



# Beyond the Wire

Central Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.



## Building New Service Slowed by Supply Chain Issues

The supply chain to the electric utility industry continues to be an obstacle for Central Valley Electric Cooperative as well as other utilities across the country, and unfortunately it is expected to continue well into 2023. CVE is proactive in keeping open communication with our many material and equipment suppliers. However, we continue to see long wait times for material and higher prices for material. For example, delivery of transformers range from 40 weeks to over a year. Conductor (wire) could also be up to 40 weeks out, and certain meters aren't expected for over a year.

In turn, the supply chain issue has slowed down the time in which CVE can get new service requests built for our members. CVE builds new service requests on a first come, first service basis, so we ask that you are patient with us as we all try to navigate through things.

CVE is working hard to think outside-the-box and order material from non-traditional vendors like E-Bay and Amazon. We have even purchased material from local electrical contract companies and oil companies



in an effort to have material. We are also retiring idle lines to try and get as much reusable material as possible. It has definitely been a juggling act to make sure we have material for new service requests, as well as keeping existing services connected, while at the same time making sure we have material in the event of bad weather or an emergency.

The pandemic, the shortage in raw materials, the shortage in the workforce, and other issues are all working together to create a perfect storm. However, rest assured that CVE is monitoring all of this carefully and working hard to get material in stock, as well as trying to keep expenses low.

## Wholesale Power Prices Remain High

Across the country people's electric bills are higher than normal, and Central Valley Electric Cooperative members are feeling the same. Please know that CVE's rates have not changed. But what has changed is the cost of wholesale power.

CVE is part of the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), which is a regional transmission organization designed to ensure reliable power and competitive wholesale power prices. Currently, the high price of natural gas, used to generate power, continues to have a significant impact on the SPP Market causing the high cost of wholesale power.

Because of this, CVE members have seen an increase in the Fuel and Purchased Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) on their bill. The PCA is designed to refund or recover any amount CVE paid under or over the wholesale cost of power. The PCA has been steadily increasing over the past year causing utility bills to be unusually high.

There are things you can do to help lower your electric bill. Do your best to conserve energy when and where you can. Little things like turning off unnecessary lights, appliances, or electronics can help lower your usage. You can also adjust your thermostat a few degrees.

CVE understands the rising costs of most everything is hard on everyone, and we are doing our best to lower co-op expenses and bring our members safe, reliable, affordable power. If you have any questions or concerns, please give us a call.

## Toys for Tots Program

As the holiday season begins to draw near, please keep in mind the less fortunate children in our communities. For 75 years, Marines have been making Christmas wishes come true for needy children through the Toys for Tots program.

Central Valley Electric Cooperative is proud to be a drop-off location for Toys for Tots. You can bring new unwrapped toys for children ages 0 to 18 to CVE's office in Artesia now through December 7. All toys will be distributed to local children.

The Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program believes that "Every child deserves a little Christmas." For more information go to [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org).



From our table to yours,

*Happy  
Thanksgiving*

Our office will be closed **Thursday, November 24 & Friday, November 25**, to spend Thanksgiving with our families.

### Central Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

PO Box 230 • 1403 N. 13th St. • Artesia, NM 88211  
(575) 746-3571 • (575) 752-3366 Hagerman  
(575) 746-4219 fax • [www.CVECOOP.org](http://www.CVECOOP.org)

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Monday - Friday)