

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

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Office Hours

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

Power Cost Adjustment

The PCA for September is \$.02468/kilowatt-hour. This calculates to an additional \$24.68 per 1,000 kWh used.

The PCA varies each month depending on wholesale charges from Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo), our power supplier, and is a flow-through on your electric bills based on the factor for the month.

FROM THE MANAGER

Evaluating Your Energy Usage

In 2008, the cooperative's residential services registered an average use of 685 kilowatt-hours per month. Of course, this average includes all different levels of electricity demands from many varied sizes and types of houses, family members, and appliances/equipment. When compared to the monthly average throughout the State of Kansas, 956 kWh's, the cooperative's is much lower.

Even though the cooperative's average compares favorably statewide, there are some Caney Valley Electric residential consumers who could take steps to reduce their electricity consumption in order to lower their bills and help conserve the nation's energy sources.

If you are interested in review-

Caney Valley Electric residential consumers could take steps to reduce their electricity consumption.



Allen Zadorozny

ing your electricity usage levels and considering what measures could be taken to be sure your residence is using electricity efficiently, please contact me. The cooperative's staff and I will be glad to visit with you about your particular energy requirements and provide you with information you can use to help control your electric bills.

We look forward to working with you on this important matter.

Scam Artists Target Electric Utilities

Some utilities, including electric cooperatives, are getting more reports from members about aggressive collection calls made by unknown individuals demanding immediate credit card payments to avoid loss of service. The callers are not affiliated with the utilities and are attempting to talk victims out of their credit card information.

Co-ops receiving calls from concerned members are warning their members to avoid giving account

information to anyone contacting them at home or on the telephone. They are also advising members to contact co-op member services offices if they have any concerns.

Consumer protection agencies are warning that such scams are on the increase due to the condition of the economy, and they caution that the elderly are among the potential victims.

This is also a potential identity theft problem because it involves obtaining



Co-ops warn members to avoid giving account information to anyone.

credit card information for unauthorized or misleading purposes.

If you are contacted in this manner, please hang up and call 620-758-2262 or 800-310-8911.

7 Cooperative Principles

1 Voluntary and Open Membership—Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

2 Democratic Member Control—Cooperatives are organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decision. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote).

3 Member Economic Participation—Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. They usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, setting up reserves, benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative, and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4 Autonomy and Independence—Cooperatives are self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

5 Education, Training and Information—Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives.

6 Cooperation Among Cooperatives—Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures.

7 Concern for Community—While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

October is National Cooperative Month

For the past 45 years there have been certain guiding principles observed by cooperatives around the world, and Caney Valley Electric is proud to abide by these principles in serving our members.

The members of Caney Valley Electric elect a nine-member board of trustees to oversee the activities of the cooperative and make policy and financial decisions that impact the overall health of the co-op.

All members have a vote in decisions made each May at the annual meeting, whether it be electing new board members or making by-law changes.

Any margins made by the cooperative are allocated back to the members based on their kilowatt-hour usage for each year, and are paid out upon death of a member or if the board approves a general refund for a certain year.

Caney Valley Electric is a member of other cooperatives designed to support the above cooperative principles and to interact to pro-

vide the best possible service to our members: Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo), Kansas Electric Cooperatives (KEC), the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corp. (CFC), and the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC), just to name a few.

We provide training for employees, management, and board members, and also support youth education by providing college scholarships and participation in the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO. We also inform and educate our members on current electric industry issues by distributing this monthly magazine to our members. We are also very active in the communities we serve by supporting various organizations with donations and employee and trustee involvement.

Thank you to you, our members, for being a part of this cooperative! If there is any way in which we can

Do You Have a Story to Share?

As part of national Cooperative Month, we would like to encourage our readers to submit stories of their memories of "When the Lights Came On" during the time electric cooperatives were first getting started and building lines.

We will print these in this magazine as space allows each month.



Ownership.

Would you trust a business more if you owned it?

Cooperative businesses are owned by more than 154.7 million Americans, including:

- 87 million who own their credit union
- 39 million who own their electric co-op
- 3 million who own their housing co-op

Maybe that's why we're more trusted than businesses owned by Wall Street investors.

Cooperatives.

Owned by Our Members,
Committed to Our Communities.

Figures published Dec. 2008



NOTICE: 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 3, or \$80.) All previous arrearage av-

erage 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 2 months. A consumer and the cooperative may negotiate other payment arrangements mutually 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 2 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 pe-



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

riod, 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.

Outages for August 2009

Occasionally, a part or parts of the delivery system fail and an outage occurs. Below are the larger outages that occurred during August.

Date	Area	Members Affected	Duration	Cause
8/4	South of Sedan	100	10 min	Pole fell over
8/10	South half of Elgin	50	1 hr	Line breaker off
8/10	West of Cedar Vale	60	45 min	Cross arm broken
8/19	South of Sedan	65	2 hr 15 min	Lightning
8/19	Longton substation	372	2 hr 15 min	Westar off-lightning storm

Operating Statistics

For Month Ending	July 2008	July 2009
Members Billed	5,447	5,519
kWh Sold	5,273,246	5,024,540
Total Revenue	\$ 699,162	\$ 664,264
Purchased Power	\$ 457,521	\$ 419,646
Operating Expenses	\$ 180,106	\$ 164,833
Depreciation Expenses	\$ 53,080	\$ 44,364
Interest Expenses	\$ 35,166	\$ 37,729
Other Expenses	\$ 2,500	\$ 232
Operating Margins	\$ (29,211)	\$ (2,540)
Non-operating Margins	\$ 4,375	\$ 1,959
Total Margins	\$ (24,836)	\$ (581)
Margins Year-to-Date	\$ (54,030)	\$ 63,648

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

Oh My! What to Do?

BY DOUG RYE

Everywhere I go, the electric companies have the same concerns. Primarily, how they can continue to provide electricity to customers at an affordable rate. Although I do not claim to be an expert in this field, it appears to be an extremely difficult task.

In one case a state government has asked the electric industry to provide 25 percent of their electric generation by using renewable sources by the year 2025. That may not sound like such a difficult thing to do but that particular state has almost no hydroelectric generation options, very little wind generation options and even less solar generation options. There are some possibilities for biomass generation, but it would be a very small percentage of the need.

I have learned that many states are in the same situation. As nuclear and coal generation appear to be becoming an unacceptable option for some, I ask, what is one going to do?

Well, the electric companies have embraced the idea of energy efficiency as one of the ways to help reach their goals. Energy efficiency simply lowers the total amount of electricity needed. A percentage of a smaller number is more obtainable. For example, 25 percent of 100 equals 25, but 25 percent of 75 equals 18.75.

I have always felt that building a house or making an existing house more energy efficient is not only the smart thing to do, but the right thing to do. Everybody wins with energy efficiency. I feel honored and blessed to have the opportunity to teach others across the country how to have a more energy efficient house by writing this article, by hosting a weekly radio program and presenting seminars across the nation.

Every week, many of you tell me that I have helped you and you encourage me to keep up the good work. Sometimes when I

pray I say, "Lord, I know right from wrong and I know what I am supposed to do. Please help me to always do right." I wish that each of us would make these improvements to our own house. Then we could say that we have done our part to reduce the total demand which would help us reach the desired goals. You, my readers, are smart enough to understand why this is so important. See you next month.

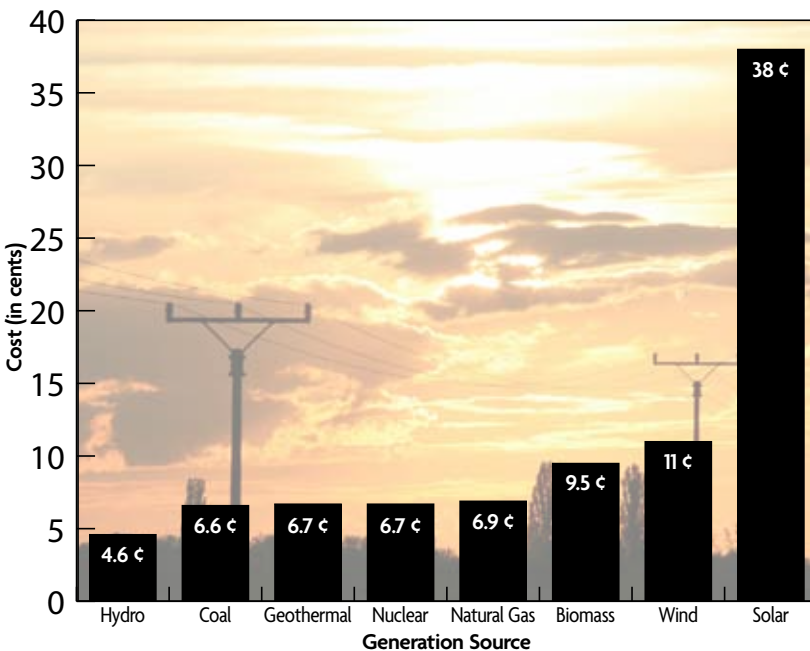
Doug Rye, is a licensed architect and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show. You can contact Doug at 888-Doug-Rye. Source: Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Corporation.



Doug Rye

...Building a house or making an existing house more energy efficient is not only the smart thing to do, but the right thing to do.

Cost Per Kilowatt-Hour by Generation Source



The chart above is the approximate cost of generating electricity with the different types of fuel.