property of Caney Valley Electric, they are there for your protection and under your control.

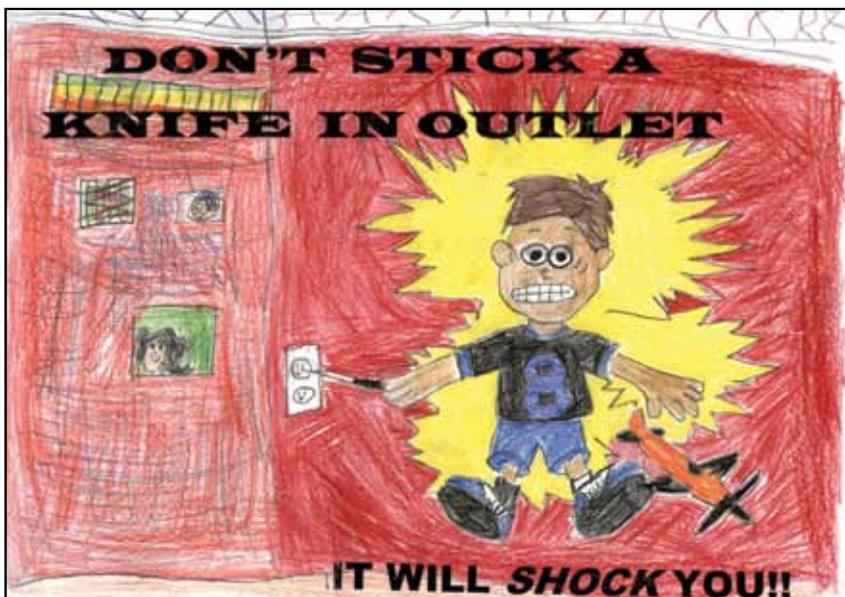
In an over-time dispatch situation or even on a weekday if the crews have to be pulled away from another project, you may receive a bill for a trip charge if all the linemen need to do is reset your breakers under the meter. The trip charge is \$60 **minimum**, or actual costs.

We do not enjoy sending you a bill for resetting your breakers. However, with the price of fuel, labor and equipment, it is costly to send our crews on unnecessary trips, and we continue to try and keep our costs down as much as possible.

Caney Valley Electric is here to serve you 24-hours a day, 365 days a year. We are not asking our members to go without electricity when an outage occurs. We want to restore your power as soon as possible, so it is important that we determine the source of the problem before we send our crews out.

Take a few minutes on a nice day and check out your electric service breaker points and how the meter looks during normal operation. If you have any questions, feel free to contact our office. Call us if you need us, and we will be happy to respond.

Fifth Graders Partipate in Poster Contest

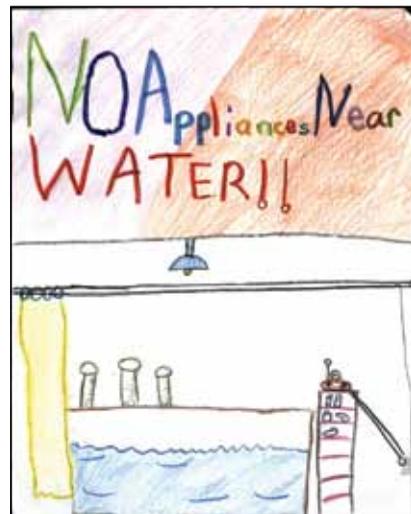


Faith McElroy, Elk Valley

In honor of National Cooperative Month, Caney Valley Electric invited area fifth graders to participate in an electrical safety poster contest.

Students were asked to submit original drawings or posters that depicted electrical safety. The posters were judged by a three-person committee, and one winner from each school won \$25. The winning posters are included in this month's centerspread.

Thank you to all the students who participated. There were a lot of excellent posters submitted, and the committee had a hard time deciding on a winner from some of the schools. Thanks again, kids!



Meriah Stewart, Sedan



Madison Dale, Cedar Vale



Hunter White, West Elk

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

More Efficient & Safer BY DOUG RYE



Doug Rye

National Fire Awareness week took place recently, and I am fairly certain that it was so designated because it was the beginning of the heating season. They gave several safety tips,

which included having the gas furnace checked by a qualified person, checking or installing a smoke detector, and installing a carbon monoxide detector. Let me make it clear, I agree with their suggestions.

As I thought about these very important, perhaps even-life saving, suggestions for a few moments, I was happy to realize that only one of these suggestions was applicable to our house and to the house of our grandchildren. That item is a smoke detector, and in my opinion, every house should have at least one.

However, we do not need a carbon monoxide detector or a furnace inspection because there are no natural gas appliances in either house. The more that I thought about it, the more that I felt that I should explain to you why we have not suggested installing any gas appliances in any house for the last 25 years.

My introduction to energy efficiency was in the 1970s while I was working for an agency of the federal government that provided funds to build houses for moderate-income families. For several years, those funds were used for single-family houses only. Some of those houses were heated with natural gas, some with propane, some with electricity and a few with wood.

It is hard for me to believe this now, but most of those early houses had little, if any, insulation. Later, President Jimmy Carter challenged America

to conserve energy and make houses more energy efficient. As the state architect for the agency responsible for loaning millions to provide new houses for families in Arkansas, I started trying to learn everything I could about energy efficiency. I quickly learned that you cannot believe everything that you hear about that subject.

Well, I was determined to do what was best for the future homeowner, but I seemed to have opposition just about every time that I suggested change. There were times when I was very discouraged and wondered if it was worth the fight. About this same time, we were notified that we would also be receiving funds to provide multi-family housing.

To help with the program, my boss appointed Julius Baird, an engineer, as the multifamily housing coordinator. Almost immediately after his appointment, Julius called me to his office. He told me that he wanted to have the best program in the country and that he would support me in making our program the leader using energy efficiency. I told him that this was music to my ears.

Then he said that he wanted all of the apartment units to be all-electric. "Do what?" I asked. He told me that an all electric unit would be safer and more efficient than if gas was used. I had no idea if he was right, but I knew that he was serious. After months of our working together, I was convinced that he was correct. And this was way before we had the diagnostic tools that we have today, which also will prove that he was right.

Not everyone agreed with us, but we controlled the funds, so we funded only all-electric units. One developer who had already built 20 units acquired adjacent land and built eight more identical units, but he was convinced that using gas for cooking, water heating and heating would be cheaper for

the tenant. So, without our approval, he installed gas appliances in those eight units. We could have forced the developer to change the units to all electric, but we decided that this would be a great test of our opinion.

Two years later, that developer showed us the utility bills for all 28 units. All eight of the gas units had considerably higher average utility bills than the all-electric units. Julius was right again. In the years since, I have had many other similar stories, but I want to talk safety with you in this column.

I do not believe that all houses that have gas appliances are unsafe. However, based on many years of experience, the potential for problems is significantly higher if the house has gas appliances. A typical all-electric house has no carbon monoxide problems. And an all-electric house has no combustion air requirements and no appliance venting requirements where back drafting might occur.

We have lots of examples, but just look at the recent picture accompanying this column that was taken by an electric co-op employee who is a credentialed Arkansas Building Performance Institute building analyst at a

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The flue from a gas water heater near a return air vent can pose major health hazards.

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house owned by a co-op member. Do you see any potential safety problems?

Well, it has a problem. Please notice that the return air grille is very close to the water heater gas flue. When the heating system is running, the return will pull air from the easiest location, which is, in this case, the gas flue.

Testing shows that back drafting does occur when water is being heated at the same time that the furnace is running. The return air is causing the gas flue to be under negative pressure and is sucking bad air, including carbon monoxide, into the duct system and then distributing it into the rest of the house.

Thankfully, this problem was found and the solution is simple. The family should install an efficient electric water heater in place of the existing gas unit and seal the flue hole at the ceiling. Then the house would be safer and the utility bills would be lower. We hope this information will help someone avoid a similar safety threat.

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 | Sept. 2012 | Sept. 2011 |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| Meters Billed | 5,617 | 5,582 |
| kWh's Purchased | 5,456,515 | 5,088,229 |
| Cost per kWh | \$ 0.09190 | \$ 0.09588 |
| kWh Sold | 6,446,441 | 6,710,610 |
| Total Revenue | \$ 945,265 | \$ 979,041 |
| Purchased Power | \$ 501,346 | \$ 487,885 |
| Operating Expenses | \$ 166,523 | \$ 158,641 |
| Depreciation Expenses | \$ 50,253 | \$ 49,569 |
| Interest Expenses | \$ 30,792 | \$ 27,492 |
| Other Expenses | \$ 359 | \$ 266 |
| Operating Margins | \$ 195,991 | \$ 255,189 |
| Non-operating Margins | \$ 13,749 | \$ 1,801 |
| Total Margins | \$ 209,740 | \$ 256,990 |
| Margins Year-to-Date | \$ 184,086 | \$ 221,792 |

Fact or Fiction—Myths about Electrical Safety

Sometimes conventional wisdom, even if it comes from a trusted source, can be deadly—especially if it pertains to electrical safety. This is one time that checking facts just might save your life. Here are some common electrical safety myths and the truth behind them:

MYTH—A downed power line will be arcing and smoking if it still has power.

FACT—Power lines do not automatically shut off when they fall and do not necessarily arc, flash, pop or smoke when they hit the ground. There is no way to know for sure if a line has potentially a deadly current running through it unless it has been properly discharged by a utility crew, so stay away from all downed power lines and keep others away.

MYTH—Light digging in the yard won't be deep enough to hit any wires.

FACT—Unless you call 811 and have a professional come to your home and locate the utilities, you can never be sure where lines and pipes are buried. Even if you are just planting flowers or a shrub, you might come into contact with power lines that could kill you.

MYTH—Tires insulate my car or other motorized equipment from electrical dangers.

FACT—If a wire falls on your vehicle while you are in it, the tires are not keeping you from being injured by the electricity. You are not being hurt, because you are not a path to ground for the

electricity—as long as you stay in the vehicle. Once you step out of the vehicle, you become that path to the ground and can be seriously injured or killed. If you find yourself in a situation where your vehicle or farm equipment has hit a utility pole or has a power line come down on it, the best place for you to be is in the vehicle. Call for help, and keep others away until a utility crew can kill the wires. If you must exit, it is critical for you to make sure not to touch the ground and the vehicle at the same time. If you must exit, JUMP out of the car, keeping your feet together. Then bunny-hop away. When it comes to electricity you cannot take chances. You have to be prepared and make sure that your family and friends know how to work and live safely around electricity.

MYTH—Power lines are insulated.

FACT—The majority of outside power lines are not insulated. The coating you might see on the lines are just weatherproofing that will offer no protection from the electricity flowing through the lines.

MYTH—Household current cannot kill you.

FACT—Household current can and does kill. Case in point, 10-year-old Caitlyn Mackenzie was killed by household current when she touched a lamp while still damp from a swimming pool. You can see Caitlyn's story at www.SafeElectricity.org.

Outages for October 2012

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

| Date | Area | Members Affected | Duration | Cause |
|-------|------------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 10/5 | North of Dexter | 35 | 1 hr | Raccoon on breaker |
| 10/12 | East of Havana | 35 | 1 hr 40 min | Tree limbs in line |
| 10/13 | Sedan substation | 1562 | 25 min | Sedan switching station off |
| 10/21 | Hewins area | 20 | 2 hr 15 min | Broken jumper on arrester |
| 10/22 | Elk City area | 20 | 3 hr 15 min | Arrester blew up |