March
2005

A Commuunication
Service To Our Members

VOICE

Caney Valley Electric Cooperative Association, Inc.

Website: caneyvalley.com • E-mail: cve@caneyvalley.com
In Case of an Outage, Please call 1-800-310-8911

The Caney Valley Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc.
P.O. Box 308, 401 Lawrence
Cedar Vale, Kansas 67024
Phone 620/758-2262 • Fax 620/758-2926

From the Manager's Desk

Ice Storm

At the time of writing this, it has been five weeks since the January 4th ice storm hit this area. The weather since that time has been quite active with moisture and cold temperatures coming through, but it has not caused us to experience electrical outages of any magnitude. This has allowed us time to begin documenting and evaluating the damaged electric lines and to begin laying out the plans to systematically restore them to acceptable electric utility industry standards.

We have been in close contact with the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) personnel to hear if an official declaration has been made by the President to allow FEMA disaster grants to be authorized to help cover the electric line restoration costs. As of today, we have not received that word, but we have been advised that the approval is forthcoming soon, and to make our plans accordingly.

Strangely enough, the week before this ice storm came, Caney Valley ECA had completed the last designated line restoration work which was attributed to the ice storm of January 30, 2002. We are now in the final stages of completing the required paper work to be submitted to FEMA for that storm.

Twelve electric cooperatives in Kansas have submitted preliminary line restoration cost estimates ranging from $45,000 to $11,000,000. Caney Valley ECA's current estimate is $6,000,000.

We will keep you posted in the months ahead on the ice storm restoration progress.

Financials

Included in this "VOICE" is a brief summary of the revenue, expenses, meters billed, and the kilowatt hours sold, for 2004. The margins were significantly less this year mainly due to a very mild summer. However, the overall revenues, expenses, and margins were at a satisfactory level for the size and operational attributes which surround Caney Valley ECA. Please review the information and contact me any time to discuss it in greater detail if you have any suggestions, questions or comments.

Allen A. Zadorozny, Manager

Mark this date on your calendar - Tuesday, May 3rd

Caney Valley's Annual Meeting

will be held *Tuesday, May 3rd*
at the Chautauqua County Fairgrounds in Sedan.
The dinner will start at 5:30 p.m., entertainment will be from 6:00 – 7:00, and the business meeting will start at 7:00.

All members and their families are encouraged to attend and participate in the business of YOUR cooperative. We have three board members who have to step down because of term limits - Floyd Montgomery, Cedar Vale, David Evans, Howard, and P.J. Buck, Sedan, have all served three terms (9 years) on the board of trustees.
Voting will be held to elect their replacements, so be sure to attend and let your voice be heard!

Notice to Rural Members…

We receive occasional phone calls from our rural members wanting to know if we can send them a "current" rate chart.

Our rates were last changed in 1999, and so our yellow "1999 Rate Chart" is still the "current" one that we use. If you have one older than that, just contact us and we will be glad to send you the updated one.

Keeping you informed...

Operating Statistics

For Month Ending:	December 2004	December 2003	Year End 2004	Year End 2003
Customers Served (avg)	5231	5188	5199	5181
kWh Sold	3597672	3588981	47760680	49125078
Total Revenue	$429,278	$453,124	$5,845,828	$5,957,221
Purchased Power	$237,340	$244,748	$3,032,564	$3,083,294
Operating Expenses	$ 93,074	$160,590	$1,764,678	$1,641,651
Depreciation Expenses	$ 42,718	$ 42,158	$ 527,441	$ 485,463
Interest Expenses	$ 26,455	$ 26,160	$ 304,429	$ 324,583
Other Expenses	$ 442	$ 349	$ 3,871	$ 3,747
Operating Margins	$ 29,249	$(20,881)	$ 212,845	$ 418,483
Non-Operating Margins	$ 3,344	$ 2,864	$ 42,291	$ 47,375
Total Margins	$ 32,593	$(18,017)	$ 255,136	$ 465,858

POWER COST ADJUSTMENT…

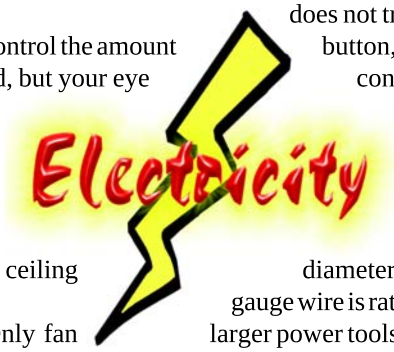
The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) for March is $.00251. This calculates to an additional $2.51 per 1000 kilowatt hours used.

How Electrically-Savvy Are You?

What you don't know about electricity can be shocking! In addition to safety issues, a basic understanding of electricity can help you select the best electrical devices for your home and reduce your energy bill as well. The Leviton Institute helps you test your knowledge with the following true/false quiz on electricity.

1. Dimmers simply absorb energy from light bulbs and don't save you any money.

False. Dimmers don't absorb power. They control the amount of time a bulb is on and off 120 times a second, but your eye can't see this. A dim setting limits the time the bulb is on. A bulb dimmed to 50% uses approximately 25% less power and lasts approximately 20 times longer, saving both on lighting energy and bulb replacement costs.



2. Dimmers cannot be used to control ceiling fans.

True. Dimmers can damage fan motors. Only fan speed control units can be used with ceiling fans. They are usually available with the same styling and features as dimmers but are safe for fan motors.

3. GFCIs offer the same protection that circuit breakers do.

False. Circuit breakers are designed to trip when a severe short causes high levels of electrical current to flow through your wires. GFCIs provide protection from ground fault. This can occur when current leaking from a damaged appliance travels to ground through a person touching the appliance. Ground fault current can be lethal, but is typically not high enough to trip a breaker. A GFCI is designed to trip when it senses a relatively tiny amount of ground fault current.

4. A 1200-Watt appliance draws 10 Amps of electrical current.

True. Light bulbs and appliances are rated in Watts, while electrical wiring is rated in Amps. Divide the Watts by 120 (the household voltage) to arrive at the amperage rating. In this case, 1200 Watts divided by 120 Volts equals 10 Amps.

5. Only a licensed electrician can test a GFCI.

False. Using a simple procedure you should test your GFCIs monthly. Plug a lamp into the GFCI and turn it on. Press the Test button—the GFCI should trip causing the light to go off. Press the Reset button on the GFCI and the lamp should go on again. This confirms that the GFCI is working properly. If the GFCI does not trip (shut off the light) when you press the Test button, there is an electrical problem and you should contact a licensed electrician.

6. 12-gauge wire is rated to carry more electrical current than 14-gauge wire.

True. The larger the diameter of wire, the more electrical current it can carry. What is sometimes confusing is that the larger the diameter, the smaller the wire gauge. For example, 14-gauge wire is rated for small electrical tools and appliances, but larger power tools require 12-gauge wire.

7. If a plug keeps falling out of a receptacle, use pliers to spread the plug blades farther apart.

False. When a receptacle no longer holds a plug firmly in place, the half-inserted, live plug is a serious shock hazard, especially for children. When a receptacle is old or worn out by excessive use, its contacts no longer properly grip a plug. Any receptacle in this condition must be replaced.

8. Surges can enter your electronic equipment through phone and cable connections.

True. Surges that can damage your PC, television, video recorder and answering machine can enter through phone, data line and cable connections. Use surge protective power strips that not only provide the maximum amount of powerline protection, but also offer protection for phone, data and cable lines. These multi-purpose surge strips are available in home centers, electronic stores and a variety of retail outlets.

Source: Leviton Institute