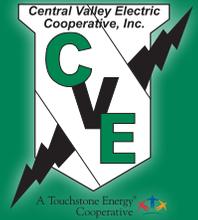




# Beyond the Wire

Central Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.



## Branch Family Goes GEO

For years Tate Branch considered geothermal for heating and cooling his home and offices. It wasn't until late 2017, when Branch became a member of Central Valley Electric Cooperative, that he decided it was time to become more energy efficient with heating and cooling his newly purchased home in Artesia.



One of seven holes being drilled for the ground loop that will act as the heat exchanger between the earth and the geothermal heat pump system.

When asked why now, Branch said, "Who wouldn't do geothermal with the tax credits and CVE rebate?" Branch did his research on how much money can be saved with ground source heat pumps as well as helping with renewable energy. The return on investment was enough for him to upgrade his current system.

By January of this year, Branch was working with Coat's Plumbing to manage the geothermal installation. In early March, Coat's Plumbing sent two employees through a CVE hosted International Ground Source Heat Pump Association (IGSHPA) training which resulted in successful completion and approval to move forward with the Branch geothermal project. In March, the ground loop drilling started and in April the geothermal heat pump units were installed for both the upper and lower levels of the Branch home.

"I feel great about using the earth's temperature to cool my home this summer."

-Tate Branch

Branch will be able to receive a 30 percent New Mexico state tax credit and a 30 percent Federal tax credit this year. He will also receive a \$2,500 per ton rebate from CVE and a \$700 per ton rebate from Western Farmer's Electric Cooperative, one of CVE's wholesale power providers.

With CVE's SmartHub program, Branch will be able to view his energy use on a regular basis and we can compare to previous years.

Branch said he looks forward to the future energy savings and feels great about using the earth's temperature to cool his home this summer.

To learn more about geothermal installations, tax credits and rebates, call CVE and speak with Leah or Raelynn.

Thank you Tate Branch and family!



Workers preparing to connect the ground loop bore holes together.

## SAFETY Above All Else

**SAFETY** is a universal word that is mentioned often. Communities large and small as well as companies across all industries are committed to **SAFETY**. Unfortunately, **SAFETY** is often ignored in the interest of time or convenience.

However, **SAFETY** is a serious issue, especially when it comes to electrical **SAFETY**. For Central Valley Electric Cooperative, it's the number one priority. Over time CVE has created a culture of **SAFETY** by putting our employees' **SAFETY** and that of the community above all else.

CVE is dedicated to providing safe, affordable, reliable power to its members, but equally important, we want to return our workers home safely to their loved ones. To do this requires ongoing focus, dedication and vigilance. That is why CVE holds monthly **SAFETY** meetings covering topics anywhere from distracted driving, and proper lifting procedures to bucket truck rescue, pole top rescue and bloodborne pathogens. Our lineworkers are required to wear specialized equipment when working next to or with power lines. They follow specific protocols when dealing with electricity.

Because we live and work in the communities we serve, we care about our neighbors. CVE offers free electrical **SAFETY** demonstrations to schools, civic organizations, businesses, and first responders. We also provide **SAFETY** information on social media, at various events in the community, on our website,

and in various publications.

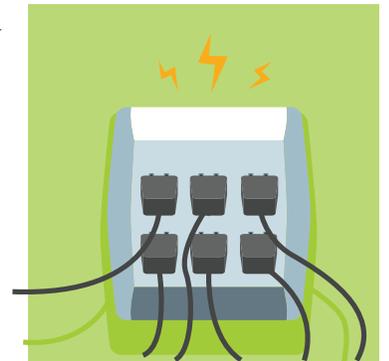
**May is National Electrical SAFETY Month**, and according to the Electrical **SAFETY** Foundation each year thousands of people in the United States are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. There is so much you can do to keep yourself and your community safe around electricity.

- Do not attempt electrical do-it-yourself projects or overload your outlets
- Report downed power lines, unlocked substations or padmount transformers

Contact CVE for additional electrical **SAFETY**

tips. If you would like us to provide a free electrical **SAFETY** demonstration please contact Leah or Raelynn at 575-746-3571.

Be mindful when it comes to electrical **SAFETY**. Pause and take the extra time to plug into **SAFETY**.



 **May is National Electrical Safety Month**

 **plug into safety**

**Central Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

**OFFICE HOURS:**  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Monday - Friday